



Cherry Avenue Buzz

Principal's Message

Dear Cherry Avenue Families:

Happy Valentine's Day!

Congratulations to Luke Cisek, CA Spelling Bee winner, and to Ms. Moran for organizing the event!

An Evening at Cherry was a successful, fun evening, thanks to our workshop presenters! It was wonderful spending the night with many families.

Thank you, CA PTA, for your endless support and generosity between community service and fundraising. The latter provides us with assemblies, such as the one we just enjoyed with Mr. Licitra and bracelets purchased for the upcoming P.S. I Love you Day. Students also enjoyed a second assembly, where Mr. Jared Campbell performed, thanks to Ms. Makris.

A few reminders, please try to refrain picking up between 2:40 p.m. –3:00 p.m., as the dismissal process is very busy. We understand this timeframe cannot always be avoided, but when it can, it is greatly appreciated. In addition, absolutely no smart watches may be worn to school. Our recess policy is when conditions are safe outside the real feel (windchill) is 15 degrees or higher, so please make sure students are dressed appropriately, as we do not have an alternate indoor placement for them if they are cold.

I have included one article from the February 2026 edition of *Parents Make the Difference* pertaining to being a reading role model and promoting responsibility.

Spark Your Child's Interest in Reading by Being a Role Model

Research shows that when children see family members reading, they're more likely to read themselves. By being a reading role model, you can show your child that reading is both fun and informative. For the best results:

- Create a reading-rich environment. Surround your home with reading material so it's easy for your child to pick up something to read.
- Let your child see you reading something every day. Make it clear that you think reading is worth your time. Invite your child to join you.
- Tell your child why you are reading. Are you reading for information, to double-check something you think you know, or for enjoyment?
- Look up a word in the dictionary when you come across one you are unsure of. Ask if your child knows the meaning of the word.

(OVER)

February 2026

Dates to Remember in February

Back-to-Basics HW	9
UPK early dismissal @ 11:30 a.m. for P/T conferences (Full day of school for K-5)	9&10
Evening UPK P/T	9
Family Connect Night	11
BoE meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—SMS	12
P.S. I Love You Day-wear purple	13
Mid-Winter Recess - schools closed	16-20
100th Day of School (if no additional snow days are used)	24
PTA meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	26
PTA Pages & Stages @ 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.	3/2
Evening PTA Book Fair @ 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.	3/2
Harlem Wizards game @ 6:30 p.m.—SHS	3/3
Sayville Serving Sayville Volleyball Fundraiser @ 7:00 p.m.—SHS	3/4

- Read aloud to your child. When you come across something interesting, share a small part of it. This can motivate your child to finish reading it independently.
- Use your library card. When you take your child to the library, find something to check out for yourself.
- Join your child. When you see your child reading, pick up something to read yourself.
- Give books as gifts. Show your child that books are special by giving them as gifts. Suggest your child give books to friends, too.
- Ask relatives to support your child's reading habits. Could they record themselves reading a book aloud?

Responsibility Boosts Your Child's Ability to Succeed

Educators agree that responsible children do better in school. Luckily, families have countless opportunities to foster responsibility. Here are just a few to start with:

- Enforce a few age-appropriate rules and consequences. State them clearly so your child knows the exact behavior you expect.
- Trust your child with meaningful tasks. School-age children are capable of handling responsibilities such as picking up their rooms, setting the table and helping with the laundry.
- Discuss ways to help others. Talk about what it means to be a responsible member of a community. Consider different ways your family can contribute, such as by volunteering your time for an important cause or donating gently-used clothing to a charity.
- Talk about financial responsibility. If your child has money from an allowance or gifts, teach about budgeting, spending, saving and giving.
- Let your child make decisions, such as how to solve a problem with a school friend. Help your elementary schooler think through the pros and cons.
- Help your child develop time management skills by using a planner or calendar to keep track of responsibilities.
- Adjust rules and responsibilities. As your child matures, abilities will change. Consider assigning more grown-up chores. Or perhaps your child can make new and exciting decisions. Talk about how great it feels to be responsible!

CA Shout-Outs

Please join me in welcoming, Mr. John Paul West, interim chorus/general music teacher. Mr. West attended Hofstra University Honors College with an undergraduate degree in Music Education. An avid piano player, with 20 years experience, Mr. West also enjoys singing in choir, and plays an organ for the services at church on the weekends. In his free time, Mr. West enjoys being part of a bowling league, playing tennis and board games, taking long walks with friends, going to the beach, hiking, traveling, and frequenting the city. Mr. West is excited to become a part of the Sayville community and looks forward to teaching music in the classroom.



As always, feel free to reach out with any questions/concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ihne, Ed.D.
Principal

