

# Highlights

of the Sayville School District

DECEMBER 2005

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 21.5  
<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

## NEWSPORTHY

### Comedy Plays in January

**SAYVILLE PLAYERS  
THEATRE LABORATORY  
presents two January plays**

#### "SPOTLITE ON COMEDY"

THE WORDS OF  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE"

**Little Theatre - Friday, January 20  
& Saturday, January 21 at 8 pm**

The Sayville Players presents a collection of comedic scenes from such plays by William Shakespeare as "Comedy of Errors," "The Taming of the Shrew," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Twelfth Night," "Henry IV, Part I," and "The Merry Wives of Windsor." This special 90-minute "Spotlite" presentation will be presented **FREE OF CHARGE** in **The Little Theatre**.

**NEIL SIMON'S MOST FAMOUS  
COMEDY: "THE ODD COUPLE"**

**Backstage Theatre-in-the-Round  
Evening performances  
January 11, 12, 13, and 14  
and additional AFTERNOON**

**performances January 14 and 15\***

The Sayville Players present the prize-winning comedy "The Odd Couple," Neil Simon's most well-known piece. Although the original features divorcees Felix and Oscar, there exists a female version of the play with Florence and Olive, also written by Simon. In the interests of equality between the sexes, Sayville Players is presenting *both* versions.

**\*\$6 all seats: 7 PM PERFORMANCES:  
Wed., Jan. 11 & Thurs., Jan. 12,  
and at both 3 PM MATINEES:  
Sat., Jan. 14 & Sun., Jan. 15**

**\*\$7 for students/\$8 for adults:  
8 PM PERFORMANCES: Fri., Jan. 13 &  
Sat., Jan. 14.**

**Senior citizens are free of charge  
with a district gold card.**

*\*Please note: the matinee performances are additional and were not listed on the school calendar that was printed in August 2005.*

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Friends,

This joyous time of year provides families with an opportunity to gather and celebrate the blessings of the season. All of us in Sayville have been blessed in so many ways this past year, and I want to thank everyone in the district and community who has been a part of our success. It is the tireless efforts of our parents, faculty, and staff that account for our outstanding reputation as a premier school district.

We are looking forward to 2006 and are moving ahead to provide the best education possible for our students. Through thoughtful curriculum design, facility enhancements, and technology updates, we are creating a learning environment that we hope will prepare our students for the future.

As each of you look forward to 2006

and make those New Year's resolutions, I hope you will join me in committing yourselves to the important values that make Sayville great. We have a reputation as a caring community--let's

continue to reach out to those in

need and teach our children to do the same. Together, we can all practice compassion and tolerance--especially when it is the most difficult to do. It is our responsibility to provide children with an optimistic and positive perspective on the challenges they may face at home or at school. Above all, learn to laugh with your children--not everything is as serious as we sometimes make it. I believe that by modeling these values, we instill them in our children. We also create the warm and nurturing home and community that our children deserve and need to thrive.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday and all good things in the New Year!

Warm regards,

*Rosemary F. Jones, Ed.D.*  
Superintendent of Schools



*(photo left) This Gingerbread Community, created by Third graders at Cherry Avenue, was among the many holiday decorations made by our elementary students districtwide.*

## Holiday Music

During the holiday season, the gift of music touched the hearts of families and friends who attended the variety of student concerts. A special thanks to the Music Department for arranging the vocal and instrumental performances that spread such good cheer districtwide.

*(photos) Members of both the 9<sup>th</sup>-Grade Brass Ensemble (left) and the Tri-M National Music Honor Society (above) performed holiday songs at the December 8<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.*



### BOARD OF EDUCATION

KEVIN L. SPELMAN, PRESIDENT  
 DEBORAH VAN ESSEDELFT, VICE PRESIDENT  
 ALLISON J. CRUZ  
 NORMAN DEVENAU  
 MAUREEN DOLAN  
 RAYMOND J. NELSON  
 JOHN VERDONE



### BOARD NOTES

#### AT THE DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> BOARD MEETING:

STUDENT RECOGNITION was given to the Middle and High School students (see below right)  
 \*\*\*\*

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

1. Social Studies Program - Mr. Hall
2. Construction/Facility Updates: Cherry Avenue sidewalks, Sunrise Drive Cafeteria, Tyler Avenue Building
3. New Facility Consideration: Feasibility Study, Bond, and Timeline
4. Grand Jury Subpoena
5. Response to *Suffolk County News* article on Accruals
6. 2004-2005 Audit Report: Response to Management Letter

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Schools Closed for Winter Recess  
 Dec. 23 - Jan. 2

- Jan. 3 Schools open  
 Jan. 5 Board of Education Workshop Meeting, 7pm Admin. Bldg.  
 Jan. 12 Board of Education Meeting, 8pm Admin. Bldg.

**Checking the School Website in case of inclement weather? The school closing or delay notification will replace the scrolling news section on the homepage when it is activated.**

### Pesticide Notification

New York State Education Law Section 409-H requires all public and nonpublic schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the periodic and potential use of pesticides throughout the school year. New York State requires school districts to issue a notification 48 hours prior to each pesticide application during the course of the year to faculty, staff, and parents who request it. If you would like to receive this notification, please send a written request with your name, address, and phone number to the Office of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, New York 11782.

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT SHINES IN THE BOE SPOTLIGHT

At the December 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting, Social Studies Department Chairperson Walker Hall presented the Social Studies program report.

Mr. Hall briefly enumerated the curriculum, NYS Learning Standards, and Regents testing requirements, and praised the outstanding efforts of all his staff. He also reported that the Department encourages students to refine their academic skills, consult primary source materials, and present well-written research papers. Describing how such impressive electives as Urban Studies, Current Issues, and Law Studies (to name a few) enhance the extensive Regents and AP offerings, Mr. Hall emphasized the efforts of his staff to broaden the students' awareness of the diverse world. "Social Studies is about people in the social world," Mr. Hall said. Studying the centuries of human socialization up to the present day is accomplished through lively class discussions, field trips, guest speakers, formal debates, and extra activities, such as the Quiz Bowl and monthlong celebrations.

(See right column for latest celebration.)

"The Social Studies department," Mr. Hall concluded, "offers well-rounded perspectives on history and provides enriching educational experiences for all our students."

### Celebrating National American Indian

#### Heritage Month

Rhythmic drumming, flute song, and storytelling by the Red Storm Drum & Dance troupe resonated in the High School Auditorium. As part of the National American Indian Heritage Month in November, the Social Studies Department invited these authentic cultural arts performers to entertain the Freshman and Sophomore classes in an hourlong assembly. Some Sayville students were even invited to participate on stage in the traditional songs as the performance troupe danced and recreated the oral history of their ancestors. As educators and historians, the Red Storm presenters also introduced and explained an assortment of Indian artifacts that had been unearthed in parts of New York. "Students appreciated the genuine pride expressed by the Drum troupe," Social Studies Department Chairperson Walker Hall said, "as well as the humor of involving the students in the storytelling process."



Throughout the month, the Social Studies Department sponsored various activities that celebrated the rich diversity of our country's indigent nations. Posters honoring the history and contributions of American Indians decorated the Social Studies hallway. All Social Studies classes focused their lessons on the American Indian during the designated Teach-In Day. Twice during the month, the department offered a film festival. Students who attended *Geronimo, an American Legend* or *Lakota Woman* received extra Social Studies credit. At each movie presentation, donations to offset the costs of Thanksgiving dinners and winter fuel for residents of the Sioux Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota were accepted. Thanks to the generosity of the Sayville High School community, the fundraiser totaled approximately \$300 at the end of the monthlong celebration. The activities held throughout the month opened the eyes of the many Sayville students who had been unaware of the historical injustices experienced by the American Indian.



### Board of Education Student Citations

At the December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting, BOE members John Verdone, President Kevin Spelman, and Norm deVenau awarded citations to Middle School students presented by Principal Dr. Walter Schartner and to a High School student presented by Technology Chairman Mike Taber.



(above) PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD CERTIFICATES

- Merit: Eileen Corrado, Mary Corrado, Kenneth Murray, and Timothy Cowan
- Certificate of Achievement: Lyndsey Romard

(right) READER'S DIGEST WORD CHALLENGE  
 Julie MacDonell--Grade 8 Winner  
 Sean Sanchez--Grade 7 Winner  
 Payton Murphy--Grade 6 Winner  
 (Not present for photo)



(left) YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST WINNER  
 Mollie Rose Drinkwater

(below) OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN TECHNOLOGY, (particularly in yearbook work)  
 Amanda Aliperti



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## MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS REACT TO Kids in Action Youth Conference

There were so many who were eligible. Middle School students who demonstrated qualities of character were recommended by teachers and staff to have their names submitted in a lottery from whom the lucky few names would be picked.

In the end, twenty-four students (\*named below) attended the *Fifth Annual Kids in Action Youth Conference*, a nonprofit charitable organization that celebrates the potential of Long Island's youth. Its mission: "to challenge youth to believe in themselves, to achieve the extraordinary, to take action, and to make a difference in the community and world." This year, Brooke Ellison, internationally known author, student, and motivational speaker who is quadriplegic, shared her message of hope with more than 1,500 Long Island middle school students.

The Middle School students were profoundly inspired by Ms. Ellison's courage and optimism in the face of her personal challenges and her stamina to

accomplish so much. The students returned, awed by her philosophy and expressed their feelings about Brooke and her message, which included: "Very inspirational" (Samantha Abel), "She's really amazing" (Alexandria Abel), "She's my hero" (Genna Imbrenda), "Achieve your goals and don't let obstacles get in the way" (Cassidy Stewart), "Don't go ballistic, be optimistic" (Amanda Farinella), "Think strong, be strong" (Kenny Murray), "The plane doesn't get smaller as it flies into the horizon," was Taylor Panzarino's favorite quote from Brooke Ellison, and Rob Caliendo summed up the experience: "That was fun!"



\* Lexie Abel, Sammie Abel, Casey Boos, Rob Caliendo, Holly Citenio, CJ Doon, Amanda Farinella, Ryan Gunther, Genna Imbrenda, Beau Johnson, Robert Lomangino, Angelo Martino, Kenny Murray, Allison O'Donnell, Katherine Palma, Taylor Panzarino, Clint Quappe, Cathy Rico, Lauren Russo, Kelly Salloum, Alex Scribner, Cassidy Stewart, and Katie Weber.

## A Moveable Feast of Fine Dining



A *Fine Dining* experience returned to Cherry Avenue School just in time for the holidays. Three years ago, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosemary Jones successfully introduced this unique concept of an elegant engagement at Cherry to promote the learning standards of listening and conversational skills. In the subsequent years, *Fine Dining* has moved its feast to Sunrise Drive and Lincoln Avenue elementary schools so each school would benefit from the special event.

This year once again, Cherry Avenue's cafeteria was transformed by soft music, battery-powered candlelight, and table cloths, thanks to the *Fine Dining* Committee that orchestrated the occasion. Breaded chicken cutlets baked to perfection, creamy mashed potatoes, tender green beans, and cookies for dessert were planned in detail by Food and

Nutrition Director Gail Page and prepared by her staff. Select students attended as hosts, others were polite waiters who served the family-style fare at each of the round tables to the well-dressed guests, comprised of other students and adult dignitaries. Guests of all ages engaged in conversation on such diverse topics, from favorite books and movies to holiday traditions and favorite foods. By the end of each of the three reserved seatings, everyone agreed that the cuisine was delectable, the ambience was delightful, and the conversation was definitely charming. While the Cherry Avenue students praised the chicken, the potatoes, the music, and the total effect of the *Fine Dining* experience, they also deserved tremendous compliments for practicing such perfect manners.



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SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER  
Linda A. Mittiga,  
Producer, Writer, Editor, Designer  
Past Winner of NYSPRA Awards

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

School Tax Code 566

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

## What is a Delayed School Opening?

There may be days when school is either closed or delayed due to inclement weather. Sayville Schools has rarely used delayed openings, but as Long Island weather patterns change, we must also be prepared to change to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The decision to close or delay school is based on many factors including, the following:

- condition of the roads
- availability of our bus transportation
- conditions of the school buildings and grounds

To keep you informed, the District has assembled some **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:**

### •What is a delayed school opening?

When regular starting time for a school is changed because of weather-related problems.

### •Why is it necessary to have a delayed school opening?

To allow the Town and School District additional time to sand the roads, sidewalks, etc., ensuring a safer trip to school for our students and staff.

### •Why hasn't the District utilized delayed openings before?

Weather patterns on Long Island have undergone distinctive changes in the past few years. Delayed openings will help cope with these changes.

•Would all Sayville private, parochial, and public school students be subject to the delayed opening regardless of the school attended? YES

•If a delayed opening were necessary, would dismissal time be the same? YES

•How would parents know about a delayed school opening? In addition to the District's website [www.sayville.k12.ny.us](http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us), check with radio stations WBLI 106.1, WBAB 102.3, WALK 97.5, and television's News 12 Long Island.

•If my child attends a private or parochial school OUTSIDE the District and that school starts at the regular time, does my child still get picked up on a two-hour delay? YES

•If my child attends a Regional BOCES school, would he/she be subject to a delayed school opening. Since BOCES schools do not use delayed school openings, either the school is open or closed. All BOCES Regional students would be picked up at their regularly scheduled times as per BOCES Regional Directives. Questions for BOCES Regional Programs should be directed to Pat Martell, Transportation Administrator: (631) 472-6840.

## Senior Breakfast

The annual Senior Breakfast tradition gathered the graduating class and united them at an informal breakfast meal. Organized by Senior Class Advisors Ms. Stevens, Mrs. Cruz, and Mr. Shaw, the breakfast combined the volunteer efforts of faculty, parents, custodial staff, Class officers, along with the decorating and clean-up talents of assorted Seniors. Parkville Deli had the savoir faire, providing the savory fare for the successful affair!

