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

Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools Mr. David Knaster, Assistant Superintendent

Talk Sup Week 11 Review and Preview

November 20, 2023

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you had a most relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup, my weekly newsletter. Please remember that our schools will be closed for students and staff this Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving. Likewise, please note that we will dismiss students and staff early this Wednesday, November 22nd so that they can get a head start on the holiday weekend.



At this time of year, we pause so that we can think about the wonders of life that we have all been blessed with. Moreover, we think about the people in our lives who have profoundly impacted us and are forever grateful for those irreplaceable moments we have shared. Therefore, please know how incredibly grateful I am to have the privilege to work with and be a part of the lives of

our amazing students, their incredibly supportive parents, and our wonderful staff. Hence, on behalf of the Sayreville Board of Education and Administration, we wish you and your entire family a blessed and very Happy Thanksgiving.



As we enter the holiday season, I implore our school community to embrace the holiday spirit of acceptance, kindness, and love. Unfortunately, due to the volatility of our world, including but not limited to the conflicts in eastern Europe and the Middle East, we have witnessed a significant increase in biased behavior by our students. Sadly, there is an abundance of violence, ugliness, and hate in our world that our students are exposed to and are not mature enough to make sense of.



Therefore, please take the time to talk with our students about their feelings regarding all the negativity that they are bombarded with daily in the mainstream media and most

importantly, social media. When doing so, preach the importance of understanding, tolerance, and appreciating the differences in others, as well as in treating others with respect, kindness, and love.



In addition, parents please be aware that there have been a few incidences within our school district community in which our students have had undesirable interactions with individuals while using an app called the *Wizz*. Please click here to read an alarming article about how online predators are manipulating this app to exploit and endanger children. After reading it, please engage your child(ren) in consistent conversations about internet safety and the dangers of meeting strangers online.



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Thanks to our magnificent instructional staff, our students had a very productive and fun week of learning last week. A couple of weeks ago, students and staff at the high school celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week brings awareness to drug-free lifestyles and its impact on our youth. The Student Assistance Counselor, Ms. Sacs, kicked off the week by turnkeying this message to staff: "As I always relay to students, substance use will never make you 'better, faster, or stronger' in life. 'Natural highs' – however – have the capacity to do this for us and help us not only succeed but thrive in life." Staff was then asked to share the message of promoting natural highs by playing a *Natural High* promotional video featuring

Donald Brown, a former NFL player, who grew up locally. In the video, Mr. Brown discussed the impact of being drug-free on his career on and off the field. Lastly, students had the opportunity to identify their own personal natural highs during their lunch periods with an interactive activity.



In other happenings at the high school, students in Ms. Zank's and Mrs. Berman's class participated in a connections and entanglement activity, in which they shared their family customs to highlight how everyone is connected prior to reading their





new novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. In addition, students in the Bombers Brigade served up coffee to the very appreciative staff. At the middle school, students in Ms. Duhigg's Unified Theater Class with Mr. Palma and Mr. Mancini had an incredible time learning and appreciating the magic of the theatre and dramatic arts. Likewise, students in Mr. Howard's class learned about space, the Earth, and continents and oceans before constructing very cool paper mâché

globes. At the upper

elementary school, the top PTO fundraising students had a high-flying time. Likewise, staff, students, and their parents had a blast during the annual PTO Turkey BINGO Family Night that was facilitated by the Chief Turkey in Sayreville.





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At the Truman School, students and staff celebrated World Kindness Day by sporting kindness apparel and discussing the importance of being kind to others and themselves. At the Eisenhower School, thanks to the incredible PTO. students and staff participated in this year's Fall Festival. In Project Before, students celebrated the 95th Birthday of the legendary and beloved Mickey Mouse. At the Selover



Friendsgiving, in which they had a great time shopping, prepping, and cooking all the delicious food. Finally, in Sayreville University, the district continued its wonderful tradition of celebrating the 2023-2024 New Staff Members with a Hopes and Dreams Quilt.

School, students in Miss

Susan's class celebrated World Kindness Week. At the Cheesequake School, students and staff participated in the Annual Turkey Trot and Food Drive, thanks to the Bombers Beyond Brew Crew. Speaking of the Bombers Beyond 18-21-Year-Old Program, students, and staff in it celebrated



In athletics, last week, the SWMHS and SMS Field Hockey



This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We commend and congratulate SWMHS junior Marissa Mandola who was recently recognized as a 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program recipient. Only about 34,000 students throughout the nation are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



Teams celebrated very competitive seasons, which featured many different goal scorers and a significant increase in participants, during their end of season banquet. Likewise, the SWMHS Volleyball Team celebrated their inaugural and very successful season with

their end of the year banquet. Win or lose, all our amazing student athletes continued to compete fiercely and demonstrate the teamwork and sportsmanship



Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders



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that makes us all proud to be Bombers. Thus, we thank them and their coaches for their hard work, dedication, and the way they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember that you can see all athletic team schedules by visiting the Athletics page of our website or by clicking <u>here</u>.

Tomorrow evening at **7:30 pm**, there will be a Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting in the new **Board Room at the Samsel Upper Elementary School**. During this meeting, the Board of Education will recognize and honor the SWMHS Girls Soccer Team for their GMC White Division Championship, and the SWMHS Girls Cross Country Team for their GMC Gold Division Championship. To see the agenda for the meeting, click <u>here</u>. To access the live streaming of the meeting click <u>here</u>. Since the viewing of the live stream will be handled by YouTube, you must be viewing the stream on a browser or application that is live stream compatible. If you are unable to hear audio you may need to try a different browser/application. The live stream will only be available during the real-time duration of the meeting. Directions for public participation during the meeting will be provided on the above-mentioned live stream page of the website. Finally, if on Wednesday you wish to view it or other past-recorded BOE meetings, click <u>here</u>.

As per the 2023-24 School District Calendar, which you can view by clicking on it, tomorrow, November 21st, there will be a Board of Education Business Meeting in the Samsel Upper Elementary School Board Meeting Room. Please remember that our schools will be <u>closed</u> for <u>students and staff</u> this Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving. Likewise, please note that we will dismiss <u>students and staff early</u> this Wednesday, November 22nd so that they can get a head start on the holiday weekend. Finally, please remember that the 1st Marking Period Report Cards for students in grades 6-12 will be issued on November 21st.

If you or someone you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click <u>here</u> 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 **buses**, click <u>here</u>.

Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe