District Newsletter Volume 25.3 www.sayville.k12.ny.us

### December 2009

Newsworthy

Wishing

You

Happiness

IN THE

Holiday

Season and

JOY IN THE

New Year!

Music hath Charm to...

brighten the Holidays.

the Music Department

for showcasing the vocal,

orchestral, and band talents

of our students of all ages

at a variety of Holiday

Concerts. They certainly

helped us feel the

spirit of the season.

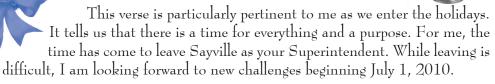
A special thanks to



of the Sayville School District

# This is the Season... A special message from your Superintendent

December 2009 DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, **"To every thing there is a season... turn, turn, turn..."** 



When I first started here in 1997, my goal was to see a group of students move from kindergarten through graduation. The Class of 2009 was that group. I feel very blessed that I have attained that goal and that getting this extra year with the Class of 2010 has coincided with the end of my contract. I have had the opportunity to watch children grow, learn, and leave us as well-prepared young adults. Hopefully, some of the decisions I have made and some of the programs I have initiated have contributed to our students' success.

I never particularly liked the saying, "It takes a village..." I usually prefer the idea that it takes a *family* rather than a village. However, after spending thirteen years in Sayville, I finally get it. Any achievements during my time here can be attributed to the support, wisdom, and insight of the parents, teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education. There is a team spirit and a "can-do" attitude that permeates the District and motivates all of us to go above and beyond for the community and the children.

To our parents, I am most grateful for the children you send to us each day, loved, happy, and ready to learn. I remember all those parent meetings where we both cried and laughed together. In retrospect, I realize I learned much from you and can only hope I

provided comfort and direction during some difficult times. But mostly, we shared our pride in the children and their accomplishments. And there was so much to be proud of! Whether it was academic awards, athletic championships, outstanding musical performances, or beautiful art displays, we shared in the joy.

The Sayville community has been wonderful to me and I will always be grateful for your warmth, openness, and kindness. I am very proud of the work we have done together, and I hope you will uphold the standard of excellence through your involvement in your District's schools.

*To everything there is a season and a purpose.* . . . And the purpose of this holiday season is to celebrate with family and friends. It is also a time that presents opportunities to do something charitable. I am aware of so many families who are struggling to provide even the basics for their children. Sayville and its students are known for their generosity and I thank you in advance for whatever you can do.

I wish you a Happy Holiday and all wonderful things in the New Year!

Warmest Regards, Rosemary F. Jones, Ed.D.



Superintendent of Sayville Schools

DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

### AT THE NOVEMBER $12^{TH}$ board of education meeting, **CITATIONS WERE GIVEN TO...**

Awards presented by High School Principal Ron Hoffer and BOE President Debbie VanEssendelft



**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 November 12th BOE MEETING

> RECOGNITION was given to (see right)

DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, **REPORTED ON THE FOLLOWING:** 

1. Bond Project Update 2. TAN Borrowing Results 3. New Elementary Initiatives

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- + DEC. 24 JAN. 3 Schools closed for Winter Recess
- + JAN. 4 Schools open + JAN. 7 Board of Education Workshop Meeting - 7 p.m.
- + JAN. 14 Board of Education Meeting – 8 p.m.



POR THEATRE-IN-T



**CHRISTOPHER BAIO:** for earning the Eagle Scout Award, the highest award given by the Boy Scouts of America



(I-r) Kyle Tieman-Strauss & John Farese: for their Outstanding Summer Research Initiative



All-State Musicians for the 2009-2010 School Year (I-r) DIANA YANOTI, TESSA MAE BUONO, JULIE MACDONELL, AND ALEXIS MINOGUE

DON'T MISS OUT on more photos, slideshows, and articles at: Highlights Unling **Sayville Schools** Website

sayville.k12.ny.us

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT**

- "Madcap Sayville Players" in **CREATURE CREEPS**
- Middle School Mock Interviews • Knitting Club holds Lustgarten Foundation Fundraiser
- ....and more Holiday Stories **GET TO KNOW**

WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

Sayville School District is NOW on TV !

"Spotlight Islip" . CHANNEL 18 . Cablevision Government Access

The 30-minute TV Program on the positive contributions of Sayville High School, Middle School, and Elementary School students is airing

### **ONLY** in December!

see scheduled below: Saturdays at 5 p.m. Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays at 10:30 p.m. Each month a new show will spotlight another Town of Islip school district.

### ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

It was an exciting contest between Sayville and Babylon. Sayville edged to the lead after each round until the final "180," which true to its name, reversed the play and the outcome of the game.

Congratulations go to the Sayville Challenge Team Conor Fucci, Quentin Hoffman, Kerishma Panigrahi (team captain), Angharad Rebholz, and Doug Kenny (team alternate) and Academic Advisor Kevin Recker for a great job. I-r Advisor Kevin Recker, Quentin Hoffman, Kerishma Panigraphi, Conor Fucci, Angharad Rebholz, and Doug Kenny

## Making **PEACE** WORK for All Students

"How Did I End Up HERE?" The answers to this question with regard to bullying and prevention were part of the key discussions led by Sayville Middle School Social Worker Dawn Lloyd-Matthews and Principal Dr. Walter Schartner at a recent New York State Middle-Level Liaisons semiannual meeting in Albany, New York. As one of the six middle schools in New York to earn the *Essential Elements: Schools to Watch* designation for a second time, Sayville Middle School was invited to share our best practices through a training workshop.

Educating educators about successful practices in bullying prevention through a Principals' Workshop Presentation, Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews, accompanied by Principal Dr. Schartner, first explained the Peaceworks program—the result of Sayville's districtwide coalition committee—which has been implemented in the Sayville School District since 2000. In each Sayville school building, social workers like Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews provide training to staff, students, and parents, ensuring a collaboration that is vital to the program's success. This Sayville character-education program currently serves K-9 and will expand through grade 12 by next year.

Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews also emphasized that bullying is unlawful according to both state and federal hate crimes legislation. New York State legislation identifies criminal acts of bias as threatening, intimidating, harassing, and aggravating, and includes simple assault.

Having practiced in Sayville Schools what she preached, Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews was able to field questions from the Middle Level administrators and educators. She identified types of bullying along with the "foul" behaviors associated with bullying and offered "rules of engagement" in fighting fair. She



delineated the progressive steps in discipline procedures that help both the bully and the victim understand what brought them into both the confrontation and the consequences. Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews also explained that the students' roles in the bullying situation could change. Sometimes the student is the bully, sometimes the victim, or even a bystander. Since these roles may be different for each situation, it is important to determine without assumptions what part the student has played.

Once the student can discover "How Did I End Up *HERE*?" the following steps for solutions can be taken:

- Students who are the aggressors are taught to restrain destructive responses through the use of self-talk, to identify the behaviors that are considered foul, and to develop solutions to wrong behavior.
- Students who are victimized by bullying are taught ways to empower themselves with the same set of questions and steps as those used to sensitize the bully.

Another complication is cyberbullying. Sayville integrated both *I-Safe* and *Power to Learn Internet Smarts*, sponsored through Cablevision and by Senator Foley, to address more comprehensively this and other internet safety issues.

At the Middle-Level Liaison Meeting, Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews encouraged her audience to increase their awareness of the sometimes subtle signs of bullying. This would enable them to take more responsibility for prevention and it would facilitate addressing each occurrence with greater success. She reminded them that raising the self-esteem in both the bullies and victims will not only assist the students in gaining positive acceptance from their peers, but the districts could significantly reduce the incidences of bullying.

After Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews' thorough presentation, many Middle Level principals were pleased to have "ended up here."

In addition to the recent Albany meeting, last June Mrs. Lloyd-Matthews presented Sayville's Character Education and Peaceworks program at the "Girl Bullying & Other Forms of Relational Aggression" National Conference in Las Vegas.



For Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our Sayville Girls Volleyball Varsity and Junior Varsity teams participated in 2009 DIG PINK, the national fundraising effort, organized by The Side-Out Foundation and Suffolk County Girls Volleyball, and in one afternoon, raised \$2,800 for Breast Cancer Research!

Everywhere pink balloons, T-shirts, baked goods, and Dig Pink posters served as reminders that this scrimmage game against Rocky Point had an ambitious outcome.While the Sayville Girls volleyed for points on their home court, supporters in the audience, which also included the pep band, Cheerleaders, and Field Hockey players (who also held a similar Breast Cancer fundraiser at a recent game), rallied to dig deep and make donations to this worthy cause.

Despite the torrential rainfall on the day of the scrimmage, Girls Volleyball Coach Debbie Urso was enthusiastic about the fundraiser and expressed sincere gratitude for everyone who showed support. Their tremendous success in raising \$2,800 was truly the result of the combined efforts of coaches, players, and Sayville community.

Sayville Athletic Directory Charles M. Delargy also had high words of appreciation and praise for Coach Debbie Urso, JV Coach Tiffany Rowan, Volunteer Coach Jim McLoughlin, and Cheerleader Coach Dawn Thelian, as well as for the cheerleaders, and especially for all the players who showcased extraordinary dedication in the fight against breast cancer.

## **Diving for Treasure**

While her high school students were researching historic shipwrecks off the coast of Long Island as a class assignment, Sayville High School Marine Science teacher Mrs. Cindy Giannico made an important discovery herself—a hidden treasure in the likes of a colleague.

Sayville Technology teacher Bill Vogel, an advanced-level technical diver with more than eleven years of experience in Long Island coastal waters, had new perspectives on the tragic stories of collision or war that brought down the handful of famous wrecks off our shores. Some of his most notable dives include the "Mt. Everest of dives, the *Andrea Doria*.

Tapping Mr. Vogel's experiences, Mrs. Giannico reversed the field-trip concept and brought shipwrecks, complete with artifacts and equipment from his numerous dives, into the classroom. Joining them were the Marine Science students working on shipwreck projects from the two other Marine Science classes taught by Mr. Anthony DeAngelis and Mr. Brian Daleo.

Among the more familiar names, Mr. Vogel enthusiastically spoke about his dives to the U.S.S. San Diego, an Armored Cruiser 6 brought down by a German submarine in July 1918, and today still lies listing and upside down about eleven miles southeast of Fire Island inlet. He described the importance of remaining alert while diving, especially because navigation through a dark hull, strewn with bulkheads, machinery, and ship stores, is dangerous.

Mr. Vogel informed the students that it is often a blind search for artifacts because of the silt that is disturbed during the dive. A diver, developing tactile awareness in the absence of vision, can recognize manmade objects such as the straight edges of a brass plate or a brass button embedded in cloth. However, Mr. Vogel admitted he was fooled by



a large piece of porcelain pottery that turned out to be fragments of a toilet bowl.

Yet, success is measured in amazing recoveries, little pieces of history that survived the shipwrecks. He asked the students to imagine the odds of fine china not breaking during the violence of a storm-tossed wreck, or after the ship crushes into the ocean floor, remaining intact and still bearing the ship's logo when it is recovered hundreds of years later. For Mr. Vogel, several of his great achievements are three intact teacups, logo and all, that he recovered from his dives to the *Andrea Doria*.

Mr. Vogel showed the students essential tools and equipment that are indispensible for safe diving. Mastering the use of equipment such as air tanks with different mixes is a matter of life or death. "If I make a simple mistake and put a wrong regulator in my mouth, I could die." He emphasized that no mistake is simple when your life depends on it, and many a seasoned diver has had a tragic end because of one wrong move. While the crowbar, sledge hammer, and flashlight might help him extract artifacts from the deep, more important is how he extracts himself from the depths of the sea. He uses the lifeline to help him find the trail back to safety and his air-bladder vest is readily available should he need to make emergency ascents.

Thanks to Mr. Vogel's passionate interest in technical diving, Mrs. Giannico and her Marine Science students developed a greater appreciation for one of Long Island's local treasures, the undersea world of shipwrecks. A stitch in time For the Holidays Students in Ms. Klepacki's Home and Careers



### Fundraising at the Middle School

## Not Just a Pie in the Sky or Eye

If the Sayville Middle School Food Drive collected at least 1,000 items, Assistant Principal Mr. Thomas Murray would take a pie in the face before the entire assembly. For another \$5, donators could put their names in a raffle to be the one holding the pie.



Thanks to the generosity of the entire school community

(assisted by the incentive of Mr. Murray's promise), the Middle School Hope Club spearheaded a successful Food Drive that achieved and surpassed its goal with 1,800 food items. Along with the monies raised by the \$5 raffles, the Food Drive supplied over twenty-six Sayville families with groceries.

True to his word, Mr. Murray waited patiently wearing a protective poncho as the entire school assembled in the gym to witness the fulfillment of his promise. Thanking everyone for participating in the food drive, Mr. Paul Simonson and Principal Dr. Walter Shartner (*who held the boxed pie for all to see during the introductions*), praised the students and staff for their contributions to such a worthy cause.

Roaring with delight and anticipation, the crowd could hardly contain their excitement when listening for the name of one lucky person drawn from the raffle. Coincidentally, Mr. Murray's secretary, Sue Ferremi, was picked to "deliver" the Chocolate Mousse Cream Pie from Audrey's Bakery to Mr. Murray's face.

It was a win-win situation for everyone: The Middle School students never lost sight of the real purpose of Mr. Murray's stunt. They expressed serious pride in being able to help local families in need. And for Mr. Murray, it was his favorite flavor pie.

### Love of Crafts Knits Club During the month of December, the

During the month of December, the Knitting and Crocheting club, under the direction of Mrs. Jean Galima, made a goal to raise \$1,000 for the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Research, in memory of beloved music teacher Betsy Cohen.

In preparations since the fall, the Middle School students have been spending their lunch period with Mrs. Galima learning how to make a variety of handcrafted items, such as wreaths, Oreo cookie magnets, potholders, bookmarks, tissue covers, along with the usual scarves and hats.

Holiday shopping was a one-stop event in the Commons with the beautiful handcrafted gifts made by the Middle School students.

### Wellness Center at Middle School

Complying with the New York State mandate to combat childhood obesity and poor health habits, Sayville School District has completed the Wellness-Fitness Center at the Middle School.

Under the supervision of Mr. Kevin Kelsey, the Middle School students are benefitting from a program that lays the foundation for a lifetime of fitness. The concept of the Wellness Center is to teach each student the importance of individual exercise regimens, separate from being a member of a team sport.

Three years in the planning, the Middle School Wellness Center is used by health and physical education classes to introduce our students to their muscle groups and the proper use of fitness equipment. While most Middle School students should not be weight-training, they can learn how to work out properly with the weight-assisted machines, along with steppers, jump ropes and the dancercise routine for cardio activity. As the students discover a sense of selfworth through fitness, they will stay enthusiastic and most likely maintain a fitness plan for life.

5

## A tradition worth keeping



Senior Breakfast Once again this year, Parkville Deli provided the fare for the traditional Senior Breakfast, now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year. Senior Breakfast allows members of the graduating class to break from their busy schedules and commingle over a nourishing morning meal. Originally launched by Senior Class Advisor Mrs. Marie Joost-Cox and Principal Joseph Buderman, "it remains as popular as ever," as Principal Ron Hoffer observed. Eggs, bacon, French toast, assorted rolls, juice, etc., were served by volunteer Senior Class parents to hungry seniors, administrators, faculty, and staff who lined up for a hearty breakfast. Go to Highlights Online for more photos.



### CHERRY AVENUE Segregerer and the SHOWCASES RESPECT FOR VETERANS

Acknowledging the sacrifice of our veterans to uphold our freedoms may be a heavy concept for elementary students, but at Cherry Avenue, pictures were worth a thousand words in helping the students understand.

Organized by Second-grade teacher Nicole Teufel, whose husband SSG Teufel finished his recent tour in Iraq, the idea was to honor the vet-



erans in all families. Each Cherry Avenue student received two stars to salute a veteran close to them. They could choose anyone, whether an immediate relative like a parent, uncle, aunt, cousin, grandparent, great grandparent or a family friend, by providing a picture on one star, and a name and description of the branch of military service on the other star.

The Cherry Avenue community had an impressive response. Every star was glued to the backdrop of red, white, and blue stripes that covered the walls in the main hallway, along with another military display from the Army Unit that the school adopted last year.

### A Groundbreaking Experience AT LINCOLN AVENUE

With words of welcome, Principal Michele Gunther officiated and assembled outdoors the entire student body along with staff to witness the Lincoln Avenue Groundbreaking ceremony.

Among the invited guests (which included BOE trustee John Verdone), Assistant Superintendent for Business John Belmonte explained the exciting changes that were taking place (*i.e.*, renovation for additional classrooms, a common space as a Learning Center for combined Kindergarten activities, and a library-media center with upgraded technology).



He also assured the Lincoln Avenue community that the projects were expected to be completed by September of 2010. Sayville Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones talked with the students about how "libraries are the center of change," after which she initiated the ceremonial book donations with one of her favorite books, *Make Way for Ducklings*.

Once the students, representing grades One through Four, read their poems, the actual groundbreaking began. Using silver- and gold-painted shovels, Lincoln Avenue students donned hard hats and dug into a dirt



pile, officially signifying the beginning of the building addition projects at the elementary school.

The Fifth-grade representatives closed with touching insights about the future of Lincoln Avenue. Despite the chilly weather during the ceremony, emotions of those assembled seemed warmed by the encouraging news regarding Lincoln's wonderful changes ahead.

Sunrise Drive Students in Girl Scout Troop #2074 LEARNING

To fulfill the final phase of the Lead On Badge requirement, members of the Junior Girl Scout Troop 2074 from Sunrise Drive needed to interview an accomplished woman leader. The troop felt fortunate when Dr. Rosemary Jones, Superintendent of Sayville Schools, agreed to sit for an interview to help them complete their badges. Gathering in the Administration Board Meeting Room over refreshments, the Girl Scouts and their troop leaders met with Dr. Jones and asked her insightful questions about leadership qualities.

The Girl Scouts wanted to know how Dr. Jones first started in education and what has been her biggest achievement since joining Sayville schools. During the questionand-answer session, Dr. Jones explained many aspects of being in charge of the school district. She told the scouts her favorite part of the job was deciding how to help all students learn better, and admitted the hardest part of the job was keeping everybody happy. One Girl Scout asked Dr. Jones what she considered hiring new teacher "Enthusiasm for bo



hardest part of the job was keeping everybody happy. One Girl Scouts Mith Dr. Jones are the 4th-grade Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 2074: Olivia Anderson, Megan Collins, Sophia Denaro, Kristin Dietrich, Noelle Dufrenoy, Mikayla Edwards, Kailey Gross, Julia Hodgkinson, Kaila Kotkiewicz, Kayla O'Brien, Zoe Rivera, Lauren Runco, & Jessica Smith (absent from photo).

what she considered important when hiring new teachers or principals. "Enthusiasm for both the children and teaching were top among the attributes considered for a new hire candidate," Dr. Jones told the girls, "because if you can't love the children you must teach, you won't make a good educator."

Once the interview was over, Dr. Jones distributed a bookmark with a bullet list of leadership attributes and explained why she designed the bookmark with those points. The Girl Scouts were thrilled by the whole experience. "I felt important sitting in the big chairs in the board room and was inspired by the bookmark Dr. Jones gave me," remarked Kaila Kotkiewicz. "I liked how Dr. Jones answered our questions with such good detail," added Zoe Rivera. "My favorite tip for success from Dr. Jones," commented Olivia Anderson. "was don't give up, because I was working on an art project that made me really frustrated, and I wanted to give up."



### VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

IST PLACE IN LEAGUE III (11-2) Playoff qualifier •Undefeated League Champion

#### VARSITY BOYS GOLF

3RD PLACE IN LEAGUE V (9-4) •Playoffs will be decided in the spring

#### VARSITY GIRLS SWIM/ DIVING

5TH PLACE IN LEAGUE II (4-5) •3rd place in Division meet

### VARSITY GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

IST PLACE IN LEAGUE VI (6-0) Undefeated League Champions •2nd place in Suffolk County Championships •2nd place in Division Championships

### VARSITY BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

4TH PLACE IN LEAGUE VI (3-3) •3rd place in Suffolk County Championships

#### VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEY-BALL

3RD PLACE IN LEAGUE VI (7-5) •Playoff guarter finalist

#### VARSITY BOYS VOLLEY-BALL

RECORD OF 2-14

This team is in its third year as a varsity sport and they have done a great job. The record does not show how much progress they made.

#### VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER 3rd place in League V (9-5-1) •Playoff quarter finalist

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER 2ND PLACE IN LEAGUEV (14-2) •Playoff quarter finalist

### VARSITY FOOTBALL

2ND PLACE IN DIVISION III (7-3) •Division III Big 4 Champion •Playoff semi finalist

#### VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY

IST PLACE IN DIVISION II (13-3) •Playoff semi finalist •Division II Overall Champion

### SUFFOLK ZONE WINNER **Arielle Theofield**

Arielle has excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field. She currently has an average of 92.756 with a physical education average of 98. Arielle's favorite memory of physical education was surviving the hockey matches. Currently, Arielle is a member of the Anchor Club, SWEEP, Key Club, SADD, and the National Honor Society. As a volunteer, she is a camp counselor for field hockey and lacrosse. Athletically, Arielle participates on our Varsity Field Hockey, Track & Field, and Lacrosse teams for which she has earned honors

of All-County, All-State, and team MVP. She is currently looking at Monmouth College to continue her studies in education and play field hockey. We wish her all the best.



Daniel has excelled both on the athletic field and in the classroom. He actively participates as a youth sports camp counselor in lacrosse and wrestling, works in his church's star program and is a peer tutor. Currently, Daniel's weighted average is a 101.205 and his physical education average is a 100. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Athletically, Daniel is a captain in three sports with 11 varsity letters and has received honors such as All-County and team MVP in the sports of Soccer, Wrestling, and Lacrosse.

Daniel's favorite memory in PE was badminton against the teachers. Next year, Daniel is planning on attending Brown University to continue his studies and play lacrosse. Best of luck.

#### N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. **CHLETE AWA** All our Sayville NYSPHSAA varsity teams received the scholar-athlete award. Congratulations once again. • Here is the final tabulations (unweighted average of 90 or above to qualify) Sport Avg. # QUALIFY #REQUIRED Sport Avg. # QUALIFY #required B X-C 96.017 19 7 **G** Soccer 92.779 12 12 7 G X-C 93.101 12 **G** Swim 93.335 16 11 Fd. Hock 92.680 14 12 8 8 **B** Volley 93.266 • Football 91.228 14 12 • **G** Volley 91.598 12 8 • **B** Golf 95.046 7 7 9 **G** Tennis 94.617 9 12 **B Soccer** 94.014 12



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

of the Sayville School District \*\*\*\* ECRWSS\*\*\*\* 99 Greeley Avenue Sayville, New York 11782 Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

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