

Highlights

of the Sayville School District

Fall 2009

District Newsletter
Volume 25.2

<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

Newsworthy

2010 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students

Congratulations to Sayville High School Seniors Julie MacDonell, Angharad Rebholz, and Conrad Volle for achieving Commended Student status in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students place among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Special congratulations to Mr. Ronald Hoffer, High School Assistant Principal, for his appointment to the Office of High School Principal.

"Mr. Hoffer has worked diligently over the past years," Dr. Jones remarked, "and has demonstrated a commitment to the philosophy of Sayville Schools.

Time and again, he has shown us his steadfast ability to be fair, consistent, and compassionate."

The Proposed TAX RATE Decreased **Down to 1.16%**

Everyone agrees: Sayville Residents could use a tax break. This year, the Sayville School District and Board of Education were able to deliver just that, by reducing the voter-approved projected tax-rate increase from the original 2.77 percent down to 1.16 percent!

HOW? The explanation for this decrease requires an understanding of what is behind the process of setting the tax rate and how some economic factors impact our local economy.

THE PROCESS

ONE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC FACTOR

Each year, the Town of Islip determines the taxable assessment or "Assessed Valuation" of all properties in Sayville and also provides the "Base Allocation" figure that represents the percentage of Homestead (Residential) and Nonhomestead (Business) properties within the District. These values change annually based upon such things as the number of homes sold, new homes built, developed properties throughout the year, and Tax CERTs (adjustments to home owners' taxable values). School districts receive this information in late August.

OTHER ECONOMIC FACTORS

In addition, there are other significant economic factors that affect the setting of the tax rate. When planning an academic budget, most public schools on Long Island rely upon:

- State Aid for a significant portion of the revenue pie,
- reserves in a district Fund Balance, and
- other miscellaneous revenues.

These revenues are offset by expenditures which also need to be included in the spending plan.

HOW IS 2009-10 DIFFERENT FOR SAYVILLE?

• BASE ALLOCATION FOR 2009-2010

For the first time in many years, the Base Allocations received from the Town of Islip and which represent the percentage of Homestead (Residential) and Nonhomestead (Business) properties within the District has **SHIFTED AWAY FROM HOMESTEAD TO NONHOMESTEAD.**

This shift means that for residents there will be some tax relief; however, the burden of the taxes will be squarely on our local businesses, increasing their tax rate by 6.49 percent.



NOW PLAYING
2 casts
Sayville HS Players presentation
in the Little Theatre
Nov. 4-5: 7pm, \$3 all seats
Nov. 6-7: 8pm, \$4 students
\$5 adults
Seniors with
gold card--
Free



DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

AT THE OCTOBER 8TH BOE MEETING, CITATIONS WERE GIVEN TO...

Board of Education

DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT,
PRESIDENT

MAUREEN DOLAN,
VICE PRESIDENT

Trustees

THOMAS COOLEY
NORMAN DEVENAU
KEITH KOLAR
RAYMOND J. NELSON
JOHN VERDONE

For their **Outstanding Summer Research Initiatives**, the following students, were honored with recognition and Board of Education citations.

(l-r) BOE President Debbie VanEssendelft, students Amanda Rizzo, Jacqueline Kalomiris, Rachel Sigismondi, Neha Kinariwalla, and John Farese (not present) and Research Coordinator Mrs. Maria Brown.



AT THE OCTOBER 8TH BOE MEETING

STAFF AND STUDENT
RECOGNITION were given to
(see right)

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

- School Improvement Plan
- Shanti Fund
- Library Signage

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISCUSSION



During the BOE Meeting, the Sayville Board of Education extended their thanks and appreciation to retiring High School Principal Joseph Buderman for his 38 years of tireless service to Sayville schools, students, and community. *(l-r) Norm deVenu, Thomas Cooley, President Debbie VanEssendelft, Principal Joe Buderman, Vice President Maureen Dolan, Keith Kolar, and Raymond J. Nelson.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 3 • Election Day/
Superintendent's Conference Day
(Schools closed for students)

NOVEMBER 5-8 • The Sayville
Players present

THE CREATURE CREEPS IN THE Little Theatre

Wed. & Thurs. Nov. 4 & 5, 7 p.m.,

• \$3 all seats

Fri. & Sat. Nov. 6 & 7, 8 p.m.,

• \$4 students, \$5 adults

*(Free for Senior Citizens
w/Gold Cards)*

NOVEMBER 5 • Board of
Education Workshop Mtg., 7 p.m.
Admn. Bldg.

NOVEMBER 11 • Veterans Day
Schools Closed

NOVEMBER 12 • Board of
Education Mtg., 8 p.m. Admn.
Bldg.



At a recent Section XI Meeting, Sayville School District was recognized with the Scholar-Athlete New York State School of Distinction Award for having all 26 varsity teams rank as NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams. On behalf of Section XI, Executive Director Ed Cinelli congratulated our School District and Athletic Program for winning the award. Since its inception, this prestigious honor has only been given to five districts. (Photo l-r) Section XI Executive Director Ed Cinelli, Sayville High School Principal Joseph Buderman, Sayville Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosemary Jones, Sayville BOE President Deborah VanEssendelft, and Sayville Athletic Director Charlie Delargy.

DECREASED **The Proposed Tax Rate** Down to 1.16%

The shifting of these Base Allocations is not a new phenomenon. Actually, over the last several years, our Nonhomestead properties have realized a decrease in their tax rate or a significant lower rate change than our Homestead properties.

Also over the last several years, Sayville has supported legislation to minimize the shift between the Base Allocations to no more than 1 to 2 percent. This Real Property Tax Law, as originally written, allows for up to 5 percent shift in the Base Allocations in any given year. The special legislation that Sayville supports each year has resulted in minimizing the tax rate changes for both the Homestead and Nonhomestead Base Allocations.

Sayville's
Proposed
**TAX RATE
INCREASE**
has been
**REDUCED to
1.16 percent!**

• ASSESSED VALUATION FOR 2009-2010

Why did this shift occur? Well, for the second consecutive year in nearly a decade, there has been a decrease in Sayville's assessed valuation (taxable properties). This decline is the result of several factors:

- Decreases in Nonhomestead values mainly due to tax certiorari on significant properties in Sayville,
- Limited or no new land available for commercial or residential building,
- Decline in the housing market and home sales.

• STATE AID PROJECTIONS FOR 2009-2010

Under ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), the federal government backfilled our state aid with \$2,032,892 of stimulus monies. These funds will keep us whole and enable us to preserve all programs and avoid significant cutbacks in staffing. The Federal government has committed these funds to our District

for a two-year period. After 2010-11, this commitment of funds will expire and funding to fill this revenue gap for New York schools reverts to New York State.

THE SILVER LINING

As a public school district on Long Island, Sayville

- maintains an adequate reserve in the District's Fund Balance,
- can draw upon other miscellaneous revenues, and
- continues fiscally responsible management of these revenues, which has kept the tax rate low.

ON THE EXPENDITURES SIDE...

When setting the tax rate for the 2009-2010 School year, two specific expenditures increased the voter-approved budget by \$270,532. They were:

- **MTA TAX** This year our state legislators allowed the passage of the MTA Tax, effective 9/1/09, at a rate of 34% per \$100 Payroll.

By law, Sayville School District must now increase its spending budget by \$132,500 to pay this tax.

• ADDITIONAL STAFFING

Necessary teaching staff was added due to student enrollment and an increase of class sections to maintain adequate class sizes.

*Still, the Proposed **TAX RATE INCREASE** has been **REDUCED to 1.16%!***

The Sayville School Administration and Board of Education have once again decreased the previously proposed tax rate increase through careful management of the District's resources, while still affording quality programs that give our students opportunities to excel.

Sayville School District wants to assure residents that we are listening to your concerns and realize that we can only succeed with our community's support. Please attend our School Board of Education Meetings held on the first two Thursdays of most every month.

IN THE PINK



For October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sayville Varsity Field Hockey and Varsity Girls Volleyball teams raised awareness and funds by scheduling nonleague matchups with opposing teams.

Earlier in the month, the Sayville Varsity Girls Field Hockey team, along with coaches Pat Fedelem and Amy Bortzfield, were dressed in pink shirts and shorts to face-off with Port Jefferson for this worthy cause. Although Sayville sustained its first lost (4-2) of the season, the winning combination of the various sideline fundraisers achieved both desired awareness and donations through the support of the community.

The Varsity Girls Volleyball team closed the monthlong drive by meeting Rocky Point on the court.

Volleyball coach Debbie Urso expressed her enthusiasm for the 2009 Dig Pink National Breast Cancer Awareness Rally. "On behalf of the Sayville Girls Volleyball team, Suffolk County Girls Volleyball, and the Side-Out Foundation, we would like to thank you all. Your contributions will assist Side-Out in its mission to raise money and awareness about breast cancer through volleyball."

Support for the events was not only counted in dollar donations, but through the community spirit that gave voice to all those women and men who are currently facing the challenges of this deadly disease.

Say it Ain't So, Joe!

Well, it's officially so. High School Principal Joseph Buderman is retiring effective October 30, 2009.

Thirty-eight years ago, Joseph Buderman taught his first Social Studies class in the Sayville High School, and within a few years, was coaching *The Golden Flashes* Varsity Football team. In 1979, he was honored as the *Suffolk County Football Coach of the Year*, and subsequently, served three years as Vice President of the Suffolk County Football Coaches Association. Even while distinguishing himself as a coach and classroom teacher, Mr. Buderman never suspected he'd be singled out for an administrative role.

In the late seventies, the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel approached Mr. Buderman about considering a career in administration. To fill a void that was anticipated in the district, Mr. Buderman pursued the administrative track, completing coursework and requirements toward certification as a School District Administrator, in addition to his regular teaching and coaching duties.

By 1983, coinciding with the retirement of district administrators and an ever-growing student enrollment, Mr. Buderman joined the High School administrative team, first as Dean of Students for two years, next as Assistant Principal for four years, and finally as High School Principal since 1989. During his administration, Sayville High School converted from a three-year to a four-year program and increased its academic requirements—prior to State standards—in math, science, and computer essentials.

As Principal, he has been part of the Professional Development Team and Middle States Team and served as copresident of SASA (Sayville Association of School Administrators). He has been an active participant in numerous committees including District Project Save, Section XI Eligibility, The Citizens Advisory on Facilities Use, Family Life, District Site-Based, as well as the Drug and Alcohol Steering Committee. In his charge, the Sayville High School community successfully increased the number of students passing Regents exams, participating in Honors and Advanced Placement Courses, and advancing to higher education.

A team player in many ways, Principal Buderman has been a generous leader who guided with encouragement, respect, and by fine example. He seriously embraced his role of trusted advocate when considering the educational needs of his students and staff. With sportsmanlike dignity, he has modeled courage and perseverance, both on the field and in the school halls, while with genuine optimism, he maintained great faith in the intrinsic goodness of his students.

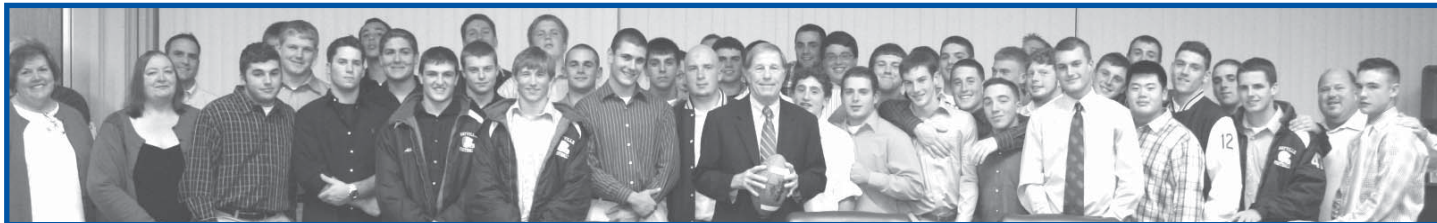
Though Mr. Buderman modestly admits he did not initiate his administrative vocation, he has mirrored the laudable spirit of



Congratulations to Sayville High School Principal Joseph Buderman on his retirement and to Ronald Hoffer, who has been appointed the new High School Principal.

an administrator who cares. His goal has been “to provide a style of leadership which allowed our teachers to do what they do best—teach!” During his twenty-year career as principal, Mr. Buderman sought to open communication, establish high standards, and create an atmosphere in which all students could realize their potential for success “in all their future endeavors.”

Mr. Buderman has been a valued member of the Sayville community who has earned the admiration of colleagues, faculty, students, and families, and we wish him fond farewell and the best of luck in all his future endeavors.



At the October BOE meeting, well-wishers, comprised of the entire football team and coaches, joined with the Sayville Board of Education members and Sayville administrators in congratulating Joe Buderman on his retirement. **Photo above:** Coach Hoss gave a special memento, a football, autographed by the team, in the sentimental send-off. Of course, we will be seeing Mr. Buderman around the High School football field next fall.

A SUPER TIME AT HOMECOMING 2009



In perfect fall weather, Sayville High School students ended their spirit week with the Annual Homecoming Parade of floats through Main Street and over to the football field. Choosing from this year's theme of cartoon super heroes, the Freshman Class portrayed the super-powered, kindergarten-aged Powerpuff Girls from the Emmy-nominated television series; the Sophomores spun a web of enthusiasm for Spider Man; the Juniors showed their super strength with Superman; and the Seniors swarmed in great numbers as they followed Batman and Robin in their crime-fighting quests.



Before game start-time, the Freshman and Sophomore classes performed their Homecoming skits.

- Though few in number, the stalwart Powerpuff girls foiled the Academy bully, taught lessons on being nice to others, and launched into an energetic dance—complete with flips and leaps—to celebrate.

- Spider Man first rescued a baby who was snatched from her mother's arms and even swung into action (and this was unrehearsed) when the Sophomore dance routine was thwarted by a CD malfunction. Thanks to Spider Man, who darted back and forth to get the CD from the booth, the skit dancers continued as planned.

- During halftime the Juniors were first to perform a skit. Their creative float, which displayed a diamond-shaped window that swiveled between the Super Man emblem and the Number 11, set the stage for action and interaction between the less-super Powerpuff Girls, Spiderman, and Batman, who all fell to the overpowering nastiness of the Junior Class Arch Nemesis. When mild-mannered Clark Kent transformed into Superman, the day was saved and their jubilant dance closed the skit.

Then, the Senior class skit followed...

- Under the Gotham City Arch, a pulsing crowd wearing black shirts stenciled with the Bat sign and the word Seniors theatrically rolled in on a huge

flatbed. As they leaped to the ground, they revealed the signaling device and the entrance to the secret Bat Cave.

HORRORS! On the prowl and doing No Good were none other than Cat Woman, Poison Ivy, the Riddler, and the Joker. Once the Gotham residents turned on the Bat Sign in a spray of confetti, Batman and Robin burst from the Bat Cave WHAM! POW! and disposed of the evil forces.

In closing, the amazing Gotham City dancers were joined by a menacing but graceful Joker who descended from the bleachers. Together, they performed a spectacular routine that preserved the Dark Knight theme up to its dramatic end.

Judging the culminating Homecoming activities, select members of the Rotary Club congratulated the hard work of all the classes and awarded First Place to the Seniors, Second to the Juniors, Third to the Sophomores, and Fourth to the Freshmen.



Homecoming football ended in triumph for the Sayville Varsity Flashes with a win of 42 to 7 over Deer Park.



Bullying Prevention

As part of the ongoing PEACEWORKS & BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM in Sayville schools, our High School teachers received training on identifying all forms of bullying. While most actual bullying occurs off campus through electronic communication devices, the faculty and staff know to monitor residual effects that filter through the school environment. Since the PEACEWORKS PROGRAM, sponsored by the Peace Education Foundation, was introduced into Sayville in 2000, this program has included professional training and “push in” activities that not only educate children and adults about the dynamics of conflict, but also promote peacemaking skills in schools. (See the Parents Powerpoint at

Highlights Online, “Bullying Prevention.”)

Please support Sayville school’s efforts (1) in recognizing that bullying is intolerable and (2) in constructively addressing the problem by making the Principals or Guidance Departments aware of instances when such antisocial behavior occurs. For more information contact Middle School Social Worker Dawn Lloyd at 244-6660.

Bullying occurs “when someone, or a group of people, upsets or creates a risk to another person’s health and safety—either psychologically or physically—or their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion.”

Every Sayville school has strict guidelines for addressing overt and covert evidence of bullying.

HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET PERFORMS FOR GO RED FOR WOMEN A MACY’S-SPONSORED EVENT

For a third year in a row, the Sayville High School quartet, conducted by orchestra instructor Mr. Ari Kramer, has been selected by Macy’s to provide the entertainment for the Go Red For Women movement. The quartet performed during the Smithhaven Mall afternoon event to inspire the spirit of generosity among Macy’s shoppers. Donations to the American Heart Association’s Go Red For Women will fund research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease. Through Dec. 31, 2009, for each *Thanks for Sharing* membership purchased, Macy’s will donate \$10 to national and local charities with the first \$3 million donated to Go Red For Women.

Congratulations to Sayville students and Quartet members:

Kyle Tieman-Strauss

Kasey Tucker

Douglas Kenny

Rachael Ali

Jaclyn Kollegger

Giovanna Ruggiero

Nicole Kaczmarek

along with Conductor Ari Kramer.

CHERRY AVENUE CELEBRATES PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

Passersby might have noticed. For a short while, before the rain fell on this first full day of Autumn, over 400 pinwheels, handcrafted in art classes by all the Cherry Avenue students, could be seen spinning in the light breezes. The students had planted their pinwheels on the front lawn, class by class, as a show of support for the Peace Project.

Enthusiasm for this project was evident. Students paraded to the front lawn with their spinning pinwheels while chanting messages of peace. Many were enthralled by the success of these whirligigs of swirling color which they had created in art class. (The kindergartners adapted the project and made flags which were less complicated, but just as expressive.) All the students seemed to enjoy the freedom of showcasing their Peace statements outside, despite the cloud cover.

The national Pinwheels for Peace Project attempts to raise



the awareness of students and the general community that “Peace doesn’t necessarily have to be associated with the conflict of war.”

For educators across the nation, the teachable message of “peace and serenity” by making pinwheels couldn’t be more fun. Sayville Art teacher Jen Berotti organized this event to coincide with Cherry Avenue’s Parents Information Night, scheduled for later in the evening. While the weather proved uncooperative, Ms. Berotti gathered the pinwheels indoors so the parents could witness their children’s statements about peace expressed in their art.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN The ART of Communicating

What better way to learn the art of effective communication than to bring a theatre arts professional into the classroom?

Middle School students in Mrs. Galima's and Mrs. Chamberlain's Communication Skills and Current Issues classes were treated to an acting seminar conducted by Airport Playhouse owner Terry Brennan. Mrs. Brennan began by teaching the students how to warm up their voices, breathing techniques to prevent vocal stress, as well as how to project their voices. Tongue twisters and script-reading exercises challenged the students to articulate sounds with clarity and volume.



While many activities brought the students' creativity to new heights, when Mrs. Brennan emphasized the connections between acting, listening, writing and self-esteem with improved communication skills, the students experienced a dawning appreciation for the same skills that have been the focus of their Middle School Communication

Skills and Current Issues classes.

Mrs. Brennan left a lasting impression on the students. "Keeping abreast of issues in the news locally, nationally, and worldwide," Mrs. Galima reiterated, "and being able to participate in discussions with informed knowledge is vital in forming good future citizens."

AT SUNRISE DRIVE PEN PALS USED NEW TECHNOLOGY

Sunrise Drive Fourth-graders in Mrs. Sharon Donnelly's class spent last year corresponding by written letter with their Brentwood counterparts in Mrs. Lisa Eaton's Fourth-grade. It was certainly a special treat for Mrs. Eaton, since her daughter Lindsay was a student in Mrs. Donnelly's class.

"We wrote letters all year," the Sunrise students explained, "and got to be good friends with our pen pals." By late June, Mrs. Eaton suggested they use Skype, a computer program that makes voice and video calls

via the Internet, rather than exchange visits in the districts.

"Sunrise Drive's technician, Mr. John McGinness," the students recounted, "came to our classroom with a camera and set us all up. It was so much fun."

Each student was given two minutes to meet their pen pals. "Most of us did not get shy. In fact, some of the students were hand signaling and signing things to their pen pal in the background. It was fun to see the faces

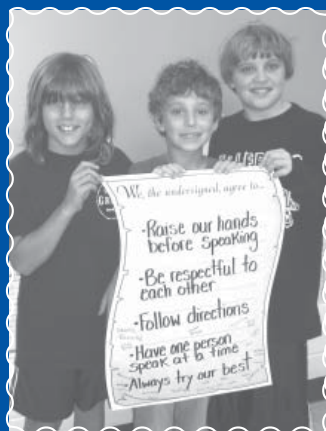


of the kids we wrote to all year. It was a really exciting day in our classroom, and we will never forget

it. We wrote one last letter and exchanged e-mail or home addresses, and we promised to keep writing over the summer. Thank you Sayville Technology Department for making this possible; we loved it!"

Lincoln Avenue Remembers CONSTITUTION DAY

To commemorate Constitution Day—September 17, 1787, when all 12 state delegations approved the Constitution, 39 among the 42 delegates that were present signed it, and the Convention formally adjourned—the Lincoln Avenue students engaged in various activities that would help them understand the day's significance.



"Founding Fathers" in Mrs. Gennari's Fourth-grade classroom signed their living document. (l-r) Ryan Wilson, Ian Bard, and Jason Burns.



When it comes to good citizenship, Mr. Bombara's Fifth-grade students understand there are "No Excuses." (l-r) Chase Hofmann, Conner DeKenipp, and Bizzy Aciermo.



The Lincoln Avenue Student Government held elections September 17th. The successful candidates were eligible to run for higher office. (l-r) Joshua Martin (Grade 5) Recorder, Jack Coan, President, Bella Coan (Grade 4) Recorder, and Harrison Bench, Sergeant at Arms. Absent from the photo is Vice President Phillip Rinaldi.

Sayville Music Students Achieve All-State & All-County



ALL-STATE MUSICIANS (left)

Congratulations to three Sayville Music students Julie MacDonell, Tessa Buono, and Alexis Minogue for achieving All-State status as a result of their highest proficiency scoring during the NYSSMA festival last spring. These students will perform at the 2009 NYSSMA Winter Conference (Rochester) in December. With over 2,400 students this year receiving scores of 98 or higher and recommended for All-State consideration, only 900 musicians have been picked statewide

to participate in NYSSMA Conference All-State music groups. While this is a second time that Julie MacDonell (Trumpet) is going to All-State, both Tessa Buono (All-State Vocal Jazz) and Alexis Minogue (All-State Chorus, Soprano 1) had also qualified as All-State Alternates last year. The Sayville Music department is delighted by the accomplishments of these deserving students.

In a separate category of NYSSMA Electronic Music Composition, for which there are only eleven winners in the entire state, Sayville Senior Diana Yonati (*photo right*) has qualified for a second year with her latest composition, "Bells." DD's composition will also be performed at the 2009 Fourteenth Annual Electronic Music Composition Showcase during the NYSSMA Winter Conference (Rochester) in December. Congratulations, DD!



ALL-COUNTY MUSICIANS (above) Congratulations to the twenty Sayville music students (listed below) who are eligible to participate in the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) 2009 All-County Festival. This Concert is scheduled for November 20, 2009, at Huntington High School.

ORCHESTRA		BAND		MIXED CHORUS			
Julie MacDonell	Trumpet I	Erica Elsesser	Clarinet 3	Tessa Buono	Soprano 2	Deanna Lumley	Alto 2
John Bavaro	Trombone II	Alexandra Freeman	Clarinet I	Kasey Golka	Alto 2	Michael Miller	Tenor 2
Kasey Tucker	Violin II	Kevin Fedelem	Tuba I	James Harlin	Bass I	Alexis Minogue	Soprano I
Rachael Ali	Violin II	WOMEN'S CHOIR		Christina Jackson	Soprano 2	Kenny Murray	Bass 2
Giovanna Ruggiero	Violin II	Casey Jarvis	Alto 2	Marra Kassman	Alto 2	Angharad Rebolz	Soprano 2
		Morgan Neems	Soprano 2				

of the Sayville School District HIGHLIGHTS

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

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Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

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