

# Highlights

of the Sayville School District

December 2008

A holiday message from your Superintendent

District Newsletter  
Volume 24.3

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

## Newsworthy

### *Finding Cheer in the Holidays*

Once again, Sayville High School has been named one of the "Top 100 High Schools in America" by **Newsweek!**

### MUSIC PUT THE DISTRICT IN THE HOLIDAY MOOD

Thanks to the exceptional direction of our Music Department, our students of all ages showcased their vocal, orchestral, and band talents during a variety of Holiday Concerts.



(above) Madeline T., Jacklyn K., Douglas K., and Kasey T. performed works from the Nutcracker at the December 4th BOE meeting.

(below) Cherry Avenue Select Chorus, directed by Kristie Woerner, shared Holiday songs at the December 4th BOE meeting.



Wishing you all a  
Happy and Healthy  
Holiday Season!



In Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, a gentleman appeals to Scrooge for donations during the holiday season "...because it is a time when Want is keenly felt and Abundance rejoices."

Our country's recession and its global impact have certainly had us rethinking the "Abundances" of past holiday seasons. Unfortunately for some of us, "Want" may be more keenly felt than ever before. Our local outreach programs are in greater need of food and gift donations, with more families depending on such generosity.

Referencing another holiday story, it may even seem that the "Grinch" of economic woes has stolen our fiscal stability to ruin our holiday season.

We already know the important messages from both these stories: "Abundances" in our lives don't always have a dollar value. Tightening our belts doesn't mean losing spirit and hope. Giving to those who have greater need is more worthwhile than receiving. Perhaps even more, it's a matter of faith that we can work together to find our way through these tough times. Yes, the holidays can be filled with simple, homemade joys.

The good news is that Sayville School District Board members and administrators share your concerns in every way. We have been closely watching the economic downturn and know that the immediate future is filled with financial hardships. Frugal

practices will no longer be enough. While the yearly budget process always involves making difficult decisions regarding programs and staffing, this one may require us to be more creative and to do more with less.

As your Superintendent, I will continue an open dialogue with the community throughout the coming year at Superintendent Roundtables. During our monthly Board Meetings, we will be examining the best ways to create a reasonable budget with minimal impact. We certainly welcome you and hope you can value these meetings as opportunities to become better informed.

On a much happier note, the holiday season does offer us an opportunity to enjoy quality time with our family and friends. So, in the spirit of the season, I wish you and your family genuine faith in the goodness around us, greater hope in the New Year ahead, and the chance to rejoice abundantly—God Bless!



*Dr. Rosemary Jones*





DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

# AT THE DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> BOE MEETING, CITATIONS WERE GIVEN TO...

## Board of Education

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



Sayville Battle of the Books,  
Second Place Suffolk County Team  
(l-r) Shreeya P.  
Emily N.  
Julia C.  
(not in photo:  
Anna Mizzi  
Emily Fox  
Liana Rotunno)  
(with Assistant Principal Tom Murray and  
BOE President John Verdone)



## AT THE DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> BOE MEETING

STUDENT RECOGNITION was  
given to Middle School students  
(see right)

MUSICAL PRESENTATIONS by  
• HIGH SCHOOL STRING QUARTET  
• CHERRY AVENUE SELECT CHORUS

DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,  
REPORTED ON THE FOLLOWING:  
1. Update from Albany  
2. Bond Project Update  
3. Proposed 2009-2010 Budget  
Calendar (Motion under New  
Business)  
4. Special Education Plan

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
DISCUSSION



(below) Certificate of Achievement in  
the Prudential Spirit of Community:

Esra E.  
(with Assistant Principal Tom Murray and  
BOE Vice President Norm deVenau)



(above) Certificate of Merit Winners in  
the Prudential Spirit of Community:

Dara H. and Emily N.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 11- JANUARY 2  
• Winter Recess Schools Closed

JANUARY 5 • Schools Reopen

JANUARY 7-10 • Sayville Players  
present (see below) SIMON'S GIRLS

JANUARY 8 • Board of Education  
Workshop Mtg 7pm Admin.  
Building

JANUARY 15 • Board of  
Education Meeting, 8pm Admin.  
Building

Sayville Players present

**SIMON'S GIRLS**

a celebration of Neil Simon's female characters

**Sayville Little Theatre**

Wed & Thurs Jan 7 & 8, 7pm,

• \$3 all seats

• Fri & Sat Nov 9 & 10, 8pm,

• \$4 students, \$5 adults (Seniors  
Citizens with Gold Cards-Free)



74 BOE citations  
were mailed home  
in November  
to recognize

Sayville staff, students, and families who participated in Summer Series 2008.  
Congratulations:

Michele Aebly	Keith Corky	Tommy Barrett	Duncan Hillery	Kaleigh
Jeanette	Kolar	Michael P.	Elizabeth Koehler	O'Halloran
Anderson	Tricia Mannix	Capozucca	Brendon Kolar	Chloe Otto
Nina Baio	Erin Messina	Andrew Clarke	Jake Kolar	Daniel Ryder
Barbara Barone	Kathleen O'Brien	Lizzy Clarke	Kevin Kolar	Jackie Ryder
Wendy Barrick	Christine Richter	Dominick Danzi	Paige Kolar	Daniel Scheck
Geraldine	***	Robert Danzi Jr	Paige Liskiewicz	Meaghan Scheck
Batterberry	Lexie Abel	Natalie Faragon	Janine Loesch	Patrick Smith
Brian Bennett	Bizzy Acierno	Emily Faughnan	Erin MacDonell	Brian Sputh
Kathy Bernstein	Jack Acierno	Ariana Garrett	Leo Massenkeil	Matthew Stephan
Rosemary	Tess Acierno	Christine	Kyle McKenna	Shane Sullivan
Camilleri	Haley Alber	Guinnessy	Tyler McKenna	Brooke
Kim Degraff	Devin Bailey	Liam Haber	Kayleigh Mullaney	Tamburello
Kathy Finn	Christopher Baio	Kieran Harrison	Kevin Murphy	Sean Velazquez
Susan Hart	Courtney Barone	Liam Harrison	Payton Murphy	Margaret
Diana	Kerry Barrett	Kevin Hart	Alexa Musorofiti	Verspoor
Heidenreich	Mary Barrett	Drew Hartman	Arthur Nixon	Steven Wachter

# DECEMBER 4TH BOE CITATIONS WERE GIVEN TO..



BOE Vice President Norm deVenau and Principal Rose Castello presented the BOE citations to Mrs. Claudia Carpenter and her Sunrise Drive Fifth-graders from last year, whose Civil War video documentary won them **Second Place in the New York State Archives Contest:**

Samuel Blitman  
Jason Calicchio  
Joseph Cunningham  
Drake Davison  
Samantha Eisner

Diana Ferretti  
Zoe Gomes  
Meghan Gunther  
Jennifer Hanley  
Kathleen Hill

Shaun Keane  
Matthew Lassandro III  
Philip Maehr  
Isabella Mangan  
Joseph Mullen

Justine Odierna  
Brian Reutter  
Tanner Russo  
Kristen Tisch  
Peter Zambaras

## CREATIVE CRAFT COLLABORATIONS

Assembling holiday wreaths, students from Sayville High School's National Art Honor Society and Art teacher/NAHS advisor Kim Kamensky helped make the season bright for residents of Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Using bits of Styrofoam, toothpicks, and glue, the students assisted the senior citizens with the project that had the colors of the holiday season at their fingertips. The finished wreaths were topped with red- and green-foiled Hersey kisses that could double as a tasty treat.



*A student with her grandmother.*

NAHS members

Tammy Dimartino, Vicky Herrmann, Ela Erdogan, Jen Noris, Jenna Ferremi, Kaitlyn Kwiatkowski, Samantha Jahnke, Nicole Troccoli, and Zach Tordik were among the creative students who volunteered.



## WITH NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS



In anticipation of Sayville's Miracle On Main Street event, Sayville art students Kaitlyn Kwiatkowski, Amy Pascariello, Zach Tordik, David Hartman, Samantha Jahnke, Cassie Sammartano and Tammy Dimartino were invited to paint a winter wonderland scene as a backdrop for the entertainment trailer.

Thanks to the generous support of the NAHS students Katie McManus, Katie Quinn, Rachel Crennan, Rachel Sigismondi, Dominique Miller, Taylor Pynn, Samantha Able, and Ashley Tuminello, an ongoing Food Drive has been providing a steady supply to the Sayville Food Pantry.



# THE "GREENING" OF SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



Maybe the saying, "it's not easy being green" is true, but going green will save greenbacks in the long term for Sayville School District and taxpayers, as well as restore the natural environment. Easy or not, here's how Sayville is undertaking the process of going green.

## SAYVILLE DISTRICT HAS GONE GREEN WITH

- Cleaning products used in our buildings
- Organic fertilizers on District fields
- Replacement lighting fixtures refitted with energy-efficient parts
- Recycling all bulbs, ballasts, and batteries
- District's trash carter which recycles District's plastics and glass
- Retrofitted boilers with dual fired burners (uses cleaner natural gas 95% of the time, making the District less oil dependent).

## SAYVILLE DISTRICT IS GOING GREEN WITH

- Recycling District paper
- New capital projects that will have environmentally friendly and energy saving features such as:
  - o Occupancy sensors in new spaces under construction. The sensors automatically turn lights on or off when the room is entered or vacated.
  - o HVAC systems in several of our buildings have been upgraded with energy-saving computerized/automated temperature control features. For nights and weekends, building temperatures convert to energy-saving levels, but reset automatically before staff and students arrive the next school day.
  - o The new Sayville Library under construction has built-in green components, with a full complement of solar panes, geothermal walls, and other building materials considered either biodegradable or environmentally friendly.

- Sayville completed an energy audit which evaluated and identified potential energysavings for District improvements in the following areas:
  - o Lighting: fixture replacement, occupancy sensors, and day lighting
  - o Heating/Cooling equipment includes HVAC, air handling and related insulation
  - o Computerized environmental controls and energy management systems, along with the calibration and upgrade of existing temperature control systems
  - o Envelope components (i.e., roof, doors, windows, insulation, and weatherization)
  - o Evaluation and installation of renewable energy sources (i.e., photo voltaics, solar, wind, etc.)
- Sayville District is also soliciting a Request for Proposal from Energy Service Companies (ESCO) for an Energy Performance Contract. The District will benefit greatly from this highly monitored program through SED, because under current law, the Energy Performance Contract is also eligible for Building Aid. The Energy Performance Contract will be paid by the cost savings resulting from the construction upgrades and improvements. With this program, there will be no cost to the taxpayer.
- The newly installed generators at the Administration and High School buildings meet the latest emission standards and run on natural gas supported by diesel fuel. In addition, through a Federal program that offers rebates to offset the cost of installation, the District can use these generators to take the two buildings off the local grid at peak demand times. It's win-win!

The District realizes going green will evolve over time. With the steps we've already taken, there's no time like the present to further this process for our future.

# LEARN MORE!

see slide shows and color photos for...

- Senior Breakfast Tradition
- A Christmas Carol Radio Broadcast
- Great Debates at High School
- Middle School Geography Bee
- Miller's Crucible by Sayville Players
- Jeopardy on Whiteboards
- Election Fever at Cherry
- Class of 2008 Graduates

GET TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING!  
 Click on **Highlights Online** ([sayville.k12.ny.us](http://sayville.k12.ny.us))  
 for current district and school news coverage.

Presenting... The MIDDLE SCHOOL Musical

Once Upon This Island



(above)  
Little Ti Moune.  
(right)  
grownup  
Ti Moune.



The Sayville Middle School Musical performances of **Once Upon This Island** was a charming and colorful presentation about a legendary island girl, Ti Moune, and the transforming power of her love.

Amid the Caribbean rhythms of lively music and energetic dancing, the island dwellers retell the story to keep at bay the wrath of the island gods Erzulie (Love), Asaka (Earth), Agwe (Water), and Pape Ge (Death).

In this redemptive tale of true love, orphaned young Ti Moune is found stuck in a tree after a terrible hurricane by kindly old peasants who then raise her.

Always a spirited child, Ti Moune grows up longing for a grander life like that of the handsome aristocrat Daniel who drives by in his white car. She prays to the island gods for help. They grant her wish to settle a dispute about which force is stronger, Love or Death. When Daniel is critically injured in a car crash, Ti Moune rescues him and falls in love, despite the class differences between them.

Her love is so strong that she pledges her soul to Papa Ge in an exchange for Daniel's recovery. In the end, Ti Moune makes an enduring sacrifice which proves

Love conquers Death—the stuff of great legends.

Among the musical numbers *We Dance, One Small Girl, Waiting for Life And The Gods Heard Her Prayer, Rain, Discovering Daniel, Pray, Forever Yours, Some Say, The Human Heart, A Part of Us and Why We Tell Story*, the principals, played by students Meghan Gunther, Samantha Schenkel, Theo Ebarb, Natasha Capp, Liam Hofmeiser, Kyle Murray, Valerie Murray, Matt Iovino, Melina Guida, Marissa Casazza, Elizabeth Larkin, and Shannon Lynch, performed their musical parts with rhythmic gusto. The supporting chorus and leaping dancers gave a vivaciousness to the production, while the backdrop painted by master artist Cora Sparwasser absolutely transformed the stage.

Once again the Middle School made magic with the musical production and delivered the heartwarming retelling with spirit. Thanks to Director Jeff Hoffman



and Musical Director Betsy Cohen (assisted by many behind-the-scenes faculty, along with parent and student volunteers), the Middle School production of **Once Upon This Island** was not only worth retelling, it was legendary.

For color photos, go online to Highlights Online on the Sayville District Website.



SAYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**COMMUNITY-SERVICE  
 STRING ENSEMBLE**

Great Performance! As a community service to brighten the hearts of listeners, the members of the Sayville Middle School Community Service String Ensemble performed at The Affinity Rehabilitation Center in Oakdale. These students played a medley of holiday music led by their instructor, Miss Karen Savage. *Ensemble musicians: Gina Palumbo, Amanda Bonkoski, Patrick Smith, Mary Thayer,*



*Melissa Perniciaro, Shannon Haselton, Zoe Kalomiris, Kelly McElroy, Caroline Pace, and Miss Karen Savage.*

**CHERRY AVENUE'S GINGERBREAD COMMUNITY**

The glorious Gingerbread Community in the Cherry Avenue Elementary School lobby during the holiday season is more than just decoration. It comprises well-coordinated lessons for both the Third-graders in Mrs. Batterberry's, Mrs. Falco's, and Mrs. Fulton's classes and the Kindergarteners in Mrs. Donnelly's, Mrs. Flynn's, and Mrs. Coyle's classes.

In third grade, the students are taught facts about all kinds of communities such as the kinds of buildings found there, resources available, the differences between rural and urban, as well as mapping skills (i.e., cardinal directions).

The Kindergarteners use literature as a springboard (*The Gingerbread Man* and other titles)

to do a thematic unit across the curriculum.

They work on their math skills by counting the candy with one-to-one correspondence, understanding the concept of more and less, and matching numerals. For reading skills, the Kindergarten lesson includes Venn-diagram comparisons of different versions of gingerbread stories, sequencing events, and choral reading.



*More Substance than Sugar*

With writing, the Kindergarten students are asked to write a new ending to the story, while social studies is the culminating activity. The Kindergarteners discuss mapping, community helpers, and relationships with people and a society as they pertain to their Gingerbread Community.

After such background preparations, the hands-on construction is done in a cooperative atmosphere with both grade levels working together. Building the new Gingerbread Community is "icing on the cake" that delights both the young and older students—and the results are an appetizing array of delicious-looking edifices!

**LINCOLN AVENUE  
 LIGHTS OF LOVE**

Lincoln Avenue held its annual *Lights of Love* at a recent PTA Family Fun Night. During this schoolwide event, the Lincoln Avenue Community selected a "Holiday Light." Each light had a label on which there was written an item from a "wish list" for local families who may need a little extra help during the holidays.



The Lincoln Avenue community showed great generosity this year. Their gifts were collected at school and delivered to the families before the holiday season.

*(photo: Lincoln students hold some of the gifts.)*



The Social Studies Department and WSAY presented *A Christmas Carol*



A live reading of Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, enacted by the talented Social Studies Department,

was broadcast on WSAY Internet Radio with special sound effects and musical accompaniment provided by the music

department. A \$2 admission to attend the presentation in person totaled \$400 in donations to Habitat for Humanity.

## HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

### For Sayville Learning Center

**H**o! Ho! Hosting the Annual Holiday Party for the Sayville Learning Center students, the Sayville High School community provided jolly musical entertainment, merry dancing, arts and crafts activities, face painting, and plenty of tasty treats. Santa made a special appearance and distributed gifts that brought cheer to the hearts of all who attended. For more than twenty years, the Student Government has organized the various groups\* that contribute to make the holiday event bright every year!



\* Special thanks to the Senior, Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman classes, along with the teachers, staff, and following clubs and organizations: Anchor Club, Art Club, Dance Squad, Interact Club, FBLA, History Club, Robotics Club, SADD, SWEET, WSAY Radio, Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Tri-M.

## AT SUNRISE DRIVE

With new opportunities to shine, the Sunrise Drive Student Council scheduled its annual Soldier Adoption, Food Drive, and Giving Tree programs. So far, each has been a tremendous success.

A Halloween Candy Collection sent 27 boxes of candy to our soldiers in Iraq, and the program continued with the Giving Tree ornaments. Holiday care packages for men and women in service were filled with donations that included individual powdered drink mixes, socks, playing cards, puzzle books, DVDs, travel toothpaste, mouthwash, shaving cream,

## Caring and Giving All the Year Through

chapstick, body wipes, cookies, beef jerky, chewing gum, and hair accessories.

This year, the Annual Food Drive focused on our Sunrise Drive families beset by economic hardships. A caring Sunrise Drive community responded to the Student Council's appeal and collected enough food to service many families in our school. The amount collected also allowed Sunrise Drive to make additional donations to the Sayville food pantry.

Over three hundred "Giving Tree" ornaments, representing the wishes of our troops as well as those in need, filled the

annual tree. Sunrise Drive families picked off the ornaments and replaced them with gift-wrapped items beneath the tree for distribution during the holiday. What a lovely sight.



# Sayville SCHOOL SPORTS

## FALL 2008 *ACHIEVEMENTS*

### Varsity Girls Tennis

- 1st place in League III (15-0)
- Playoff quarterfinalist
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Boys Golf

- 2nd place in League V (11-2)
- Playoffs will be decided in the spring

### Varsity Girls Swim/Diving

- 3rd place in League II (7-2)
- 2nd place in League Championships
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Girls

#### Cross-Country

- 2nd place in League V (4-1)
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Boys

#### Cross-Country

- 3rd place in League V (5-2)
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Girls Volleyball

- 3rd place in League V (8-8)
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team
- Playoff quarterfinalist

### Varsity Boys Volleyball

- Record of 2-14
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team  
(In its second year as a varsity sport, the record doesn't show how much progress this team has made. Great job this fall.)

### Varsity Girls Soccer

- 1st place in League V (11-2-1)
- Suffolk County Class A Finalist
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Boys Soccer

- 3rd place in League V (10-6)
- Playoff quarterfinalist
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Football

- 1st place in Division III (11-1)
- Division III Big 4 Overall Champion
- Suffolk County Division III Champion
- Long Island Division III Champion
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

### Varsity Field Hockey

- 1st place in Division II (15-2)
- Suffolk County Class A Finalist
- Division II Overall Champion
- N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Scholar-Athlete Team

## Varsity Cheerleaders

Congratulations to the Sayville Varsity Cheerleaders, along with their coach Dawn Thelian, for not only placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at the New England Regional Competitions, but also, by virtue of their high scores, receiving an "At Large" invitation to

compete at the Nationals in Florida. The Walt Disney World® Resort will host the event on Feb 6-10, 2009 and expects over 22,000 cheerleaders to compete.

Our Varsity Cheerleaders have been having a great year. Earlier in November, the Sayville Cheerleaders took 1<sup>st</sup> place

in their Division at the Fall Cheerleading Classics, where they additionally received the Grand Championship for the highest score among all the divisions.

Good luck, Sayville Cheerleaders and Coach Thelian, in the 2009 National High School Cheerleading Championship.

## Michael Murphy Sayville Suffolk Zone Award Winners 2008 Jennifer O'Neill

Michael has excelled both on the athletic field and in the classroom. He actively participates in Students Against Drunk Driving and is a tutor in our LOTE program. Currently Michael's weighted average is a 98.652 and his physical education average is a 97. Athletically, Michael is the defending County Champion in diving and has received honors such as All-County, All-Long Island and All-American.

Michael's favorite activity in physical education is team handball. Next year, Michael is planning to dive for the University of Maryland. Best of luck.

Jennifer has excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field. She currently has an average of 91.6 with a physical education average of 95. Jennifer's favorite memory of physical education was surviving the early morning flag football games. As a volunteer, Jennifer makes quilts for breast cancer patients and annually participates in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk-A-Thons. Jennifer was also instrumental in raising \$1700 for the Sayville Food Pantry. Athletically Jennifer participates on our Varsity Bowling and Softball teams. She is currently looking at Juniata College in Pennsylvania to continue her studies. We wish her all the best.

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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