District Newsletter Volume 25.5 www.sayville.kl2.ny.us

Spring 2010

#### Noteworthy

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
I. our High School music students who returned from the Heritage Music Festival in Boston with both group and personal performance trophies for their outstanding accomplishments.

Taking First Place in each category were String Ensemble, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Choral, and Jazz Choir. The Jazz Ensemble took Second. Two Solo Awards were given to Harrison Schenkel (vocal) and Nick Calvano (trumpet). Best Overalls were given to Orchestra and Wind Ensemble in their respective categories.

- 2. High School Science Teacher Maria Brown, who has been named the **Claes Nobel Educator** of Distinction by the **National Society of High School Scholars.** As an outstanding role model who has demonstrated dedication and commitment to excellence in the classroom, Mrs. Brown was nominated by student Neha Kinariwalla, a **NSHSS** member. Neha attributes Mrs. Brown with making the most significant contributions to her own academic career.
- 3. Sayville Eighthgrader Sean Lorthioir who was a semifinalist in the National Geographic Society's 2010 New York Geography Bee competition.

# Highlights

66 This is a

revenue problem,

not a

spending problem.??

of the Sayville School District.

#### **Making Hard Decisions in Difficult Times**

To share the issues and challenges caused by the significant State Aid revenue shortfall in Sayville School District's Proposed Budget, Sayville Administrators and Board of Education members encouraged residents to attend a special Superintendent's Roundtable in March and a Community Forum at a Board of Education Workshop in April.

During the Roundtable and the recent Forum, Superintendent Dr. Rosemary

Jones informed the public that the Board of Education and the Administrative team have been working hard to develop a budget for the 2010-

2011 school year, even though New York State has failed to pass its Budget.

"It has been a very challenging process given the current economic climate," Dr. Jones said. "This is a revenue problem, not a spending problem, especially as the State has reduced aid to the Sayville School District by \$2.2 million. Such a drastic cut has forced us to look at all our programs and staffing very carefully. Please keep in mind that we went through a similar process last year, resulting in a loss of 14 teaching positions, changes to some programs, and a very lean budget. It leaves us less ways to reduce this year."

Bringing down the first draft's proposed increase on the tax rate of 13.48% to something that is affordable to the community and still sustain Sayvlle's excellent school programs remains the primary goal of the District and Board of Education.

"In reviewing ways to trim our budget," Dr. Jones continued, "many options were considered. Some of them were acceptable belt-tightening' measures; others were more drastic in nature. This is a work in progress."

Fearing that one of the drastic cuts would be full-day Kindergarten, community residents at the Forum who expressed concern were assured that full-day Kindergarten was still in the

Proposed Budget.

However, this might not be so with the Contingency Budget, because Kindergarten is

not mandated by New York State.

To help in the belt-tightening measures, the Sayville Teachers Association, along with the Sayville Administrators, agreed to a salary freeze in their recent contract renegotiations.

The Board of Education greatly appreciated the STA's and Administrator's cooperation. They expect other employee groups to offer their support as well.

"This is a complicated issue," Dr. Jones explained. "Sayville has been fortunate in the past to have built an excellent educational program that was supported by an involved community. But the economic climate requires making difficult decisions. Certain changes will impact how we keep our students competitive, deliver our best programs, maintain adequate class sizes, and still reduce the tax rate increase."

Please Note: The Final Draft of the Proposed Budget will be available for review in the Budget Highlights coming out in May as well as presented to the public at the May II Public Hearing in the Administration Building.

# Dr. Rosemary F. Jones Superintendent of Sayville Schools

#### Board of Education

Deborah Van Essendelft,

President

Maureen Dolan,
Vice President

Trustees
Thomas Cooley
Norman deVenau
Keith Kolar
Raymond J. Nelson
John Verdone

AT THE BOE MEETINGS

RECOGNITION was given to (see right)

Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, REPORTED ON THE FOLLOWING:

February II

- 2010-11 Proposed School
   District Budget Introduction –
   Part I: General Support
- Upcoming Budget
   Discussions Workshop
   Meeting-March 4, 7 p.m.
   Regular Meeting -March 11, 8 p.m.
- 2. Peaceworks Character Education Program
- 3. Statistical Report Parent-Teacher Conferences -Dr. Sullivan Keck
- 4. 2010-2011 School Calendar

#### March 11

- Proposed 2010-2011 School
   District Budget (Transportation/ Undistributed) Dr. Jones/Mr.

   Belmonte
- 2. BOCES Election
  - a) Annual Meeting, April 7, 2010
  - b) Vote on Administrative Budget, Wednesday, April 21,
- Board of Education Budget Adoption Date – April 15, 2010
- Due Date for Petitions for Board Candidates – April 19
- Budget Public Hearing May 11
   @ 7:30 p.m. at Administration Building
- Budget Vote and Election –
   Tuesday, May 18, 7 a.m. 9 p.m.
   High School

#### At the Febrary 11th and March 11th Meetings, BOE Citations were given to:



Ryan M.• Cherry Avenue National Geographic Geography Bee Champ



Joseph G. (CA) • First place in East End Kart Racing Junior II Division



(CA) Town of Islip Basketball Sharpshooters: Ryan H. Ist place Gr. 4 Boys, Devin D. Ist place Gr. 4 Girls, Allyson B. Ist place Gr. 5 Girls. (Not present for photo: Alexander Leyboldt Ist place Gr. 5 Boys)

(left) Richard C. • Lincoln Avenue National Geographic Geography Bee Champ

(right) Megan M.(Sunrise Drive)RepresentedSayville at TheLong IslandString FestivalAssociation



(left) (LA) Town of Islip Basketball Sharpshooters: Jack C. Gr. 5 Boys, Gabriele T. Gr. 4

Girls, Chase H. Gr. 5 Girls, Aidan M. Gr. 4 Boys

Gr. 4 Bo

(right) (LA) Suffolk County Honor School Status: Briana D. Gr. 3,
Catherine D. Gr. 2, Ryan W. Gr. 4,
Robert B. Gr. 1, Elizabeth H. Gr.
5, Joshua M. Gr. 3, Sarah N. Gr. 2,
Katherine Z. Gr. 1, Bella C. Gr. 4



#### **HONORING MILTARY SERVICE**

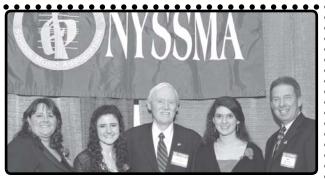
Observing *Women's History Month* in March, Veteran Gary Vertichio and Chris Bodkin were among the visitors in Mrs. Sue Hart's *Participation in Government* classes to recognize one of Sayville's own: Florence Evans, a Sayville graduate, who was a volunteer nurse in WWII and spent most of her military service on the frontlines treating the wounded. She was killed in France on the last day of the War. A monument *(in a park behind Crickets in Sayville)* honoring her was recently

rededicated. Two Sayville Seniors joining the military, Heather B. (Navy) and Zack C. (Marines) spent a moment after class with Mr. Vertichio.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL SHINING STARS **Recognized at Biannual Ceremony**



Quiet acts of kindness, compassion, and community service were among the attributes acknowledged at the Middle School Shining Stars ceremony. The Sayville Middle School staff thanked the following students for "making our school and community a better place to work, learn, and live:" Jared Bergen, Paul Bevilacqua, Shannon Bohman, Adam Creglia, Melanie Dietrich, Raymond Ebarb, Dalen Ferreira, Sierra Graygor, Erin Gunther, Erin Herbst, Logan Hillary, Lara Hirsch, Jonathon Johnson, Eric Laliberty, Isabella Mangan, Kelly Mullagh, Justine Odierna, Shreeya Panigrahi, Joseph Panzarino, Allison Petillo, Kayla Stockert and Rachel Zarett.



Sayville Senior Tessa B. (2nd from right) was selected to perform at NYSSMA's All-State Jazz Day in Albany. (L-R) All-State Vocal Jazz Chairperson Michelle Lindsley, Islip student Toni Ann F., State Senator Owen Johnson, Sayville's Tessa B. & Sayville Music Department Chairman Neil Bernstein.

### HANDS-ON HELP FOR HUMANITY

Again this year, Savyille students volunteered their time with helping hands for Habitat for **Humanity.** Offered by the Social Studies Department, select students are given the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile community service program.

The following students participated at a worksite in North Bellport: Conor Fucci, Tom Rende, Keri Panigrahi, Jenna Ferremi, Dan Ryder, Matt Farrell, Justin Rippert, Quentin Hoffman, Kevin Hart, Cody Rodriguez, James Klopp, Anna Ambrose, Michelle Carl, and Chuck Bortzfield.

#### Firsthand Accounts from the



Guest speaker Mrs. Prokesch spoke with Mrs. Galima's Seventh-grade Seedlings about her amazing experiences at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Van Couver. Mrs. Prokesch, hospitality program manager for Jet Set Sports, discussed the history of the Olympics, myths, controversies and truths, events, living arrangements at The Village, and what her job entails. The students were awed by how the Olympians were treated "like gold" and could have whatever they wanted 24/7. The students had many questions and opinions about their favorite events.

After Mrs. Prokesch showcased her collection of pins from previous Olympics, each Seedling received a pin from the Beijing Olympics. Since Middle School student Emma Prokesch was able to join her mother for two weeks, Emma contributed her impressions of the event, discussing how the security was "intense and tight," but very necessary for the safety of all. Emma also said that meeting Evan Lysacek was the highlight of her trip.

The Seedlings thoroughly enjoyed hearing a firsthand account of the excitement and glory of the 2010 event.

#### Exceedingly High Scores



High-scoring Middle School students who took the SATs between March I and June 30, 2009 were recognized by the John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth at their 2009 Winter Awards ceremony. For top students from New York State, this ceremony took place in January 2010 at Hunter College.

Sayville High School Freshman Curran B. was among the recipients who received the High Honor Award for his outstanding performance on the March 2009 SAT when he was still in Eighth grade. Curran's scores exceeded 600 in all components of the SAT: critical reading, math, and writing. Congratulations, Curran, on your amazing achievement!

# Social Studies Department Holds Debate

Barack Obama's first year in office was the latest topic of the Social Studies Department Debates. Opposing arguments on healthcare reform, foreign policy, and the economic stimulus by teams divided into those who Mostly Approved or Mostly Disapproved were discussed in formal debate. Pro-Obama and Anti-Obama teams made opening statements and exchanged rebuttals with intelligent content. A questionand-answer session added lively dialogue between the debaters and audience members. Kudos to the Social Studies Department for encouraging the student teams to engage in solid research of current events.

# Oh, What a Beautiful

klahoma, performed by two distinctively dynamic casts and presented

by the
Sayville High School
Drama and Music
Departments,
gave audiences
a "wonderful
feeling" with
powerful singing,
accomplished acting,
and splendid dancing
every night.



#### THE STORY:

The moment Curly enters the spotlight and sings Oh, What a Beautiful Morning, the simple story of young love among rural folk in the Oklahoma territory begins with unbounded optimism.

Cowboy Curly McClain loves farm girl Laurey Williams. While their magnetism is obvious to all (People Will Say We're in Love), both fear being first to declare their true affections, which leads to teasing (Surrey With the Fringe on Top) and misunderstandings (Many a New Day).

Matriarch Aunt Eller, a spitfire as tough as leather, holds the reins when it comes to common sense and encourages Curly to woo Laurey. Unfortunately, the menacing farmhand, Jud Fry, grown weary of living in his Lonely Room, has become obsessed with Laurey and has trouble on his mind. When Curly fails to dissuade Jud in Poor Jud is Dead, Jud, like a dangerous rattlesnake, reacts with sinister intent.

The ensuing plot is enhanced by unforgettable songs (Out of My Dreams, The Farmer and the Cowman, and Oklahoma!) which made it a box-office smash on Broadway, and later an award-winning movie.

Sayville High school's tradition of double casting has doubled the opportunity for many students. Special thanks go to Mr. Steve Hailey, who has for more than 30 years found faith in our Sayville students to pull it all together for show time. Additional thanks go to everyone whose orchestra-pit or backstage talents contributed to this Music and Theatre

Departments' production.

"You're doin' fine indeed!" Congratulations to all for another fine musical production that was certainly more than just OK!



# MUSICAL!

#### THE PERFORMANCES:

(top right) • Playing Cowboy Curly McClain for one night's performance, Doug Kenny smoothly adapted his expert musical skills from orchestra to center stage as the lead. In the same role for three nights, Harrison Schenkel orchestrated his invigorating voice and acted like a seasoned master of musical theatre.

(top right) • As Laurey Williams, Christina Jackson gave her performance like "a bright golden haze on the meadow," full of sweet music and playful energy that toyed with Curly's heart, while Alexis Minogue, gifted with a coloratura as magnificent as "the wind sweepin' down the plains," portrayed the stalwart frontier woman with a enduring love for her man.

(right) • Maintaining full control of her character and voice, Deanna Lumley completely embodied the vigorous Aunt Eller, a tough old lady with a heart of gold and a real head on her shoulders, while Amanda Rizzo was uplifting in voice and energy as a wise Aunt Eller weathering the territorial winds of change.

(far right) • The seasoned James Harlin was dark and ominous, using his rich baritone to enhance his portrayal of Jud Fry. Also as Jud, newcomer to the High School stage Andrew Campbell unleashed his powerful baritone with frightening effect, foreshadowing the descent of his character.

(right) • The spritely Miles Whittaker displayed comic presence and proved light on his feet as naïve cowpoke Will Parker. Reprising the role for three nights, well-rounded Kenneth Murray not only kicked up his experienced dancer's heels as Will, he sang and acted with the confidence and ability of someone born for the stage.

(above right) • Dithering Ado Annie, portrayed by the always versatile Kassandra Golka, was simultaneously silly about men and sly about marriage. Willowy Mary Carrado played to Ado Annie's quirkiness with an impressive "spin."

(above right) • As Ali Hakim, engaging Matthew Iovino was smarmy and slick, while Michael Miller showed comic finesse as the smooth-talking peddler.

(right) • As the overbearing Andrew Carnes, Will S. stood tall and strong with his great timing and booming voice.

(bottom right) • There was no mistaking Gertie Cummings and her outrageous laugh, thanks to the startling cackles of both Kayleigh Brennan and Georgia Grant.

• The entertaining choreography throughout the production included an impressive "Dream Ballet" that showcased the High School's remarkable dancers. "Laurey" in the ballet was performed by either the accomplished Casey Jarvis or the amazing Aline Koinoglou with the nightly "triple threat talent" of Kenneth Murray as "Curly." (During certain performances of All Er Nothin, Ken Murray as Will Parker briefly partnered with his sister Valerie Murray as "first girl" in a pleasing dance number.)



### **AT CHERRY**

#### What does math have to do with the Olympics?

"Everything," according to Math Advisor Debra Abrams, who was inspired to integrate Olympic themes with math problems and have the students discover the association in their physical education classes.

During their gym classes, groups of students rotated through five stations of specific physical activities which included "Speed Skating," "Biathalon," "Curling," and "Luge," and collected the data for time, distance, and number of successes, on Olympic-ringed data sheets made especially for the occasion.

For more challenges, "estimation stations,' were set up in the hall outside the gym. Students had to guess how many items filled the plastic containers.

After examining the collections, the students wrote their "gestimates" and put them each estimation-station box.

Back in their classrooms, the students calculated the activity data on the "Where is the Math" worksheet and submitted their results to the "Olympic Committee" for review.

While each grade-level had winners, everyone had so much fun that the Cherry Avenue community may continue the tradition again next year. Since the estimation jars were such a hit, Mrs. Abrams has been asked to keep this guessing game going year round at the front desk.

Mrs. Debra Abrams expressed her appreciation for the cooperation of Physical Education teacher Jen Fee and also acknowledged the assistance of both the Site-Based Team for helping fund the project and the PTA for providing volunteers and materials to work with the games.

All winning students received the contents of the jar. The cotton balls

also had a gift card for Dunkin' Donuts as a surprise!







#### The winners of the estimation jars were:

Cookies ~ Paige Hall, 3rd (with exact estimate of 89) Kicking sacks ~ Michael Dionisio, 5th (with exact amount of 77) Cotton balls ~ Danielle DelGiorno, 4th (with exact amount of 96) Marshmallows ~ Caitlin Reilly, 2nd (guess of 544, actual 546) Chocolate kisses ~ Andrew McCarthy, 5th (with exact amount of 255)

# On Time for Oscars

At Cherry's Third Annual Gala



The starlet-studded presentation of award-winning Third-grade personalities had everyone applauding. A special Life-Time Achievement Award was presented to Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones, who will be stepping down at the end of June. Dr. Jones expressed her tremendous gratitude to her fellow Oscar Winners for their support and for the lifetime of wonderful memories.

## AT LINCOLN Accepting the Disney Planet Challenge

Mr. Campbell's Fifth-graders, assisted by Mrs. Bertino, with the help of teacher aides ensure that the content" is curriculum Mrs. Baio and Mrs. McLaughlin, have been learning about science and conservation while working as a team.

The Lincoln Avenue students researched team of experts from environmental native trees, shrubs, and flowers that would organizations like the National Audubon best adapt to the rejuvenated school courtyard and submitted their portfolio to Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, to the Disney Corporation as an entry in The Disney Planet Challenge™.

The DPC encourages students to 'embark upon a project-based learning adventure that empowers them to make a difference in their schools, homes, and

communities...the teacher's role is to standards-based for the school's state and

After the DPC receives the entry, a Society, U.S. Environmental Protection name a few, evaluate the project and judge whether it is eligible for one of the fifty State Awards, four Regional Awards, or One Grand Prize National Award. Winners will be announced by May 2010.

Good luck in the competition!



#### DISCOVERING THE EXPLORE

at Lincoln

Mr. Dragotta's Fifth-grade students brought history to life with their biographical reports.

Researching • the "famous and sometimes infamous" SPANISH EXPLORERS AND CONQUISTADORS OF



• "THE NEW WORLD," the students became experts on their historical figures: Hernando Cortes, Ferdinand Magellan, Hernando De Soto, Alvar Nunez Cabeza De Vaca, Juan Ponce De Leon, Vasco Nunez De Balboa, and Francisco Coronado.

The students learned the impact that the Spanish explorers had on the cultures already in the new world. Upon completion of their projects, the Fifth-graders showcased their well-earned knowledge • by creating "various presentations" in "a variety of styles and techniques," Mr. Dragotta explained, "such as narrators, outlines, reenactments, props, music, maps, illustrations, and enthusiasm, • to name a few." After doing such an impressive job of research, perhaps the biggest discovery the Fifth-graders made was that • history is interesting, especially when it comes alive.

FOR CHILDREN IN THE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Wondering what was with all those toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss that had been collected at Sunrise Drive? The answer was actually simple.

> Thanks to the generosity of students, teachers, staff, and families at Sunrise Drive, the Student Council collected dental-care items for children in the Dominican Republic. These

children, who live three hours up the mountains in economically poor regions, have little resources for general healthy hygiene, including oral care.

The connection between Sunrise Drive and the Dominican Republic was made

when Fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Sharon Donnelly learned that her daughter, Briana, a fourth-year nursing student was joining a group of intercultural nurses heading to that island nation. The mission of the student nurses was to set up clinics and disburse medications to the sick, as well as vitamins and other medical supplies that promote good health.

A total of fifty pounds—one suitcase full, as allowed by the airlines—of dental supplies was collected by Sunrise Drive Student Council and sent along with the nursing students. Coincidentally, they arrived just days before the devastating earthquake that struck neighboring Haiti-making the need for supplies even more crucial. The Sunrise Drive community should feel a sense of accomplishment for helping children in the Dominican Republic have brighter, healthier smiles.

#### **History Takes on New Life**

THE ANNUAL LINCOLN AVENUE WAX Museum made the Third-graders' unit of study on biographies more fun and inspiring.

Dressed up in character, students acted and recited speeches about many historical figures and gained lasting impressions by portraying them in "wax."



**Sayville Elementary SEED Students** 

#### **Reclaim the UPC Trivia Championship**

Sayville SEED students at each elementary school prepared for the annual United Cerebral Palsy Trivia Challenge contest, open to all Fourth and Fifth graders, by promoting a fundraiser with visits to classrooms, designing and hanging posters around their schools, and explaining how UCP provides programs and services to approximately 4,000 children and adults with disabilities.

Through the generosity of each elementary school community, the SEED students raised \$2,180 in donations. After, they sat one morning before school began to take the Trivia Challenge qualifying test. "The test consisted of 100 questions about topics such as Math and Science, Long Island, Music and Entertainment, and Sports," explained SEED instructor Cindy Nacional. "Eight top-scoring students from each building would become the **Building Team."** 

When Sayville Elementary Building Teams were chosen, they competed against other schools at the UCP Regional Trivia Challenge, where last year, the Lincoln Avenue Team was proclaimed as 2009 Trivia Champs. This year, Sunrise Drive's Team pulled into the lead and tied for first place with Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, Harborfields Central School District!"



Congratulations to the 2010 Sunrise Drive SEED Team, its co-captains Kelsey Alber and Kalle Weik, as well as team members Kristin Eichele, Thomas Faughnan, Julia Hodgkinson, Andrew Cameron, Matthew Tomko and Sarah Laterza, for keeping the title of Trivia Champs in Sayville.

# Sayville Winter Sports Accomplishments of our Winter teams

Congratulations to ALL our Middle School teams in the Winter II season for accomplishing something rare. Section XI (Suffolk County Sports) reported that the Sayville Middle School teams received the Sportsmanship Award for their respective leagues. These teams include: two girls

basketball teams, two boys volleyball teams, 8th-grade boys basketball, and wrestling. [The sportsmanship award is measured by opposing coaches rating our program in three areas; coaches, athletes and spectators.]

While it is a great honor to have ONE

team win the sportsmanship award, every team winning it is truly incredible! What a tribute to all these coaches, athletes, spectators, and supervisors, as well as the Middle School staff, that fostered the best possible environment for such exemplary behavior.

#### VARSITY GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

- 3rd blace in Small School Championships
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

#### VARSITY BOYS TRACK & FIELD

• N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

#### VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Team record: 11-7

- 3rd place in League V
- Advanced to the semifinal in Class 'A' Suffolk County Championships
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

#### VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Team record: 6-12

- 7th place in League V

Community, we thank Jack for giving us an opportunity to upgrade our

#### VARSITY BOWLING

Team record: 32-10

- 3rd place in League IV
- 12th place in Suffolk County Championships (overall)
- Doubles team of Wissemann/ Black placed 3rd in Suffolk County Championships
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team
- Section XI Sportsmanship award

#### VARSITY BOYS'SWIM/DIVING

Team record: 7-0

- Ist place in League II
- Undefeated League II Champions
- Division II Champions
- 2nd place in the Suffolk County Championships
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

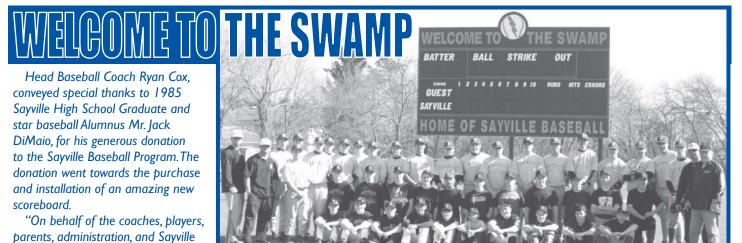
#### **VARSITY WRESTLING**

Team record: 5-2

- 3rd place in League V
- Eastern States participant top 50 schools in the northeast region
- I I th place in Suffolk County Championships (Division I)
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

#### VARSITY CHEERLEADING

- UCA Nationals @ Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL – Nationals Small Varsity **Division Qualifier**
- · 2nd place in Suffolk County Championships – LICCA



N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

Coach Cox also renewed his appreciation facility into one of the very best on Long for the past support received from the Island. The scoreboard has also given the District Office Administrators, the Board of Education, and especially the Sayville baseball program an opportunity to display Community volunteers who have been the new name of the field, 'The Swamp."

involved in fundraising efforts over the years. "Thank you! Now, come out to 'The Swamp' to see the baseball team in action and view the new baseball facility that you have so graciously supported."

LINDA A. MITTIGA SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT Highlights Newsletter and District Website Highlights Onling

of the Sayville School District

99 Greeley Avenue Sayville, New York 11782 Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools \*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\* Postal Customer

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