

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week June 23, 2017

Our final highlight of the year comes from the recent African Safari I had the pleasure of visiting at the Old Bethpage Elementary School. I was greeted by some excited tour guides who ushered me into their third grade classroom though the mists of the Victoria Falls they had cleverly created. There I was met by the other students of Mrs. Idone and Mrs. Mosayov's to begin my imaginary safari through Madagascar, South Africa and some magnificent jungles throughout the African continent.



In the center of the room stood a great Baobab tree, with beautiful birds of the region perched in strategic locations. I encountered 3D animals such as a zebra, and wildebeest. The students showed off what they had learned from their non-fiction writing unit, during which they chose an animal from the world's second-largest continent and used their computer lab hours to research information about the animal. Students gathered information to write their own articles and creative essays about their selected animal, which were put on display around the classroom.

Groups of students were assigned a tribe and were responsible for designing their own costumes, learning and teaching a popular African game and creating murals to depict their tribe's lifestyle. The parents and I participated with glee in a traditional game from one of the cultures represented.

It was clear that the students had a wonderful time learning about the environment and the culture of the region. The adults were over the moon about the experience.

