



# Southampton Union Free School District

Anchoring the Community

## Belly laughs all around

Jokes and laughter could be heard through the halls of Southampton Elementary School as third graders participated in four sessions of comedy classes presented by Bernie Furshpan, comedian, producer and founder of the New York Hysterical Society, and Lois Beekman, a licensed family trauma prevention trainer.

During the 30-minute sessions, students learned facts about comedy, how to write and deliver jokes, how to impersonate animals and people, and how to use humor to reduce tension.

School counselor Gwendolen Leible-Arnzen said the comedy sessions were developed as part of the school's social and emotional learning program.

"Students learned what social, emotional and health benefits comedy and laughter can provide," she said. "The program had the additional benefit of encouraging public speaking."

The sessions culminated with a third grade Laugh-In, where students created hysterical performances based on what they had learned.

*Photo courtesy of the Southampton Union Free School District*

