



Sayreville Public Schools Vision 2030

P.O. Box 997
Sayreville, New Jersey 08871
Phone: 732-525-5200
Fax: 732-727-5769



Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Week 26 Talk Sup Review and Preview

March 4, 2019

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing weekend. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Week Review and Preview*. As you know, our schools are closed today due to last night's snowstorm.

Thanks to two of our amazingly caring parents, last week we intercepted text messages sent from a 4th grade student at the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) who was suggesting that she was going to do harm to herself because "Momo" told her to do so. If you are unfamiliar with what Momo is, it is an avatar featured in a challenge game called the "Momo Challenge." It can be found on Facebook and the app WhatsUp. As noted above, it features a frightening avatar named Momo who asks its viewers to perform various tasks and provide photos as proof. Even more disturbing, Momo threatens those who do not perform the tasks. Fortunately, we were able to reach out to the parents of the student to confirm her safety and provide her and her parents with the necessary assistance.



After a brief hiatus, it appears that the "Momo Challenge" has recently resurfaced on social media, as well as on countless news outlets. Although some debate exists regarding whether or not Momo is real or a hoax, concern is certainly warranted due to the disturbing nature of this challenge. Specifically, reports have surfaced in which video or graphic images are inserted into online games, social media apps, and YouTube videos, asking children to participate in dangerous challenges that may result in self-harm. As is the case with other districts, children in Sayreville have begun talking about the Momo Challenge. As a result, we strongly encourage you to monitor your child's use of social media and the internet. If you should have any cause for concern, please notify your child's principal or school counselor without delay. You can learn more about the Momo Challenge by clicking [here](#) and [here](#). In addition, the Traumatic Loss Coalition at Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care is New Jersey's primary youth suicide prevention program, funded by the Department of Children and Families, and the Division of Family and Community Partnerships. Other valuable resources on mental health and family assistance can be found [here](#).



Last Wednesday, students in several Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) humanities/social studies classes were visited by local legislators during the annual Legislator Day. If you are unfamiliar with Legislator Day, it is an activity unique to Sayreville that gives our high school students an opportunity to meet their local legislators in order to learn more about government public service. This year several Board of Education and Borough Council Members participated, as well as representatives from the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.



Last Friday, myself and many honored guests, had the privilege to be able to participate in Read Across America in our elementary schools. Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association (NEA) that began in 1997. According to the NEA, it is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child



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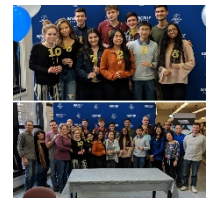
in every community to celebrate reading on or around March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, who this year turned 115. This is truly one of the best days of the school year for me, as I have so much fun reading to and getting to know, albeit



very briefly, our very impressive and most talented elementary school students. We commend all of our amazing teachers, administrators, and parents who made 2019 Read Across America such a memorable experience for all who participated, especially our most gracious guest readers, which included central administrators, Board of Education Members, Borough Council Members, and Sayreville Police Officers.

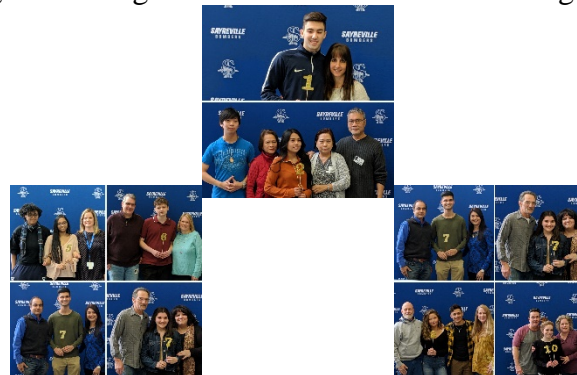


In addition to Read Across America, last Friday morning Ms. Sicola, Supervisor of Guidance, and I introduced in rank order and honored the Top 10 Students from the SWMHS Class of 2019 based upon grade point average. Thus, below please find the name of each remarkable child. As we noted during their celebratory breakfast last Friday, we recognize that the amazing academic accomplishments of these students could not have



happened if it were not for the proficiency, competency, and hard work of their incredibly dedicated and talented teachers and counselors, and the never ending support and assistance that they have received from their wonderful parents. As we have done in the past, these students will also be recognized and honored during a Board of Education Meeting in the Spring and during the June 12th Senior Awards Night.

1. John Lewis – **Valedictorian**
2. Dana Co – **Salutatorian**
3. Alden Ordaniel
4. Alex Szpindor
5. Ashley Mathai
6. Mark Juenemann
7. Sheil Shah and Angela Atcosta
9. Lauren Gates
10. Sara Turner



Late last week the SWMHS Athletic Department also announced the February athletes of the month. Below please find them too.

- Wrestling - Savon Kirksey
- Basketball (G) - Stephanie Van Note
- Basketball (B) - Jaijuan Macklin
- Bowling (G) - Sharise Shaw
- Bowling (B) - Nolan Aucone
- Winter Track (G) - Samantha Kamara
- Winter Track (B) - Matt Stowe
- Cheerleading - Jenna Wrubel
- Unified Sports - David Afriyie

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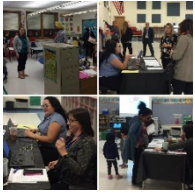
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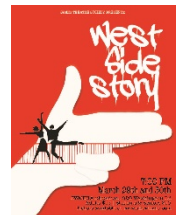
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Last Thursday evening, Project Before had its first annual Open House. Over thirty parents and their children came out to tour the preschool program and spend time with our incredibly dedicated staff. Teachers, child study team members, and related service providers were available to answer questions ranging from curriculum to activities to related services. In addition, Grace Restivo and Marsha Platon, Administrative Assistants, set up workstations, where they answered questions and assisted numerous parents with registration. An adorable video was shown on continuous loop, celebrating the smiles and amazing energy that our precious preschoolers bring to school each and every day. View the video [here](#).

Please remember that parents of ALL eligible preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website (click [here](#)) in order to register for our Project Before Preschool or Full-Day Kindergarten programs via Oncourse Connect, our online registration software. Please review the Parent Letters found in this section for more information and detailed instructions. Please note that students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2019. Students entering preschool must be 3 years old on or before September 30, 2019. Following the completion of the online registration you will be contacted by the district to schedule an appointment to register a child. Also, please remember that as per the February Head of the Class Calendar, this evening (**Monday, February 25th**) there will be a **Parent University Workshop at 7 pm in the SWMHS Media Center**. It will feature a presentation on **district resources for students**.

Tomorrow (**Tuesday, March 5th**) evening the district will hold its special annual **Let the Children Lead BOE Business Meeting**, in which 5th grade students from the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) represent each BOE member and the administration during the entire public portion of the meeting. As per the March Head of the Class Calendar, please note that **Progress Reports will be issued for all students in grades 6-12 this Wednesday (March 6th)** and that we will **dismiss students early on Monday, March 11th** so that our teachers can participate in professional development. Lastly, if you have the time, please consider attending *West Side Story*, this year's SWMHS spring musical. Show times are on Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th at 7 pm in the SWMHS Auditorium. Tickets are available at www.showtix4u.com.



Remember to **stay connected** to our district by monitoring the [home page of our website](#), our [Facebook page](#), our [Twitter feed](#), and our [Instagram account](#).

If you or someone you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click [here](#) and submit an inquiry with *School Revenue Partners*. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber Blast activity information and community service announcements for our schools and the greater community at no cost. Likewise, if you would like to advertise on our **busses**, click [here](#). Lastly, if you or someone you know wants to **lease our facilities**, contact Deborah DeVico at deborah.devico@sayrevillek12.net.

Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe

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