

Highlights

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JUNE 2009

of the Sayville School District

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 29.7
<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

NEWSWORTHY

CONGRATULATIONS
to 2009 SMBA Senior Scholarship
Winners (see p.4) and
Grant Winners listed below

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANT WINNERS

Caitlin Winfield Dance, **Denise Natoli** Woodwind, **Natasha Capp** Theater, **Jennifer Lembeck** Visual Arts, **Craig Davidson** Strings, **Hillary Slavik** Brass, **Liam Harrison** Brass, **Lorelei Olk** Visual Arts, **Kayla Stockert** Voice, **Dylan Schreiber** Brass, **Alyssa Lofaro** Voice, **Shannon Lynch** Voice, **Kevin Lankowicz** Brass, **Shreeya Panigrahi** Literary Arts, **Lauren Colavito** Woodwind, **Matthew Iovino** Theater, **Spencer Andrews** Brass, **Anthony Vetere** Keyboard, **Caroline Pace** Strings, **Zoe Kalomiris** Strings.

HIGH SCHOOL GRANT WINNERS

Julie MacDonnell Brass, **Patrick Andrews** Woodwind, **Kyle Tieman-Strauss** Strings, **Johnny Bavaro** Brass, **Kenny Murray** Brass, **Raffaela Capp** Theater, **Lexi Minogue** Theater, **Alyssa Coia** Dance, **Scott Davidson** Visual Arts, **Kailey Schnurman** Woodwind, **Erin Robson** Woodwind, **Megan Reilly** Dance, **Kimberly Colavito** Voice, **Brandon Woelfel** Visual Arts.

WORDMASTERS CHALLENGE WINNER

Francis Reilly (Lincoln) earned a perfect score in the year's third meet. He is one of only 185 4th-graders nationally to do so.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC WINS AT DORNEY

Congratulations go to the Sayville Middle School Music students who attended the annual festival "Music in the Park" (Saturday, May 16th) held in Dorney Park for winning in their competitions.

In the morning, thirty-six students in the Jazz Band, led by Kim Grizzaffi, performed: *STORMY WEATHER*, *SWING SHOT*, and *DAMAGE CONTROL*, and thirty-eight students in the Jazz Choir, led by Christine Senatore and Kristi Woerner, performed *BIRDLAND*, *HE BEEPED WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BOPPED*, and *BIM BOM* for the judges, then spent the day "waiting" at Dorney for the evening awards ceremony to hear the results.

•The Middle School Jazz Band (Category: Jazz Ensemble Class AA) received the trophy for First-place Superior Rating (which is the highest rating you can receive at the festival). The Middle School Jazz Choir (Category: Jazz and Swing Choir Class AA) also received trophies for First-place Superior Rating in their category and "Best All-Around Choir." ALSO: Sixth-grader Anthony Vetere received a metal for best student accompanist!

MATTHEW COWAN

Class of 2009 Valedictorian



Attaining an astounding GPA of 106.846, Matthew Cowan pulled ahead in a high-achieving class to be named Valedictorian for the Class of 2009. Possessing a winning combination of acumen, dedication, and compassion, Matt has proven his academic excellence across a broad spectrum of rigorous Honors and AP courses with a momentum that has accelerated well into his senior year. Scoring a remarkable 2250 (720 English, 800 Math, 730 Writing) on his highest SAT exam, Matt daily demonstrates his intelligence, insight, and intuition in the classroom.

Although exceedingly gifted in mathematics and the sciences, Matt embodies a true scholar's ability to assimilate, apply, and share newly acquired knowledge in all disciplines, and he does so with humility and humor. Matt's tremendous work ethic, diligence to detail, perseverance, and creativity throughout his High School career has earned him membership in the National Honor Society and Tri-M National Music Honor Society, the Rensselaer Medal for excelling in mathematics and science, and the seat of first trombone in the highly competitive, award-winning Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble. Achieving scores of 96 or higher during the NYSSMA

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SAMANTHA ROSA

Class of 2009 Salutatorian

Traditionally foremost in her class throughout her entire, secondary school career, Samantha Rosa has had an amazing academic record, scored 2240 on the SATs (710 English, 730 Math, 800 Writing), and holds a final, impressive GPA of 106.417, earning her the status of Class of 2009 Salutatorian.

An AP Scholar, National Merit Scholarship Contender, and ranking member as Vice President of the Sayville High School National Honor Society, Samantha has consistently excelled in rigorous AP courses such as *English, French, Calculus, Environmental Science, Economics, U.S. History, Government, and Psychology*. With her innate intelligence sharpened by her strong work ethic and genuine enthusiasm, Samantha has demonstrated extensive command of each subject and has set the standard for excellence among her talented, high-achieving classmates. Her unsurpassed alacrity for grasping difficult material arises from her sheer joy for learning and her natural competitive spirit.



Continued on page 2



BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN VERDONE, PRESIDENT
NORMAN DEVENAU, VICE PRESIDENT
THOMAS COOLEY
MAUREEN DOLAN
KEITH KOLAR
RAYMOND J. NELSON
DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT

BOARD NOTES

AT THE APRIL 16TH & MAY 14TH
BOE MEETINGS

Student Recognition was given to students (page 5). Retiring Staff members were also recognized (page 3).



AT THE JUNE 11TH BOE MEETING

Student Recognition was given to students (pages 10-11). BOE recognition was also given to District Volunteers, Mentors, and Tenured staff.

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

1. Retrospective of 2008-2009 School Year
2. Reorganization Meeting – July 1, 2009 @ 6 p.m., followed immediately by the Business Meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION

1. Closed Campus
2. SMBA

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 27 High School Commencement, Saturday, 10 a.m.
- July 1 Board of Education Reorganization Mtg., Admin Bldg. 6 p.m., followed immediately by Board of Education Regular Mtg.

*Have a wonderful
summer!*

Continued from cover

COWAN Class of 2009 Valedictorian

Solo Festivals, Matt was invited to play in the SCMEA Band, Mid-Island Band, and auditioned twice at the All-State level.

In addition to his academic accomplishments, Matt leads by fine example in such extracurriculars as Treasurer of *Tri-M*, Captain of the *Varsity Quiz Bowl*, President of the *Science Olympiad*, and Publicity Chair on the Board of Directors for **The Common Ground Community Memorial Park**.

Matt also has served in *Key Club*, *History Club*, and *Radio Club*, and even expanded his horizons with Varsity Winter Track in his Freshman year and Spring Track as a Freshman and Sophomore, where he learned “endurance the hard way.” Matt has

worked reliably as a Library Page, tutored both academics and trombone, and interned for **Barrier Free Communications** to broaden his computer networking skills as a support technician.

A young man of enormous potential, Matt is a well-rounded, kind, humorous, respectful person and an active citizen both within and outside of school. Imbued with a warm, gentle nature, Matt has consistently demonstrated great consideration for others, and in turn, he is greatly admired and respected by Sayville faculty, staff, and his peers.

Majoring in computer science with a focus on software engineering, Sayville Valedictorian for the Class of 2009 Matt Cowan plans to attend Columbia University in the fall.

Continued from cover

ROSA Class of 2009 Salutatorian

Samantha is also an All-League athlete and Scholar-Athlete with Varsity Swimming, her sport of choice, for which she is co-captain. Since her sophomore year, she has three times earned All-League and qualified for state-level meets in the 500-yard freestyle. Sam also practices year round and competes for the Islip Aquatics Swim Team with which she has qualified not only for the *Empire State Games* in both the 800-meter freestyle and the 1500-meter freestyle (*in the summer of 2007*), but also for the Junior Olympics. Additionally, as a member of the Sayville Yacht Club, she participated in regattas on such sailing boats as Optimists, Flying Scotts, 420s and Sunfish, and has competed in the Junior Olympics Regatta three times.

Using her “land legs” in Spring Track for four years, Sam earned scholar athlete for the team.

While still in Middle School, Sam responded to the September 11th loss of Jackie Sayegh Dugan, a friend and neighbor, by launching a memorial garden and charitable foundation. Transforming

tragedy into a special tribute at such an early age was both personally rewarding and a life-changing experience that gave Sam a true understanding of the value of community service. For her remarkable leadership, Sam was honored with the *Prudential Spirit of Community Award* and joined ninety-nine other national winners for recognition in Washington, D.C.

Active in *SWEEP* and *Anchor Club*, Sam also tutors students in academics and religion. Certified in CPR, pool-, ocean-, and stillwater-lifeguarding, as well as in First Aid and AED use, Sam has been an Ocean Lifeguard at Fire Island and a Sayville Middle School lifeguard. As an outlet for her creativity, Sam plays viola in Orchestra.

Beyond all her accomplishments, Sam is respected by the Sayville faculty, staff, and her peers as a kind, responsible, and mature person whose sense of integrity and humility are well beyond her years. An “understated leader” and fine role model, Sam will continue to accomplish great things next fall when she attends Cornell University.

HONORING EXEMPLARY CHARACTER at Breakfast of Champions

Congratulations to the following Sayville High School students who were named **2009 Spring Breakfast of Champions** recipients. For routinely demonstrating exemplary character and conduct in the school community, these students were nominated by the faculty and recognized

at a breakfast provided by **21 MAIN**. For details and descriptions go to Highlights Online (sayville.k12.ny.us).



Ashley Agnitti
Patrick Andrews
Anthony Argentina
Kelly Byerley

Zachary Connors
Daniel Fiore
Melissa Furci
Karl Hart

Kate Hepding
Kaitlyn Ibanez
Kegan Johnston
Kate Krsnak

Terence Macken
Matthew Martinez
Jonathan Melendez
Giovanna Ruggiero

Julia Sergison
Elizabeth Vita
Roxanne York

GOODBYE

TO RETIRING STAFF



On behalf of the Sayville School District, Dr. Jones (left) offers well wishes to (l-r) Peggy Licari, Kathy O'Callahan, and Joanne Hamilton.

During the May 14th Board of Education Meeting, and later at a special luncheon, Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones praised the six retiring faculty and staff members: Teresa Bliss, Joanne Hamilton, Louise Levy, Peggy Licari, Kathy O'Callahan, and Christine Radcliffe for their remarkable years of devotion, commitment, and service to both the students and mission of Sayville schools.

Kristina Schroeter Wins The Lori Abrams Scholarship



The most deserving Drama and Music senior who best honors the memory and talents of former Sayville student Lori Abrams receives the scholarship that bears her name. This year, Kristina Schroeter (ctr) received the award from Drama Director Steve Hailey (r). During Drama Induction night, Kristina sang **Lori's Song**, (written and composed by Mrs. Baron) for the assembly that included Lori's mother, Mrs. Judy Abrams (l).

Sayville Wellness Committee Recommends

PRACTICING POOL SAFETY



With summer on all our minds, the Sayville School District and the Wellness Committee want to remind parents and children to practice pool safety. Among the various sensible tips which deserve emphasis (such as keeping the pool gate closed, having responsible adults present while swimming, not diving in shallow areas, and keeping a phone nearby to call in case of an emergency), the Wellness

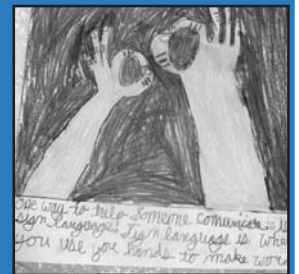
Committee also wants to recommend some additional resources to parents:

- For Swimming Pool Covers, Safety Nets & Safety Equipment by **Katchakid**: <http://www.katchakid.com/>
- For information about the **KidSwim Long Island** group presentation that teaches children how to be safe around the pool, contact **Kyle Chaikin, Long Island Pool & Spa Association, Inc., 631 293-9064.**

Sayville School District wishes everyone a happy and healthy summer and looks forward to seeing fit kids in September.

May is Better Speech & Hearing Month

For several weeks during May (Better Speech and Hearing Month), Elementary Speech and Language teachers Patty McLary, Wendy Barrick, and Cathy Burtless organized activities that required their students to:



- create posters that identified methods of "communication,"
- list ways to communicate better, and
- invent "green" devices to improve communication for all.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY Inducts Eighty-seven Students

Eighty-seven High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society during the annual candle-lighting ceremony. Under the direction of Mr. Kevin Recker, the NHS welcomed the inductees, mostly from the Class of 2010, who maintained an average of 94.5 or above.



- | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| John Albergo,
Nicole Ali,
Rachael Ali,
Michael Andres,
Anthony Argentina,
Katrina Avila,
Madiha Aziz,
Mary Barrett,
Tessa Mae Buono,
Ryan Burgan,
Michelle Carl,
Rebecca Carl,
Zachary Cassetta,
Kristin Chandler, | Cynthia Cheng,
Jennifer Clinton,
Ashlee Corrado,
Mary Corrado,
Thomas Craft,
Kayleigh DeLuca,
Arthur Devine,
Kristina Durkin,
Elanur Erdogan,
Lindsey Eriksen,
James Fagan,
Connor Farrell,
Kevin Fedelem,
Jenna Ferremi, | Alexandra Freeman,
Thomas French,
Robert Frontino,
Conor Fucci,
Melissa Furci,
Maegen Goczan,
Kassandra Golka,
Robert Green,
Josef Haas,
Lauren Hammerle,
Andrew Hartman,
Victoria Herrmann,
Caroline Hesse,
Jennifer Jackson, | Samantha Jahnke,
Casey Jarvis,
Morgan Kane,
Douglas Kenny,
Rachael Klahn,
Jaclyn Kollegger,
Melissa Kraus,
Kelly Laliberty,
Andrew Lanzilotto,
Caleb Larsen,
Gary Leigh-Manuell,
Jordan Lite,
Deanna Lumley,
Julie MacDonell, | Kevin Maher,
Nicholas Mancuso,
Julia Marino,
Maegan Marra,
Leo Massenkeil,
Kyle McKenna,
Joseph McNulty,
Daniel Mellynchuk,
Michael Miller,
John Nielsen Jr.,
Emily Nolan,
Bridget O'Connor,
Kerishma Panigrahi,
Emily Paul, | Kathryn Pendergast,
Phillip Rattazzi,
Angharad Rebholz,
Thomas Rende,
Amanda Rizzo,
Katelyn Roett,
Giovanna Ruggiero,
Edward Rupp,
Cassandra
Sammartano,
Dana Sauer,
Harrison Schenkel,
Rachel Sigismondi,
Allison Spallholtz, | Brittany Spano,
Kenneth Stein,
Matthew Sviridoff,
Taylor Takats,
Kasey Tucker,
Joseph Van
Essendelft,
Conrad Volle,
Nicholas Walsh,
Amy Wannermeyer,
Raymond Waters,
Megan Whitehurst,
Karl Wissemann,
Diana Yanoti |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT *Recognizing Excellence*

During the traditional Scholastic Awards Program held for the Class of 2009 Seniors, 185 awards from all categories of the arts, business, technology, academics, sciences, and the humanities, as well as memorial awards were given to 96 deserving students. Congratulations to all the recipients for your remarkable dedication and commitment.

(below) By evening's end, both Valedictorian **Matthew Cowan** and Salutatorian **Samantha Rosa** (center) were honored along with their 25 classmates (listed below) who ranked in the top 10%. All received the **CLASS OF 2009 OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:**

- Thomas Barrett
- Dafna Charles
- Jason Cromwell
- Jasmine DePompeo
- Alex DeRidder
- Stephanie Dier
- Anthony Esposito
- Karl Hart
- Alexander Kraljic
- Matthew Martinez
- Thomas Mittiga
- Christina Natoli
- Sarika Patel
- Martin Petrella
- Jeremy Pomerantz
- Matthew Rippert
- Trevor Robson
- Jennifer Seeba
- Kaitlyn Siegel

- Garrett Stephens
- Elizabeth Stroehlein
- Dana Thornlow
- Nicole Todaro
- Delia Vahey
- Joan Weaver

2009 SMBA Senior Scholarship Winners



- | | |
|---|--|
| Christina Natoli • George Seyfert Music | Jared Linehan • Voice |
| Stephanie Dier • Red Cobb Theater | Douglas Jones • Instrumental - Brass |
| Jason Cromwell • William Colson Art | Dana Thornlow • Dance |
| Brian Van Duyn • John Lee Literary | Paul Larkin • Instrumental - Brass |
| Thomas Mittiga • Voice | Gary Jones • Instrumental - Brass |
| Melissa LaPinta • Instrumental - Woodwind | Larissa Lampitelli • Visual Arts |
| Roxanne York • Theater Performance | Chelsea Cook • Instrumental - Woodwind |



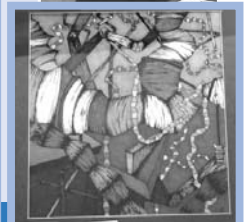
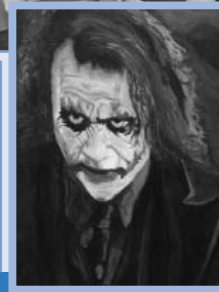
ART Celebrating 2008-09 Achievements at SAVA's Districtwide Art Festival of Fun

For a second year on Saturday, the **Annual SAVA** (*Sagville Advocates for the Visual Arts*) **Districtwide Art Festival** exhibited a masterful array of K-12 student and alumni artwork, and recognized the Art Department's contributions in local and state art shows, juried exhibitions, and museums.

In addition to enjoying the artistic growth of the students, viewers engaged in the celebration of student

achievements by enjoying face-painting and balloon sculptures, and participated in raffles for fabulous prizes. During the celebration, student awards (see below) were distributed.

As with every year, the success of the **SAVA** show would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Art Department faculty and the amazing SAVA volunteers. Congratulations to all!



SAVA SENIOR AWARDS

Senior Fine Artist **Kelly DeKenipp**
Senior 3-D **Jasmine DePompeo**
Senior Painting **Larissa Lampitelli**
Senior Drawing **Karl Hart**
Senior Fashion **Kaitlyn Fusco**
Senior Mixed Media **Shelby Hintz**
Senior Jewelry **Jenn O'Neill**
Senior Media Art **Lauren Dodaro**

SAVA UNDERCLASSMEN AWARDS

Drawing **Rachel Sigismondi**
Painting **Ela Erdogan/Eric Abraham**
3-D **Liz Vita**

Mixed Media **Brianna Concannon**
Fashion **Anthony Argentina/Kate Tobin**
Jewelry **Kelly Kobel**

STUDIO ART AWARDS

Caitlin Donnelly, Kathleen Maehr, Haley Nicolino, Katie Svarzman, Lorelei Oik, Meagan Mulry, Reed Caputo, Taylor Callis, Kayla Regensburger

8TH-GRADE ART AWARDS

Rebecca Monastero, Marisa DeAngelis, Jacqueline Christensen, Cynthia Griffin

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Drawing: **David Hartman, Morgan Kane**

Painting **Zach Tordik, Eric Abraham**
Fashion **Larissa Lampitelli, Anthony Argentina**

Mixed Media **Kristen Scheff, Catherine Boucher**

3-D **Kelly DeKenipp, Kristine Klassert**

Jewelry **Larissa Lampitelli, Alysa Nadeau**

Media Art **Ashley Tuminello, Jenna Ferremi**

Fine Arts **Nyla Earley**

BOE Citation Awards

April 16 & May 14, 2009

ISLIP TOWN SHARPSHOOTERS CONTEST • SUNRISE DRIVE

(left) Grade 4 **Kelly M. & Matthew D.**, Grade 5 **Kylie M.**, and 1st Place Overall for Grade 5 **Hunter S.**



(FUNDRaiser) **Chelsea B., Sean C., Christine G., Hailey C., Emily S., Tyler P., Elias K., Michael L., Savannah V.**

(below left) LINCOLN AVENUE UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY FIRST-PLACE QUIZ-BOWL WINNERS



SUNRISE DRIVE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS (above) (K)-**Brayden N.**, (1) **John O.**, (2) **Katie F.**, (3) **Brianna B.**, (4) **Shane R.**, (5) **Rowen M.**

LINCOLN AVENUE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

(left) (K) **Brayden N.**, (1) **Ryan G. & Jayson G.**, (2) **Kamryn N.**, (3) **Otto C.**, (4) **Ryan R.**, (5) **Rachel Z.**



PILOT CLUB ESSAY WINNERS (above) **Anthony S.(CA), Gianna S.(LA), Emma C. (SD)**

LINCOLN AVENUE (left) **Anthony G.** initiated and implemented a **JUCE POUCH RECYCLING PROGRAM**



Twice Honored Middle School a "School to Watch"

Representing NYSED and the NYS Middle School Association, Dr. David Payton presented Sayville Middle School



Principal Dr. Walter Schartner with the NYS Essential Elements Schools to Watch certificate and banner at an awards ceremony.

During the celebration with the entire school, Dr. Payton acknowledged the model quality and character of the Middle School which earned this extraordinary double honor and praised the school community for continuing to self-evaluate and improve its educational opportunities.

Originally, in 1997, the STW program was developed by the NATIONAL FORUM TO ACCELERATE MIDDLE-GRADE S REFORM. In 2005, Sayville Middle School participated in the STW program and was given its

first certificate in 2006. Now, after a series of new evaluations, the Schools to Watch committee reviewed the latest compiled evidence and determined that the Middle School merited this accolade in 2009. It also raised the Middle School to a new level of accomplishment as one of the six in New York and sixty in the nation to be a multiple recipient of this National School of Excellence Award.

After accepting the certificate and banner on behalf of the entire Middle School Community, Middle School Principal Dr. Walter Schartner expressed his gratitude for the team effort that enabled the school to be "a wonderful part of this continuing improvement process."

As part of the celebration, soldiers from the New York National Guard, (including Middle School Social Studies teacher Mike Huggins) presented the School with a certificate and flag as a thank you for the boxes of supplies the Middle School sent to soldiers overseas during the holidays.

Although one of the National Guard members, Victor Figliuolo, was

still on tour and could not be present to participate in the presentation, as a Sayville parent to Middle School student Victor, Victor senior was proudly represented by his wife, Laraine, and son. Cheers rose from the staff and student body when young Victor received the flag for the Middle School.

The ceremony closed with a piano solo by Sixth-grader Anthony Vetere, who played *What a Wonderful World*. The assembly gave him a standing ovation for his amazing performance.

Sayville School District is very proud of the Middle School's accomplishment which, as Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones stated in her message, "It is the only school on Long Island that has received this honor, which is testimony to its strong academic program."



MORE ACCOLADES

• Sayville High School's **Mathletes Team** came in 2nd place in their division of thirteen schools! Throughout the school-year competition, the team earned either 1st or 2nd place, missing 1st place in the finals by a single point! Over the past three years, the team has had a fantastic run, placing 3rd last year and 1st two years ago. Led by Seniors **Alex DeRidder, Ryan Cromwell, and Ian Besso, Juniors Ryan Burgan and James Fagan** also contributed high scores all year long. Congratulations to the entire team for an outstanding year!

• High School Junior William McCabe was one of 18 students selected by the scholarship committee of the **Robert W. Greene High School Journalism Institute** at Stony Brook University to participate in an intensive, 10-day residential summer workshop. As admission to the summer school was competitive, it is indeed an

honor that Billy was chosen. Acquiring basic skills in news reporting, writing, editing and using video, Billy will join the other winners, live at the university, and work in the School of Journalism's multimedia newsroom under the instruction of professional journalists. As a culminating activity, students will produce original work across several media platforms.

• Seventh-grader Jennifer Lembeck was the winner of the Long Island Language Arts Council's (LILAC) annual writing contest. Coming in 1st for her division, which included all seventh-graders from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Jennifer was honored by LILAC at a luncheon and received recognition for her exceptional writing with an award.

• High School Art students Liz Vita and Karl Hart featured their artwork in the exhibition "**Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher 2009.**" Liz was honored with a special award for

Achievement in Ceramics and Karl won the **Bianchi Scholarship Award** for his drawing. Sayville Art Department also applauds their teachers Bobbie Dalpiaz and Evan Hammer for their guidance and support.

Cherry Avenue Students distinguished themselves through the following Physical Education events:

• Although Fifth-grader Mikhaila Siebert came in 2nd place in the Cherry Ave Sharpshooter Contest, she went as a runner-up to the TOWN OF ISLIP CONTEST, where she won 1st Place, for the second year in a row. Great job, Mikhaila!

• The Cherry Avenue Community participated in this year's **Jump Rope for Heart** to raise money for THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION, and earned their highest total ever of \$11,929.50. Fantastic work for a worthy cause—congratulations!

CLAYMATION NATION

All the Sayville Elementary SEED and Challenge students, under the direction of SEED instructor Cindy Nacional, were assigned a very unique research project.

Selecting one issue that was raised in a recent survey of Americans' top priorities and part of President Obama's inaugural address, the students were asked to create a public service announcement that they could share with their friends and family to educate them about that topic.

In addition to fulfilling the standard requirements of including facts in their presentation, the students were expected to make the public service announcement as a Claymation video.

Claymation, short for "clay animation," is a form of stop-motion animation. Individual snapshots of clay figures are taken in progressive sequence for each slight change in posture or facial expression. When the photos are viewed in rapid succession, the figures appear as though they are moving. The sequential photos are imported into a movie-making program and matched with audio clips.



Creating a Claymation video required meticulous attention to details. After learning the techniques of making clay figures from local "clay expert" Tyler from Cherry Avenue, the students developed

their topics, storylines, and characters.

Some of the skills students learned and used involved researching a topic, correctly referencing sources of information, storyboarding an idea, writing a script, recording audio, finding background scenes, completing photography and lighting, utilizing technology, and most importantly working cooperatively.

The SEED and Challenge students' Claymation PSAs were showcased at ESBOCES Celebration of Technology in Education in May, but the public can view their delightful videos by going to:

SAYVILLE.K12.NY.US

[/WEBPAGES/CNACIONAL/SEED.CFM?SUBPAGE=16832](http://WEBPAGES/CNACIONAL/SEED.CFM?SUBPAGE=16832)

9TH Annual Social Studies Quiz Bowl

During the 9th Annual Quiz Bowl Championships, sponsored by the Social Studies Department, the competition was fierce between the grade-level teams. Seniors (L-R) Karl H., Alex K. Matt R., alternate Jason C. and Jeremy P. (who caught up with his team during the first round) held their own and upheld their "champ status" which they had won in an upset last year as Juniors. Locking horns with worthy adversaries from this year's Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshman throughout several nail-biting rounds, the Seniors were relieved to end their High School Quiz Bowl career in a final-round victory against the strong Sophomores: Lionel P. (Jeremy's brother), Madeline T., Kathreen M., Tyler N. and alternate Nick P.



(L) JUNIORS: Quentin H. (alternate), Conrad V., Doug K., Kerishma P., and Angharad R.
(R) FRESHMAN: Chris S., Garrett B., Pat A., Dan N., alternate Brendan C.



ON A ROLL WITH CIGAR-BOX GUITARS

Seventh-grade students in Mr. Jim McLoughlin's technology classes combined craft with creativity to make functional cigar-box guitars. Gaining historical significance through the coordinated lessons in General Music and Technology classes, the students used Interactive Whiteboards to learn the histories of music, African American culture, and technology. With materials donated by Lowes Home Improvement center in East Patchogue, Old World Moldings in Holbrook, and Jim's Smoke Shop in Patchogue, the students constructed the guitars in Mr. McLoughlin's classes and learned to play in Dr. Morgo's.

Not only were the student-built cigar-box guitars featured in a concert at the Boulton Center by local musician Jack Licitra, twenty-two students performed on stage with Dr. Morgo's Eighth-grade orchestra at the Middle School spring concert. For video clips, photos and more go to www.sayville.k12.ny.us/cigarboxguitars



A Memorial Garden for a Memorable Lady



Celebrating the amazing life and legacy of Betsy Cohen, a sizeable crowd of devoted students, friends, colleagues, relatives, and family gathered to honor this extraordinary woman at the dedication ceremony of Cohen's Corner Memorial Garden.

As a music teacher in Sayville School District for 17 years, Betsy Cohen deeply touched the lives of generations with her passion for music, her level of dedication, her love for her students, her talent that nurtured their musical souls, her enthusiasm that went well beyond classroom learning, and especially her grace and goodness that sustained all those around her. Her sudden passing from pancreatic cancer was an unbelievable loss that only time—and perhaps it will take a long time—might heal.

That healing process began with the concept of the Memorial Garden and Piano-shaped Patio proposed as a tribute by Music Department Chairman Neil Bernstein. His plans immediately won the support of the Sayville school and music communities and united those bereaved by unspeakable sorrow to take action and do something that would indelibly preserve Betsy's memory for future generations. Astoundingly, assorted volunteers worked diligently and completed the task within three months!

The Memorial Garden project, a patio of dark stones, curved like an



elegant "baby grand piano," comprised of memorial bricks inscribed with messages of love and longing, and flanked by newly installed flower beds, was just finished in time for the June 2nd ceremony.

During the afternoon dedication, while clouds roiled white and gray in an uncertain sky, a corresponding churning of relief and grief imbued each introduction or speech.

• **Mr. Neil Bernstein recounted his many discussions with Mrs. Cohen as a colleague and confidante regarding improvements in the music program that would benefit every Sayville student. He hoped her memorial garden would serve as a special spot that would keep the dialogue with Betsy open for all who visit. He also read a moving letter from former student Marie Moskwa, now a music teacher in Pennsylvania, who portrayed Mrs. Cohen as a magical and impeccable role model of joy, beauty, kindness, and generosity.**

• **Student Valerie Murray recited a special message that quoted Mrs. Cohen's oft-used expression: "Use the talents you possess, for the**



woods would be very silent if no bird sang, except the best."

• **Sayville Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones recalled Mrs. Cohen's remarkable first impression in the District with the Middle School musical, *The Wiz*. A quintessential teacher, Mrs. Cohen continued to dazzle with her boundless energy.**



"We have to be grateful that we knew her, laughed with her and were touched by her." Dr. Jones reminded everyone that if Betsy were here today, she would be saying "it's really time to ease on down the road... Use this beautiful memorial patio for happy memories."



Memorial Garden, Memorable Lady



• Current and former members of the Sayvilletes—the award-winning barbershop chorus launched by Betsy—tearfully joined voices to sing the Beatles’ In My Life for “Mama” Cohen. She taught them “music speaks when words fail.”

• Husband Norm Cohen, emotionally moved by such continuous support, expressed his overwhelming gratitude for the beautiful memorial and the outpouring of love, and son Jeremy also acknowledged that his mother was an everlasting source of strength, courage, and guidance for both her family and students. Listing her diverse nicknames, Jeremy stated that “Mama will always be with us in our hearts and minds because she gave us the will to live and the ability to love.”



• Daughter Brianne fought back the tears as she related the depth of her bond and her wonderful relationship with her mother. Then in true Cohen fashion, she mustered her courage and impersonated her mother in voice,



expressions, and attitude. “Feeling perfectly comfortable to speak on her behalf,” she praised everyone for their impressive organization and tasteful accomplishments achieved in her honor. “I am honored, proud, and overjoyed...thank you for believing in me, loving me, and honoring me. I’ll be around encouraging you to be your very best you and to keep your music alive!”

• Colleague Jeff Hoffman, whose energy for all things music found a perfect match in Betsy Cohen, praised her for her impeccable taste and vast accomplishments, including her recent acclaim as a Guest Conductor in Nassau County’s All-County Chorus. He sadly recalled their traditional parting words when they closed the Middle School musical Once Upon This Island. “Well, we have plenty of time to discuss next year’s show...” Despite the physical loss of his codirector, Mr. Hoffman shared his belief that Betsy’s spirit will continue to guide him.



No eye remained dry and many soft sobs could be heard during the speeches, but the gathering proved cathartic for all and may have accomplished the intended first step toward healing. Although the ceremony ended, under threatening skies, with an official ribbon-cutting by Betsy Cohen’s family, Norm, Jeremy, Brianne, and Louis, the real testament to her enduring presence



was in how the crowd lingered afterward, sharing feelings, exchanging stories, and basking in the special place that bears her name.



Should you visit the memorial garden wondering, “So, Mama Cohen, can you really hear me?” Don’t be surprised if you feel the answer; “Yes, Luv! Now let me hear YOU sing!”

Other tributes to honor the memory of Mrs. Cohen and her contribution included the following:

- The accomplished HS Chorale and Orchestra gave a stirring performance (photo below left) of Mozart’s REQUIEM. While this performance was dedicated to Betsy Cohen and her family, a special finale included all the Middle and High School music students performing Betsy’s favorite song WE ARE THE WORLD especially arranged by Dr. Morgo.
- A light-hearted and one-time only musical performance of YOU’RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN, starring Sayville Music Department faculty and former graduates delighted children of all ages. This musical comedy, based on the Peanuts characters created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz’s, was outstanding! Congratulations to our talented faculty and former grads.
- The SMBA recently established The Betsy Cohen Scholarship Fund. All proceeds from YOU’RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN were tax deductible and went directly to this scholarship fund.

Highlights of the Sayville School District

BOE Citation Awards June 11, 2009

BOE Awards were presented by Principals John Stimmel (Cherry Avenue), Michele Gunther, Dr. Walter Schartner (Middle School), Joseph Buderman (High School), and BOE President John Verdone.



- **CHERRY NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES LEAGUE WINNER** Matthew O.;
- **CHERRY SUFFOLK ZONE WINNERS** Ryan L., Victoria K., Jaclyn P.;
- **CHERRY AVENUE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS** (K) Chloe M., (1) Sarah W.s., (2) Kolbi M., (3) Devin D., (4) Samuel S., (5) Michael N.
- **CHERRY QUIZ BOWL 2ND PLACE WINNERS** • Samantha H., Bridget P., Ryan L., Jack S., Victoria K., Daniel M., Michael N., Matthew O.

(right) **FIRST PLACE LONG ISLAND ARTS COUNCIL WRITING CONTEST & FIRST PLACE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE**
Jennifer L.



- **LINCOLN AVENUE SUFFOLK ZONE AWARD**, Alex H., and Kaitlyn R.
- **LINCOLN AVENUE TOP EARNERS FOR "JUMP ROPE HEART"** Colin E. and Jaycee R.
- **PERFECT SCORE IN 4TH GRADE WORD MASTERS COMPETITION** Francis R.



(left) **FIRST PLACE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL MYTHOLOGY BEE**
Theodore E.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH AWARDS



(photo right) **AWARDS OF DISTINCTION** Rachel Wachter (Reading & Mathematics); **Olivia Coley-Bishop** (Reading) **HIGH HONORS AWARDS** Curran Boyce (Reading & Mathematics); **Dylan Schreiber** (Reading & High Honors in Mathematics); **Matthew Stephan** (Mathematics); **Emily Nowlan & Jennifer Lembeck** (Reading);

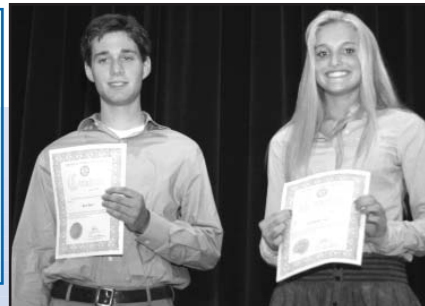
HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

(NOT PRESENT FOR PHOTO) **TOWN OF ISLIP STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN VISUAL ARTS** Nycole Pond

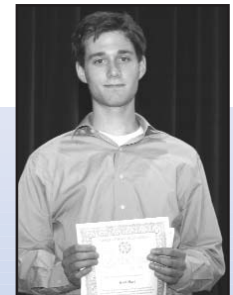
NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED HS STUDENTS
Julie M., Angharad R., and Conrad V.



PRESIDENT OF THE NUMBER ONE ANCHOR CLUB in the Northeastern Potomac Region Sarika P.



ART: LONG ISLAND BEST YOUNG ARTISTS Karl H. & Elizabeth V.



DAVID M. JONES SCHOLARSHIP
Karl H.

Highlights of the Sayville School District

SAYVILLE DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED CITATIONS

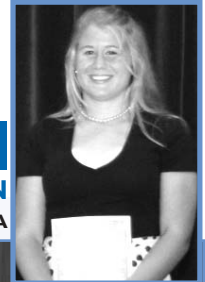


The following Volunteers were recognized for their service: **District Site-Based Team:** Fran Bavaro, Marian Farese; **Wellness Committee:** Kathy Lawrence, Nicole Wessels, **Parent Members CSE, etc.:** Alicia Allegue, Leslie Butler, Suzanne Castagna, Birgit Daniels, Lorraine Derpich, Jennifer Ferremi, Debbie Gatta, Janet Ibanez, Eileen McElroy, Gus Merced, Kristen Messerschmitt, Evelyn Nadle; **Coordinating Council of PTAs:** Linda Henningsen, Eileen Tyznar; **MS/HS PTA:** Calli Triculis, Ginny Sullivan, Eileen Swike; **Cherry Avenue PTA:** Jennifer Gormley, Mark Goercke; **Lincoln Avenue PTA:** Sharon O'Halloran, Ken Kranz, Sharon Rinaldi, Dina Scoleri; **Sunrise Drive PTA:** Kim Eichele, Patricia Gallagher, Kate Borruso; **SEPTA:** Barbara Goercke, Amy Hutchinson; **SMBA:** Joe Cook; and **Volunteer Physician:** Dr. Anthony Capellino.

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONS • GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM



(above) Ashley Agnitti, Bridget Brennan, Chelsea, Connestro, Victoria Elgin, Jillian Iorio, Kira Karl, Kathleen Maehr, Kellie Micillo, Jennifer O'Neil, Rebecca Rode, Samantha Schneider, Merissa Selts, Annemarie Smith, Madelyn Vetrano, and Emily Sellitti



HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

(right) **SALUTATORIAN**
SAMANTHA ROSA

SCIENCE PROGRAM AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

(These students appear in the photo at left, along with all the High School students who received BOE Citations during the meeting)

Kathreen-Elaine Mangaluz High Honors Award in the Senior Division of the Long Island Science Congress Competition

Michael Andres, Leo Massenkeil, & Matthew Muller Team Merit Awards in the Senior Division of the Long Island Science Congress Competition

Jacqueline Kalomiris & Gregory Kane Brookhaven National Lab High School Science Research Program Award

Zachary Stephen & Kyle Tieman-Strauss Exploravision Competition Merit Awards

Conrad Volle Mozilla Firefox High School Mentoring Program



LONG ISLAND & SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPS • BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

(IN NYS SEMIFINALS DURING BOE mtg)

John Albergo, Michael Andres, Bryan Barry, Jonathan Bonacore, Dillon Boos, Michael Cetta, Patrick Dean, Arthur Devine, Steven Ferreira, William Finnen, Kevin French, Michael Kaminski, John Keenan, Michael Loschiavo, Douglas Meehan, Daniel Mellynychuk, Matthew Messina, Robert Messina, Alan Miceli, Matthew Mulzoff, Charles Podgurski Jr., Brendan Rogers, Mark Russell, Nicholas Russell, Daniel Siegel, Tanner Sterback, Brian Wallace, Raymond Waters

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONS • GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

(below)

Nicole Ali, Denise Arrasate, Maria Bonacore, Heather Bonamico Olivia Cabral, Kayleigh DeLuca,



Jasmine DePompeo, Lauren Estele, Emma Ferreira, Kathrin Gallo, Natasha Kaminski, Leah Leddy, Jordan Lite, Karley Malenczak, Kim Marra, Jessica Marsh, Emily Meier,

Kayla Mergl, Alexa Musorofiti, Connie Nielsen, Morgan O'Reilly, Kelly Salloum, Kelly Santangelo, Kristy Stepko, Maureen Taylor, and Arielle Theofield.

TENURE GRANTED TO THE FOLLOWING

Geraldine Batterberry, Jennifer Berotti, Garrett Campbell, Kimberly Degraff, Ari Kramer, Samuel Kruse, Philip Paniccia, Lynn Anne Sumner, Debra Wortzman

DISTRICT MENTORS FOR THE 2008-2009 YEAR WERE HONORED.



Highlights

SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
Linda A. Mittiga.
Producer, Writer, Editor, Designer

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99 Greeley Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782
Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools

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****ECRWSS****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

2009 Athletic Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the following Sayville Athletes who were presented with Inspirational, Most Valuable Player, and Athletic Special Awards for their excellence in sports. These students have demonstrated the highest individual accomplishments throughout their High School careers and have earned recognition from their coaches, their teammates, and the Athletic Department.



ATHLETIC SPECIAL AWARDS

THE SAYVILLE COACHES:
Joan Weaver

THE WILLIAM COSTANZO MEMORIAL: Douglas Meehan

THE OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR-ATHLETE: Jennifer Seeba

WARREN COLLINS MEMORIAL: Kathrin Gallo

THE HARVEY CASE MEMORIAL: Michael Murphy

(photo left)

THE BUCK MACKENZIE AWARD FOR SERVICE, SPORTSMANSHIP AND ATHLETICS:
Terence Macken

(photo right)

THE MARINUS BUYS MEMORIAL AWARD FOR MOST OUTSTANDING ATHLETE:
Jasmine DePompeo



GOLD-KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS

(photo right)

Jonathon Bonacor Robert Messina
Chelsea Cook Cara Ann Mullagh
Jasmine DePompeo Morgan O'Reilly
Terence Macken Jennifer Seeba



WINNERS

ATHLETIC MVP AWARD

The Most Valuable Boys Cross-Country Award • Joseph McNulty
The Most Valuable Girls Cross-Country Award • Sarah Pellegrini
The Carl Varone Track Award • Ian Besso
The Paul Kelley Track Award • Leo Massenkeil
The Ron Smith Award • Thomas Barrett
The Most Valuable Field Hockey Award • Kathrin Gallo
The Demi Bineares Scholarship Award • Cassandra Cabral
The Most Valuable Girls Soccer Award • Domenica Hodak
The Huron Smith Memorial Soccer Award-Girls • Jasmine DePompeo
Coach Schroeder Memorial Scholarship • Domenica Hodak
The Huron Smith Memorial Soccer Award-Boys • Peter Ryan
The Most Valuable Boys Soccer Award • Edward Rupp
The Most Valuable Cheerleading Award • Danielle Brownlee
The Cheerleading Leadership Award • Delaney Jones
The Most Valuable Baseball Award • Edward Cooley
The Golden Bat Baseball Award • Steven Esposito
The Baseball Scholarship Award • Terence Macken

The Most Valuable Softball Award • Merissa Selts
The Golden Bat Softball Award • Jill Iorio
The Barney Pazourek Annual Football Award • Dillon Boos
The A.C. Edwards Award • Corey Caulfield
The Gerry Corrado Memorial Award • Jonathan Bonacore
The Most Valuable Female Golf Award • Jennifer Clinton
The William Zeller Memorial Golf Award • Sean Fullam
The May Hazen Girls Basketball Award • Jasmine DePompeo
The Major Merrill Wish Basketball Award • Thomas O'Connell
The Bud VanWyen Memorial Basketball Award • Jeremy Pomerantz
There's Glory in the Hoop Award • Terence Macken
The Most Valuable Girls Volleyball Award • Jennifer Seeba
The Most Inspirational Volleyball Award • Brittany McMahon
The Most Valuable Boys Volleyball Award • Alex DeRidder
The Most Improved Boys Volleyball Award • Mark Lane
The Most Valuable Girls Swimming Award • Joan Weaver & Carly Fullam

The Most Valuable Boys Swimming Award • Kenneth Stein
The Otto Kubelle Memorial Girls Tennis Award • Kara Caulfield & Jordan Lite
The Otto Kubelle Memorial Boys Tennis Award • Jeremy Pomerantz
The Evelyn Stoll Girls Track Award • Robyn Schaefer
The Atalanta Girls Track Award • Gina Farinacci
The Gold Baton Award • Jennifer Seeba
The George Rhodes Memorial Wrestling Award • Travis Pitre
The Jules Molson Memorial Award • Matthew Messina
The Most Valuable Bowler Award • Christopher Mazanek
The Bowling Rookie of the Year Award • Stephen DelGaudio
The Most Valuable Girls Lacrosse Award • Heather Bonamico
The Most Improved Girls Lacrosse Award • Arielle Theofield
The Most Valuable Boys Lacrosse Award • Michael Kaminski
The Boys Lacrosse Gladiator Award • Robert Messina
The Mitchell Cangelosi Scholarship • Douglas Meehan

AWARD DONORS

The Sayville Teachers Association • The Ron Smith Award; Mrs. Martin • The Demi Bineares Scholarship Award; The Sayville Fire Department • The

Barney Pazourek Football Award; Mrs. May Hazen • The May Hazen Girls Basketball Award; Mr. Merrill Wish • The Major Merrill Wish Basketball Award; The VanWyen Family • The Bud VanWyen Memorial Basketball Award; The Landrio Family • The Most Valuable Girls Swimming Award; Mrs. Kubelle & Family • The Otto Kubelle Memorial Girls & Boys Tennis

Awards; Mr. & Mrs. Daley • The Evelyn Stoll Girls Track Award; The Walsh Family • The Atalanta Girls Track Award; Ms. Rhodes Teague • The George Rhodes Memorial Wrestling Award; Mr. Gary Smith • The Huron Smith Memorial Soccer Awards; The Sayville Football Booster Club • The A.C. Edwards Award & The Gerry Corrado Memorial Awards