



Sayreville Public Schools Vision 2030

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Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools
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Talk Sup Week 22 Review and Preview

February 5, 2018

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a relaxing weekend and enjoyed the Super Bowl. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Week Review and Preview*.

Unfortunately the Sayreville Public Schools lost another family member, as Edward McCann, the Lead Night Custodian at the Sayreville Middle School, passed away suddenly on Thursday. Ed was a quiet, kind, and extremely hard working person, who loved his job and more importantly his role in promoting the success of our students and staff. He served the Sayreville school community with distinction for more than six years, the past three as the Lead Night Custodian, and was beloved by those in the district fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to work with him, especially the custodians and the staff at the middle school, as well as the entire Facilities and Operations Department. He will be greatly missed by our entire school community.



Late last week we learned that Stephanie Gottdenker, English Language Learner Teacher at the Eisenhower and Truman Elementary Schools, was recognized by WMGQ and the New Jersey Education Association as a "Teacher Who Makes Magic," which goes to a teacher who goes above and beyond in the classroom or has a unique way of shaping a child's life. Ms. Gottdenker was nominated by fellow teacher Laura Mihalenko. In her letter of nomination Ms. Mihalenko stated that Ms. Gottdenker's students come from all over the globe and because of such are not only facing a new school, but a new language, a new country, and a new culture. Nonetheless, she proclaimed that within moments after meeting her students, Ms. Gottdenker makes them feel at home and safe. Moreover, she ties their experiences in their native countries to the content she is teaching and has a wonderful way of honoring her students' backgrounds, introducing new concepts and traditions, and respecting every culture. We are so proud of Ms. Gottdenker, as we are of all our amazing teachers, and thank her for the exemplary manner in which she represents our district.



The Truman Elementary School hosted its 5th Annual Theater Week, which culminated in two separate performance on Friday, February 2nd. The first one took place at 9:30 am. I had the opportunity to attend the evening performance for parents, which took place in the Samsel Upper Elementary School Auditorium. The performance was incredible, especially considering that the students, with the help of the theater company and the Truman Theater Week Committee, put the show together with only 14 hours of practice. The show, entitled *The Brave Little Tailors of Transylvania*, featured 115 second and third grade students. Along with giving the Truman students an opportunity to showcase their acting and musical talents, it reinforced the theme of "Never giving up and always trying your best because when trying your best, we can do anything." One particular student, Aizenomo Akhimien, was the embodiment of that theme, as during the first three days of practice





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she seemed to be less than enthusiastic to participate, but by the end she not only performed wonderfully, she earned kudos for being the most improved performer. We are very proud of her and all the students



who participated in the production. Moreover, we commend and thank Mr. Byrne, Principal at Truman, and the Truman School Theater Week Committee: Suzanne Blum, Donna Porpora, Heather Posik and Caroline Whalen, for bringing together the arts, academics, and social emotional learning in such an entertaining and student centered manner.



As they do each week, our remarkable students at Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) continued to impress everyone with their amazing accomplishments. In fact, the Athletic Department recognized the below Students Athletes of the Month for January.

January Athletes of the Month
B Bowling - Dylan Gilligan
G Bowling - Melissa Yataco
B Basketball - Patrick Sekman
G Basketball - Jackie Venticelli
Wrestling - Dylan Acevedo
B Winter Track - Zuriel Wright
G Winter Track - Samantha Kamara
B Unified Sports - Andrew Kolmansperger
G Unified Sports - Kaya Fairman
Cheerleading - Alyse Lerner
B Swimming - Damien Lech
G Swimming - Angelina Hansel



The SWMHS wrestlers continued to impress us with their strong individual performances at the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) Tournament.

Furthermore, they increased their impressive overall White Division Championship record to 16-4. In addition, on Saturday the Boys Bombers Basketball Team defeated division foe Woodbridge High School to claim their 3rd consecutive and 4th GMC White Division Championship in five years. Likewise, the Lady Bombers Basketball Team also defeated Woodbridge on Saturday. The game featured an



amazing performance by sophomore sensation Jackie Venticelli, who scored 37 points and earned the Jersey Sports Zone Game Ball. We would also like to congratulate SWMHS Girls Track Team distance runner Kayla Rosario, who represented SWMHS at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day Awards Luncheon on Sunday. Finally, we commend SWMHS Advanced Art and Jewelry student Rachel Chanowich, who received the Scholastic



Art and Writing Awards Gold Key for jewelry she designed and Honorable Mention for her Tunnel Book. They will be included in an exhibition at the Montclair Art Museum Exhibition from February 15th through March 25th. Similarly, we also



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Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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congratulate Advanced Art student Christian Brito, who will have his drawing included in "New Visions," an exhibition of New Jersey high school student artwork at Rutgers-Camden. Christian will have his work on display in the Student Works Gallery from February 5th until the 10th. Go Bombers!

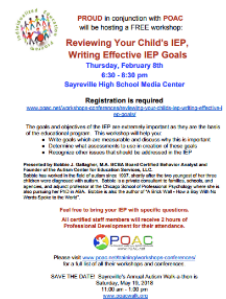


As I noted in the last week's edition, the Flu has become a very serious health concern in our district, as well as state and nationwide. Thus, today (Monday, February 5, 2018) from 2-6 pm, free Flu shots will be made available through the Middlesex County Health Department at the following locations: 35 Kennedy Boulevard in East Brunswick, 29 Oakwood Avenue in Edison, and 596 Anderson Avenue in New Brunswick.



This **Wednesday** there will be a Board of Education (BOE) Workshop Meeting in the SWMHS Cafeteria at 6:30 pm. Click [here](#) to see the agenda. During the meeting, we will provide a brief overview of the 2018-19 Budget development process and calendar. After it, the following budget presentations will be made: Schools, Technology, Curriculum & Instruction, Special Education and Athletics & Co-Curricular. In addition, as we did on January 16th, during the Open Discussion portion of the meeting, the Board will review and discuss the attached proposed purchased professional services (300); purchase property services (400); other contracted services, such as travel, transportation contracts and jointures, tuition, etc. (500); property and equipment (700); and other objects, such as interest, dues, fees, and other miscellaneous expenditures in the proposed 2018-19 School District Budget.

As you will note from the January Head of the Class Calendar, on Tuesday, February 6th the high school will present the Class of 2022 Freshman Orientation and Advanced Placement Night in the SWMHS Cafeteria and Auditorium at 6 pm. Prior to it at 4:30 pm in the Samsel Upper Elementary School Gymnasium, our Project Before preschool students will participate in the first ever Preschool Unified Sports Soccer Tournament. In addition, **report cards** for students in **grades 6-12** will be issued on **Thursday, February 8th**. Later in evening on Thursday the Parents of Autistic Children (POAC), in conjunction with Sayreville University, Sayreville PROUD, and our Special Services Department, will present a workshop in the SWMHS Media Center at 6:30 pm to parents and staff entitled Reviewing Your Child's IEP, Developing IEP Goals. Finally, on Saturday, February 10th there will be ACT testing at SWMHS. Please note that on **Friday, February 16th** we will **dismiss students early** so that our staff can participate in professional development and that **schools will be closed** on **Monday February 20th** in observance of Presidents' Day.



Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe