



# 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

**SHALIN MODI**  
**MAESOUMEH MOHAMMADKHANI**  
**SHREYA PATEL**  
**ADEENA SAMONI**

Congratulations to these students who have been named as Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, has been presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students place among the top five percent of 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). They are:

**WILSON SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS** On October 29<sup>th</sup>, some of the third grade students from Wilson Elementary School were able to enter the White House kitchen without ever having to leave the walls of Wilson School. Through a virtual field trip, the students were able to see, hear and experience what it is like to cook for the President and his family. The Presidential chef was joined by a high school student who was asking the hard questions. Does the President eat healthy? Do you grow your own food? Why is it important for us to eat healthy? Many of his responses go back to The First Lady's Let's Move project. She is trying to get healthier food in schools and is attempting to get students more active. One interesting fact that was taken away from this amazing trip, besides an awesome recipe for dinner, was that when students eat healthier meals, get exercise and get enough rest, they do better in school!

### **SAMSEL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Last spring at the Samsel Upper Elementary School, 25 students participated in a Poetry Meets Percussion after-school club offered by Young Audiences and sponsored by the PTO and the SEA. These passionate fourth and fifth-grade students used their own life experiences as inspiration for creating their "rhythm poems" which they were excited to create using their homemade instruments. Students performed for their classmates at a school assembly

on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The advisors to the club were Michelle Leonard and Gineen Morosco along with the help of Stacey Maher, Principal and Bonnie Brady, former Vice Principal of the SUES. This performance will be aired on NJTV. The airdates for this show are: November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition, students performed on April 5, 2014 at the Dazzle Gala hosted by Young Audiences (YA) at the Princeton Hyatt. Young Audiences' Sandy Relief Arts Education Initiative is a grant program that aids schools affected by Hurricane Sandy by offering programming that focuses on the arts as a vehicle for healing and recovery. The program is funded through the New Jersey Recovery Fund and YA's generous donors. Twelve schools were selected for the program and the SUES was thrilled to be one of them. Students performed a poetry and percussion piece created with the guidance of YA artists Josh Robinson and Jacob Winterstein. These artists chose our student, Emmanuella Boateng, as YA's "Student of the Year." The SUES is hoping to provide this exciting program to students once again.

### **SAMSEL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

A "job well done" to the over 650 students, 30 staff members, 25 parent volunteers and 2 retired educators who worked hard at the Samsel Upper Elementary School during the Fall Beautification Day. Students cleaned the grounds, planted mums and bulbs and began to dig an area for a rain garden that will be completed in the spring. We are so thankful for all the moms and dads that were able to help us on this day!

### **SAMSEL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF**

On October 23, 2014, staff members from the Samsel Upper Elementary School volunteered their time to share their knowledge of technology with parents and students. The evening began as Officer Tan Nyugen of the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office spoke to parents of the dangers of the internet and how to protect their children. During this time, school-aged students played academic games and Minecraft EDU. A special presentation on Cyber Safety was presented by Ms. Marku's energetic and entertaining students. After the presentation, parents enjoyed refreshments, compliments of SEA's Pride Committee and then joined their children to learn more about the many wonderful programs that are used in our schools. Parents and children sat alongside one another working with BrainPOP, IXL, EnVision, RAZ kids, Think Central and many more. It was a wonderful night where families came together to learn more about how to keep children safe and how technology can enrich the academic experience.