

Montauk School Scores Big Haul of Awards at Science Congress

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The Montauk School was well represented in the Long Island Science Congress this year. Pictured from left to right are Todd Brunn, a Montauk School sixth-grade teacher who served as a judge in the contest, Lea Mancini, Lucia Ibrahim, Iza Sessler, Sophia Botero, Samantha Prince, and Kendall Stedman, Joe Malave, the Montauk School science teacher, and Nolan King and Thomas Desmond.

By Christine Sampson

Budding scientists from the Montauk School scored several awards at the Long Island Science Congress held on May 16 at the Wheatley School in Old Westbury.

Samantha Prince, an eighth grader, qualified for the New York State Science Congress in June by receiving high honors for her project, titled "Montauk Waters: The Effect of Salinity on the Growth of Enterococcus," in which she conducted a long-term study of swimming waters in Montauk. The project also placed second in the earth, space, and energy division. Samantha, who earned \$450 in prizes for her efforts, was advised by Joe Malave, her science teacher, and Jessica James of the Concerned Citizens of Montauk. This year marked her second high honors award from the Long Island Science Congress.

"Samantha has been an outstanding science student throughout her years at Montauk," Mr. Malave said.

Lea Mancini, a seventh grader at the Montauk School, also scored big at the competition with a project in the behavioral sciences division, earning an honors-level award for her exploration of whether color affects the taste of food. She concluded that it does.

Several other students earned awards from the science congress: Iza Sessler, a seventh grader, received an achievement award, and meritorious awards went to Kendall Stedman and Thomas Desmond, who are in the eighth grade, and to Sophia Botero, a seventh grader. Nolan King and Lucia Ibrahim, who are seventh graders, received honorable mentions.