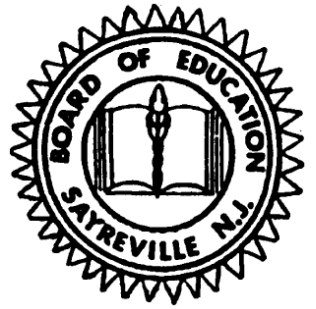


HEAD OF THE CLASS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sayreville Board of Education



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The Sayreville Board of Education congratulates the following staff and students who are at the

Head of the Class

CAST AND CREW OF STEAMPUNK POE

Congratulations to the Cast and Crew of "Steampunk Poe" on a successful fall drama which consisted of a two act adaptation by our own Dr. Michael Piccuiro of the stories of Edgar Allen Poe.

SWMHS FALL ATHLETES

Congratulations the SWMHS Fall Athletes who participated in an activity of goodwill and charity the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Under the direction of the Sayreville Touchdown Club, participants in all fall sports wrapped over 1,200 utensil and napkin combinations which were provided to Elijah's Promise to help those less fortunate enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.

COUNCILWOMAN EICHER COUNCILMAN RITTENHOUSE MR. THOMAS GENTILE

Special thanks to Councilwoman Eicher and Councilman Rittenhouse for taking time on November 14, 2014 to speak with several of our U.S. History Classes at Sayreville War Memorial High School about civics, town government and issues facing our community. They were also joined by Board of Education President Kevin Ciak, Vice President Beth DePinto, and Board Member Jill Trapp who discussed their roles as Board of Education members and issues facing the school community. The event was organized under the direction of Mr. Gentile with the support and leadership of the SWMHS History Department.

WILSON SCHOOL STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS

Congratulations on hosting a successful Family Math and Reading Night at Wilson School on November 20, 2014. The theme of this event was "It's a Small World at Wilson School", and parents and students had a chance to experience a variety of events all focused on math and reading together as a family. Special thanks to the Wilson School Staff for organizing this event.

BOARD MEETS WITH ARCHITECT; DISCUSSES ELEMENTARY OPTIONS

At its meeting held on November 18, 2014, the Board of Education met with a representative from the Board's architectural firm to discuss its options pertaining to the Selover School in the Morgan section of Sayreville and the possibilities of a series of facility upgrades which would allow that building to once again serve as an elementary school.

The architect cited the various building needs surrounding the overall structure, exterior walls, and roof, as well as additional requirements necessary to bring that building on par with the other elementary schools in the district. Based upon those needs and the significant cost, the architect recommended that the Board give serious consideration to replacing the entire building with a new state-of-the-art facility, if it were to proceed to place the Selover School back online as an elementary school. If the building were to remain as administrative offices, the architect still recommended various improvements which would need to be undertaken to preserve the structure and lengthen its life. These renovations, however, would not be as costly as they mainly focused on the building envelope such as windows, exterior walls, and the roof and there would be no educational improvements required.

The Board of Education also reviewed enrollment statistics for the last decade by grade level and it was noted that last year's kindergarten class was relatively larger than any other class of kindergarteners. The Board then requested additional information including research based findings regarding the optimal elementary school class size and how Sayreville compares to that standard and the square footage cost of an addition or additions to existing elementary school buildings. In addition, the Board is also following up on a meeting request which has been pending with the builders of *The Pointe* and/or representatives from the Sayreville Economic Redevelopment Commission to understand the timing and educational impact that the new waterfront development will have on K-12 enrollment in the district.

As part of its November agenda, the Board also reviewed 2013-14 academic performance on standardized tests including the HSPA, NJASK, SAT and Advanced Placement exams and reviewed actions that will be undertaken in the upcoming year to address opportunities for growth in student performance.

The Board also continued its development of the 2015-16 school budget by discussing the utilities portion of the budget that was presented by Board Business Administrator Emidio D'Andrea.

Happy Holidays!