



Cherry Avenue Buzz

Principal's Message

April 2025

Dear Cherry Avenue Families:

The CA Science Fair was a success! We learned so much about various topics and walked away with interesting takeaways! It was clear that our students worked very hard during the experiment process. Thank you to our families for supporting our scientists!

To our hard-working CA PTA, thank you for organizing the Books & Blankets event, Spring Book Fair, dances, PTA Circus Week and for the amazing 5th-Grade Circus performance! Also, a special thank you to the SHS and SMS PTA, we had a blast watching the Harlem Wizards!

Just a reminder, as previously indicated, smart watches/communication/gaming devices (e.g., Garmin, VTech, Apple, and Fitbit (if the Fitbit doesn't have texting/communication features, then it is okay), along with non-District owned technology devices are not permitted in school. These watches are also covered under the BoE Policy and are not to be on, displayed, or used in school. If students are to have them while in school, just like a cellphone, the devices must remain off and in the students' backpacks. Please have a conversation with your child(ren), if this pertains to them.

The 3-5 NYS ELA Assessment is taking place on April 24 and 25, as well as the Mathematics Assessment on May 8 and 9.

I have included two articles from the March and April 2025 editions of *Parents Make the Difference* pertaining to meaningful family time and the benefits of free time, great ways to support our back-to-basics approach!

Are You Spending Meaningful Time with Your Family?

Frequent, meaningful, undivided attention from family helps children reach their full potential in school and life. But finding that time can often be difficult.

Are you finding ways to spend meaningful family time together? Answer yes or no to each of the questions below to find out:

- ___ 1. Do you strive to eat meals as a family regularly and include your child in mealtime conversations?
- ___ 2. Do you balance your child's structured activities with plenty of time for reading, relaxing and hanging out with family?
- ___ 3. Do you have a bedtime routine that includes spending at least five minutes talking with your child?
- ___ 4. Do you schedule one-on-one time with your child each week?
- ___ 5. Have you designated screenfree times at home? Digital devices can cause separation even when family members are together.

OVER



Dates to Remember in April

PTA Spring Photo Day	3
Fine Dining Luncheon	9
BoE Workshop meeting @ 7:30 p.m.	9
PTA Talent Show @ 6:00 p.m.—SMS	11
Passover (begins @ sunset)	12
Spring break—school closed	14-18
PTA meeting @ 6:30 p.m.	22
Earth Day	22
BoE meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—OJHS	23
Family Connect Night	24
NYS 3-5 ELA Assessments	24 & 25
NYS Grade 5 Science Test	May 2



How well are you doing? More yes answers mean you're finding ways to make family time a priority. For no answers, try those ideas.

Research Shows That Free Time Builds Your Child's Brain

While extracurricular activities can enrich your elementary schooler's life, it's important to balance them with unstructured play. Free time allows your child to goof off, explore interests, develop creativity and simply relax.

Studies show that even when children's brains are in a "resting" state—that is, not being fed a formal stream of instruction—they're still active. They are simply learning in a different way. So, just because your child may not look busy, it doesn't mean your child's brain isn't busy!

To provide some brain-boosting during your child's downtime:

- Allow occasional boredom. Don't race to solve your child's every "There's nothing to do!" whimper. Instead, challenge your child to figure out how to fill the time. Who knows? It might be just the spark your child's brain needs to come up with something innovative!
- Turn off digital devices. It's easy to hand your child a smartphone or tablet to occupy downtime. But consistently doing so robs your child's brain of the chance to actively acquire information (instead of passively being "fed" information by a screen). Let your child look out the car window instead of at an app during your next drive. Just think what new knowledge might take hold.

Source: L. Waters, Ph.D., "How Goofing Off Helps Kids Learn," The Atlantic.

CA Shout-Outs

Ms. Carolyn Laliberty, a beloved teacher aide for the past 17 years, has decided to retire. She has been a tremendous asset to the students and her colleagues alike. A beach lover, Ms. Laliberty looks forward to spending more time in the sand and cherishing every moment spent with her family, especially creating beautiful memories with her grandchildren all while embracing this next exciting chapter of life.



For those who celebrate, happy Passover and Easter! Wishing you all an enjoyable and healthy spring break! As always, thank you for your support and please reach out if we can offer any assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ihne, Ed.D.
Principal

