

Highlights

of the Sayville School District

NOVEMBER 2005

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 21.4
<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

NEWSWORTHY

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR Daniel Capurso A Siemens Semifinalist

Again, congratulations to Sayville High School Senior Daniel Capurso who has been selected as a Semifinalist in the 2005-06 Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science, and Technology. (More on both Dan Capurso's and classmate Daniel Hahn's scientific accomplishments in future Highlights.)

Practice Makes News12's Tree Lighting Ceremony Perfect



Wonder why Sayville High School's Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir have been practicing in scarves and jolly hats? Because News12's Tree Lighting Ceremony in Citibank Park is featuring these talented Sayville performers on Saturday, December 3rd, 5-6 p.m. News12 has also given Sayville's WSAY High School Internet radio permission to simulcast the lighting ceremony, so local residents who cannot be present can tune in the festive music on their home computers. Also, News12 will rebroadcast their performance hourly all day on December 25th.



WHO YA GONNA CALL? Cyberbully-busters!

Parry Aftab, Esq. connected! She stood before the assembly of Middle School students, a powerhouse of knowledge and experience about their Internet playground; and as with any playground, she pointed out the dangers, the thrills, and the responsibilities of participating in a shared environment.

Responding to the growing concern over cyberbullying, the Sayville School District invited internationally renowned Cyberspace lawyer and child advocate Parry Aftab to an all-day summit at the Middle School. The purpose? To inform students, staff, District Administrators, and parents (who attended the evening session) about the facts, as well as to devise a plan of action for tackling Internet issues involving children.

For more than ten years, Ms. Parry Aftab's qualifications in this field have made her the first one to call, not only for her understanding of commercial cybercrime in business and government and its legal ramifications, but also for her *pro bono* work, investigating online privacy, security, and safety solutions that open the Internet to educational programs suitable for children. Through discussion boards, she has led online communities and created cybercontacts, connecting those who need assistance with online experts who are unpaid volunteers. (About Parry's charitable work, go to WiredSafety.org and WiredKids.org for more information).

"Parry Aftab has spoken to many governmental agencies and groups worldwide, conducted briefings for the U.S.



Senate, been a key speaker at the White House Summit on Online Content, the sole Internet-related expert speaking at the 2002 White House summit on Missing and Exploited Children and testified before leading legislative committees and the House of Lords, all with the same message: the Internet is a wonderful resource for families, and once parents understand the online risks, they can use common sense (and perhaps some filtering tools) to help their children enjoy cyberspace safely." Quoted from

<http://www.aftab.com/parryinternetsafetybio>

Ms. Aftab encouraged the Middle School students to share their experiences and opinions with her and a panel of experts. She defined illegal online activities and offered lessons for a safer Cyerspace. After her presentation, the students were given "breakout" classroom time to discuss and formulate each class's consensus before class representatives returned to the afternoon assembly and reported their findings.

Later in the evening, Parry presented her action plan for the community to interested parents.

Special thanks go to Sayville Administrators Stephanie Lamanno, John Amato, and Ron Hoffer, who had previously attended a conference at which Parry Aftab presented and returned with the idea of inviting her to Sayville.

Highlights

of the Sayville School District

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 NOVEMBER 10TH BOARD MEETING:

STUDENT RECOGNITION was given to the Sunrise Drive students listed below right.

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

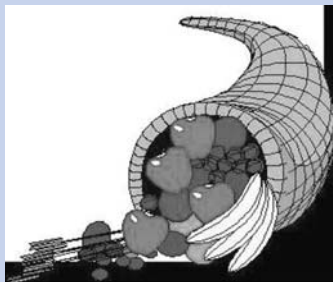
1. 2004-2005 Audit Reports
J. Belmonte
2. Proposed 2006-2007 Budget
Calendar
3. Food and Nutrition - Gail Page
4. Emergency Management Drills
J. Belmonte/S. Lamanno
5. AP Results - 2004-2005

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

The Board of Education Workshop
scheduled for December 1st
has been cancelled.

- Dec. 7 Cherry Avenue Holiday
Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Old Jr. High
- Dec. 8 Board of Education Meeting
8 p.m. - Admin Bldg.
- Dec. 12 Lincoln Avenue Holiday
Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Old Jr. High
- Dec. 13 Sunrise Drive Holiday
Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Old Jr. High
- Dec. 15-17 Middle School Musical,
Leader of the Pack 7:30 p.m.



PAGE TWO

SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTERNAL AUDITOR PRONOUNCES

Sayville in Excellent Financial Shape

Every school district on Long Island has auditing and accounting practices that require a review process. This is done by two separate firms of internal and external auditors.

The External Auditing firm of Pappas & Company* tested and reviewed the internal accounting controls of Sayville

School District's 2004-2005 academic year and recently completed the annual Audit Report. Pappas & Company rendered the highest opinion of "unqualified" to Sayville District for its sound fiscal health. The outcome of Sayville's positive fiscal management benefits the District and students in the following ways:

* Effectively managing and redirecting our resources to our instructional programs directly benefits our children.

* Sound fiscal policies and practices have allowed for the reduction in the tax rate for two years in a row.

* Based on its sound fiscal management, Sayville has recently received an upgrade of the Bond Rating to A-1. This means the District sells bonds and notes at lower interest rates.

* There is a further reduction in Sayville's Tax Anticipation Note Borrowings (TAN).

Since 2001-2002, Sayville School District has reduced its TAN borrowing from \$14.2 million to \$4.7 million. Because tax levies are not given to school districts until January, all school districts are required to borrow so as to pay its bills for the first six months (July to December) of the academic year. Sayville's fiscal stability has continued to reduce the amount needed to be borrowed.

* Borrowing less and for shorter periods reduces interest expenses and has a positive effect on the budget process.

During the recent BOE Workshop meeting, External Auditors Pappas & Company reported the good news to the Board and community and complimented Sayville for its financial integrity. "Sayville

continues to demonstrate sound financial management, which is a credit to the Board of Education and the Administration," representatives from Pappas & Company remarked.

**As to the quality of the District's external auditors, Pappas & Company submits to a quality-control measure called the "Peer Review Process." Peer auditing reviews ensure that the auditing firms also comply with all generally accepted accounting and auditing standards. Pappas & Company received the highest rating of "unqualified opinion without comment" in their Peer Review Process.*

Board of Education Student Citations

The November 10th Sunrise Drive BOE Awards were presented by Mrs. Castello and BOE members Norm deVenu, Raymond J. Nelson, and John Verdone.

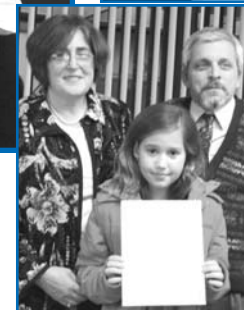


(above) Students (and younger siblings) who organized a car wash which raised \$200 for the Greenbrier Elementary School in New Orleans, LA were recognized:

Adam Blandeburgo	Everett Fox	Eliot Simon
Lyle Davison	Emily Fox	Katherine VanDorn
Drake Davison	Ashley Lavacca	George VanDorn
	Kelly McElroy	



(above) Rachael Wachter won Honorable Mention at The Brookhaven National Laboratory Elementary School Science Fair



(left) Kara Stenberg was the Red Ribbon Slogan Finalist "Don't Be a Fool, Drugs Aren't Cool"

Highlights

of the Sagville School District

Please note: The Board-approved Policy and application for "School Volunteers" has been printed in this *Highlights* (see below) for your information and use. You may also pick up this form at each school building and the district office.

BOARD POLICY

Board Policy Book No. 4532

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of volunteers strengthens school/community relations through positive participation, builds an understanding of school programs among interested citizens, and can assist district employees in providing more individualized and enriched opportunities in instruction. The Board encourages volunteers from all backgrounds and age groups who are willing to share their time, training and experience to benefit the students of the district.

Volunteers may be involved in many facets of school operations. Volunteers shall not be used to provide transportation for school-sponsored activities. No volunteer shall be permitted to have unsupervised direct contact with students, with the exception of chaperones on approved school field trips under the general supervision of a staff member.

School personnel who are responsible for tasks or projects that involve the use of volunteers shall identify appropriate tasks and time

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Adoption date: August 24, 1998
Revised: July 5, 2001 Reviewed 10/20/05

schedules for such volunteer activities, as well as make provisions for adequate supervision.

Persons wishing to volunteer must contact the Superintendent or Building Principal or other individual designated by the Superintendent or Building Principal and must complete a volunteer application form. The application form shall require the volunteer applicant to disclose any criminal convictions.

The district shall retain a complete record of all information obtained through the application process for the same period of time it retains information regarding district employees.

All volunteers are required to act in accordance with district policies, regulations and school rules. Any staff member who supervises volunteers may ask any volunteer who violates district policies, regulations or school rules to leave school grounds.

Each Building Principal shall be responsible for maintaining a current and complete list of all active volunteers and their assignments.

Name:	Please describe any qualities, skills or abilities that you feel would make you a good volunteer to work with children:	Have you ever been convicted or pled guilty to a crime - either a misdemeanor or a felony (including but not limited to child abuse, theft, drug charges or other crimes of violence)? Check either <input type="checkbox"/> Yes** or <input type="checkbox"/> No
Address:		** If yes, please explain in detail (use a separate sheet, if necessary):
Phone numbers: (daytime/work) (evening/home) When is most convenient to reach you, daytime or evening?	How long can you commit to a volunteer role with this school district (please specify; one month, several months or one year)?	
Employer:	Do you have transportation?	
Job title/Occupation:	If yes, do you have a valid driver's license? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No License Number	Please list the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references (not relatives), that we may call:
Work schedule (hours/days of the week):	State	Name _____ Tel# _____ Address _____ Relationship _____
What hours/days are you available to work as a volunteer?	Have you ever been convicted or pled guilty to any motor vehicle violations (with the exception of parking violations) within the past five years in operating your own or other vehicles?	Name _____ Tel# _____ Address _____ Relationship _____
List all current and past volunteer experience/training (attach an additional sheet if necessary):	If yes, please explain in detail:	Name _____ Tel# _____ Address _____ Relationship _____
List hobbies/interests:	Do you have liability insurance? (please include name of carrier and policy limits):	Please have your three references sign below attesting to your ability to work with others in a volunteer capacity: X _____ X _____ X _____

I authorize all references listed to give you pertinent information, and release all parties from liability from furnishing this information. I attest that all information provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my ability. I understand that any information provided that is found to be falsified is grounds for removal as a volunteer. I have read and understand the volunteer handbook and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined therein.

Signature

Date

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AP ENVIRONMENTAL TEACHER **MARIA BROWN**

Dowling College/News 12

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



AP Environmental Science Teacher Maria Brown (third from left) received the Dowling College/News 12 Educator of the Month plaque and was congratulated by (l-r) Principal Joseph Buderman, Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones, Science Department Chair Brian Vorvald, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck, Ms. Lizette M. Washington, Director of the Center for Minority Teacher Development and Training, and Dowling College's Dean of Education Dr. Payne. Mrs. Brown will be recognized in a cablevision spot on News 12 as Educator of the Month later on this year.

Maria Brown, AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TEACHER, has been selected Educator of the Month for her outstanding accomplishments both within and outside the classroom. Among the fifty nominated educators highly considered for this award, Maria Brown was one of ten selected for this special recognition and will be featured in an upcoming month (to be announced at a later date) on **News 12**.

When she became a teacher, Mrs. Brown brought her professional experience and devotion as a research scientist into her classroom. She has continually sought new ways to teach the curriculum through hands-on applications, and in return, has expected professional responsibility from each of her students. Mrs. Brown admits that her students' unparalleled dedication to their tasks has fueled her enthusiasm.

Before presenting her with the Dowling College/News 12 award plaque, Dowling College's Dean of Education Dr. Clyde Payne commended Mrs. Brown and her classes for the Green's Creek Watershed five-year study. He extolled this unique and valuable contribution to Suffolk County and New York State. In addition Dr. Payne remarked that Mrs. Brown has developed for her Environmental Science students an educational opportunity that is most singular among New York high schools, perhaps even nationwide—a scientific fieldtrip to Costa Rica. The success of last year's pilot program has again opened the path to a similar fieldtrip for Sayville's AP students this academic year.

Urban Tragedy in *Street Scene*

Elmer Rice's Pulitzer Prize winning drama *Street Scene* was the recent Sayville Players High School drama club Fall presentation that featured more than forty talented high school students in challenging ethnic roles. This intense drama, structured for an ensemble cast, portrayed the ordinary lives of urban neighbors at a unifying moment of great misfortune.

As High School Director/Producer Mr. Steven Hailey explained in his prologue before each evening's performance, the play was an innovation quite unique to the theatre of the late 1920s. "[It] was one of the first plays to critique the negative effects of urban and industrial society on the average person Many believed *Street Scene* captured a mosaic of different kinds of lower-middle-class

people living in New York City."



The Sayville actors captured this essence each night. They portrayed that time when the Melting Pot crackedled with prejudices among the **Swedes** (Alexandra Van Horne, Meredith O'Connor, Tom Smallwood), **Jews** (Jeff Manno, James O'Connor, Christina Hesse, Elizabeth Schonig), **Italians** (Joe Hailey), **Germans** (Danielle Spano, Jill McManus), and **Irish** (John Barrett, Kristin Troccoli, Kiera O'Leary)—all tenants who shared an apartment building. Two central figures from an Irish family, Anna Maurant (Katie Donalds/Lorelei Schreiber) and her daughter Rose Maurant (Lauren Edwards/Lauren Bilich) emerged as women asking universal questions from different ends of the same timeline, while Frank Maurant (Mike Ellison), husband to Anna and father to Rose, is the man dragged by disappointment and apathy

into moral decline. Despite the heavy portraits of humanity, the Sayville students carried the story to its satisfying conclusion.

Certain talents behind the scenes afford the actors a dressed stage. Although the glass panel in a well-used doorway suffered its own slow demise with each show, the enormous "brick" edifice stood firm. Thanks to the contributions of Scenic Designer/Artist Stephanie Morgan; Technicians' Advisor Mr. Ken Van Essendelft; Assistant Director Emily Hepding (who also provided the shrieks of Mrs. Buchanan in childbirth); Costume and Makeup artist Mrs. Donna Hailey; Production Manager Kurt Stoeber; Assistant Production Manager Andrew Brooks; Stage Managers Mianna Molinari and Cathleen Cook; Assistant Stage



Managers Jill McManus and Angela Link; Prop Managers Erika Schreiber and Katie Duffy; and Lighting Assistant and Sound Technician Ben Lopreto, the stage was set and lit for a wonderful production. Kudos to all!

Food & Nutrition Reports

Sayville School District Moving Toward

Sensible Eating

"We are more than just lunch!" reported Food and Nutrition Director Mrs. Gail Page at the latest Sayville Board of Education Meeting, a statement she supported with the following daily-average-service statistics to the five schools:

- **120 breakfast meals**
- **1,420 lunch meals**
- **Service of adult sales and snack items**
- **Special functions, including catering for special events.**

"Our main objective," Mrs. Page continued, "is to meet the nutritional needs of our students while operating a fiscally sound program." Like many school districts on Long Island, Sayville's Food and Nutrition Program is financially self-sustaining and supported by Federal and State reimbursements for every child that eats in school. Monthly, the service receives commodity foods from New York State, which include staples such as meats, cheese, sliced fruits, frozen fruits, and vegetables. Also monthly, the District Food Service must purchase items through cooperative bid. To reach higher nutritional standards and to improve the nutritional quality, the bidding specifications have been restructured to obtain foods that are reduced in fat, lower in sugar, and increased in fiber. These raised standards are bringing a strong message to the food manufacturers.

The New York School Nutrition Association has recommended (not required) school districts comply with the "Choose Sensible Program" that offer guidelines for better nutrition. NYSNA also recommends the following standards for snacks:

- **Single-serve packaging**
- **Fat: less than or equal to 7 grams**
- **Saturated Fat: less than or equal to 2 grams**
- **Sodium: less than or equal to 360 mg**
- **Sugar: less than or equal to 15 grams**

To encourage student participation in the breakfast and lunch programs, the District's Food Service has provided posters on the walls near the food lines as visual tools. Their contents teach our young "customers" that foods are "neither good nor bad, but that some foods have more nutritional value." The students are learning about sensible choices as they stand in line to make their selections. The Food Service also encourages the students to taste-test new products by having samples available.

Vending Machines are often the nutritional trouble spots for children and adults. With no vending machines at the elementary level, Sayville's Food and Nutrition Services have tackled the allure of empty calories in the vending machines at the secondary schools in the following ways. At the Middle School, the vending machines, located by the gym, are on timers

for after school and are stocked with either ice cream or more nutritional snacks such as cereal bars, popcorn, baked chips, nuts, and pretzels. Candy is NOT sold. The Snapple machine, located in the cafeteria during school hours, serves only 100% fruit juices or iced tea. No soda is sold. Like at the Middle School, the High School vending machines near the gym are equipped only with assorted nutritional snacks and are also on a timer for after school, while both an Ice cream machine and a Snapple machine—with juice, tea, and without soda—are located in the cafeteria during school hours.

Although the Food and Nutrition Department's goals are specifically aimed at providing sensible eating choices for students, not all children or teens are attracted to balanced nutrition. Yet, for the Food Service to receive government assistance, the students must be enticed to buy. When it comes to what kids like to eat, striking the balance between proper and popular is the challenge the Food and Nutrition program faces at each meal. Yet, Sayville is committed to being proactive with nutritional programs in the fight to reduce childhood obesity. "Customers make choices," Mrs. Page acknowledged. "But, we are moving in a direction to help our students make 'sensible' choices."

Nothing to Mock

about these Interviews

Twice a year, Mock Interviews are held at the Middle School as part of the educational curriculum to prepare students for their future careers. Facilitated by Middle School Guidance Counselor Kelly Raycroft, the Mock Interviews are a well-planned event, thanks to the assistance of the Guidance Department and Pupil Personnel staff, as well as Home and Careers teachers Mrs. Marianne Klepacki and Mrs. Cheryl Scantlebury.

Weeks in advance, the Eighth-grade students in Mrs. Klepacki's and Mrs. Scantlebury's Home and Careers classes prepared for their Mock Interview "job" at Borders, either as sales associates in the Music or Book departments, or as cashiers in the Cafe. The students learned they must be

neat when filling out an employment application—a single-lined strike-out would be much better than a scribbled mess if they made an error. They were given lessons on general appearance that included finding the appropriate clothes, even colors that would best compliment their complexions and hair color. Yet, businesslike attire is best when matched by businesslike behavior. The students practiced firm handshakes, attentive body language, constant eye contact, and focused on articulate and enunciated speech. They were also taught that speaking well and with confidence was easiest when they were enthusiastic about the topic. An employer would be looking for the candidates who demonstrate such qualities when asked about their own hobbies and interests. Candidates were also given points if they



asked questions about the position.

On the day of Mock Interviews, everyone—especially the students—was nervously eager to test their abilities. Sayville District Administrators Stephanie Lamanno and Dr. Geri Sullivan Keck, Middle School Principal Dr. Walt Schartner, Assistant Principal John Amato, and Middle School

Guidance Counselors greeted and interviewed the candidates in individual Guidance offices. The outcome of this event was a positive experience for each of the candidates. While the actual interviews were only minutes long, the lesson—to improve the students' understanding of the interview process—was meant to last a lifetime.

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Blowing their Own Horns At Cherry Avenue About Saying No to Drugs

This year, Cherry Avenue Elementary school commemorated Red Ribbon Week in a unique way. As part of their weeklong program that teaches children to "Say No to Drugs," the students received a visit one day from representatives of Conway Central Express, a family-run tractor trailer company located in Bay Shore. It just so happened that the father of Emily Antos, a student in Ms. Hook's First-grade, works for Conway Central Express. James Antos and his coworker Rob DerMgrdichian drove up to Cherry Avenue in an impressive tractor trailer to discuss with Ms. Hook's First-grade class the importance of saying NO! to drugs. The children heard a story and recited a pledge with Rob and Jim about staying away from drugs. After, the class went out to the tractor trailer where each child had a chance to sit in the driver's seat and blow the air horns. The lesson, that drugs are harmful, became even more memorable thanks to the added excitement of sounding the air horns. From the expressions on the children's faces, the Red Ribbon activity was tremendous fun. If, however, the sounding of air horns always reminds those Cherry Avenue students of their commitment to Say NO to Drugs, this short stop by Conway Central Express would have yielded its greatest haul.



All's Fair for Cherry Students



Since "it is generally recognized that children who read more do better in school," each year the Cherry Avenue PTA sponsors the Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair has long been an example of the parent-teacher partnership working toward the success of each Cherry Avenue student. Yet, to the students, the Book Fair is an exciting opportunity for choosing child-friendly literary collections and to gather accessories such as posters, bookmarks, and pencils.

This year Cherry Avenue had an additional partner supporting our

students' success. The Rotary Club of Sayville provided a generous donation that, combined with some matching funds from Scholastic Inc., provided a voucher of six dollars for each student to purchase books. Thanks to a wide selection of titles, Cherry Avenue's students were able to choose interesting books that matched their reading levels. The parents, staff and students of Cherry Avenue wish to express their gratitude to Mrs. Coverdale and the Rotary Club of Sayville and Scholastic, Inc. for this most generous donation.

In Line With

Author! Author! Lincoln



Lincoln Avenue has an Author of the Month program, designed to highlight the efforts and talents of our students, and encourage students to write creative stories for all to enjoy! Each month, the authors' works are displayed in the school library for one month, and if possible, shared during morning announcements. Congratulations to October's Author of the Month Winners Stephen, Courtney, Gina, and Jaimee.

Lincoln Cultural Arts Chronicles Narnia

Recently, the Cultural Arts Program sponsored the TheaterWorks' presentation of *The Lion, The Witch, & The Wardrobe* at Lincoln Elementary school. The spectacular blend of performances in musical



voice, acting, costumes, and scenery were Broadway caliber! Since many Lincoln Avenue students are currently reading the book written by C.S. Lewis, their teachers are looking forward to their comparison of the book, this performance, and the movie to be released soon.

Sunrise Drive

Hard Hats SEE Progress

Donning bright yellow hard hats, some Sunrise Drive Elementary classes were invited by Assistant Superintendent for Business John Belmonte to tour the construction site of their future cafeteria/auditorium. Since the beginning of the school year, the curiosity of many Sunrise Drive students had been keeping pace with the actual progress of the building (which is *ahead* of schedule), so Mr. Belmonte's invitations to make ongoing visits to the site at progressive stages of construction were met with enthusiastic hurrahs!

In their classrooms and before entering the work site, Mr. Belmonte reminded the children about safety on the site, reviewed the phases of construction, explained the type of materials being used, and answered their initial questions. Students from Mrs. Sue Burton's, Mrs. Christine Engelbert's and Mrs. Tracy Von Eschen's classes along with Principal Rose Castello were among the recent visitors scheduled for tours. Each group was led to an observation point within the enclosed construction area. "Ooohs and ahhs" universally expressed the excitement upon seeing the framework that would later be hidden by walls and ceilings.

After Mr. Belmonte explained the plans and showed the children the work in progress, the students were able to identify the new stage area, the skylight, as well as the



orientation of doors and windows. Although Mr. Belmonte thoroughly enjoyed fielding their many questions, some of which demonstrated genuine and sophisticated interest in the construction process, it was obvious the students were equally delighted. One girl admitted she wanted to be an architect; one boy was enthusiastic about working in construction when he grew up.

For the Fifth-graders who would be leaving before seeing its completion, the opportunity was more sentimental in nature. They realized they would be handing over their elementary school to future students or younger siblings. Mr. Belmonte hoped that as they continue to observe the construction through ongoing visits, the Fifth-grade students would feel personally invested in this crowning moment of Sunrise Drive history.

Overall, the students were impressed by the size and "bones" of the building that would be a cafeteria and auditorium in the fall of 2006.



Veterans Day Made More Meaningful with

VIETNAM VET'S VISIT

To recognize the sacrifices of Veterans, the High School Social Studies Department invited one of Long Island's Vietnam Veterans, Peter Addesso, to recount his experiences in the war's fiercest battle: The Battle of Hue City in 1968.

Once an imperial South Vietnam city, Hue City flourished as a cultural center of academics and the arts until a devastating assault by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army seized the metropolis and its population of 140,000 citizens. Although the enemy had been entrenched nearby for a year, the actual Tet offensive for Hue City lasted six weeks. Resistance came in the form of three outnumbered U.S. Marine battalions of the First and Fifth Regiments with fewer than 2,500 men, assisted by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's 1st Division, and supported by U.S. Army 7th and 12th Cavalry Regiments, against 15,000 enemy troops.

A 19-year-old Marine radio operator, Peter Addesso was among the first wave of Marines who helped recapture the city bit by bit, securing a "portal" that gave the defending battalions passage back into the city. Slowly the Marines secured the Treasury building, the university, the hospital, the Provincial Headquarters, finally reaching the citadel. By February 1968, U.S. Forces had secured Hue, staying another week to ensure the city's safety. "I was pretty lucky," Addesso explained. "Out of 312 Marines, only me and 15 others came out." The ordeal ended for Peter when he was hit and severely wounded by a B-40 rocket. "I kept on calling for support for almost an hour before I passed out, but I lived to tell about it." Later, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

During his two-day appearance at Sayville High School, Addesso engaged all the Social Studies students in serious discussions about the impact of war on the soldier and its life-altering effects. The topical dialogue gave the Social Studies students a better understanding of its relevance to today. Several guests who attended some of the presentations included Sayville's local veteran John Burke.

Although wheelchair bound, Addesso informed the students how this disability hasn't stopped him. He continues to assist his fellow Veterans in a variety of ways. He has served as the President of United Spinal Association, which was founded in 1946 by veterans with spinal cord injuries, and as the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) President. Among some of his accomplishments, Addesso has organized programs that train veterans in the use of computers so they can have skills to rejoin the workforce, and he is currently working with HBO which sponsors his lectures. He, alongside surviving Marines, was invited onboard to the dedication of the U.S.S. Hue City, the Ticonderoga Class of Aegis guided-missile cruisers and the only naval ship named after a Vietnam battle.

The Social Studies department was grateful to Peter Addesso for making Veterans Day more meaningful to the students by increasing their sensitivity and appreciation for veterans of all wars.



Highlights

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

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U.S. POSTAGE
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SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sayville, New York 11782
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****ECRWSS****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Feast Your Eyes On the Halloween Surprise

Without the generous supplies donated by the Sayville Kiwanis Club, the Halloween Window Painting wouldn't have become the tradition it is today. Throw in the talents every year of Sayville Middle School and High School artists for good measure, add the capable and continuous supervision of the Art Department teachers (Mary Troiano, Jeanette Ainslie, and Debra Urso at the Middle School, along with Evan Hammer, Kim Kamensky, Roberta Dalpiaz, and Department Chair Julia Lang-Shapiro at the High School), and voila! A recipe for success. Each surprising Halloween design by the students was a feast for the eyes of passersby.

