



Cherry Avenue Buzz

Principal's Message

May/June 2026

Dear Cherry Avenue Families:

Where did the school year go!? With the end of the 2025-2026 school year upon us, the staff and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our CA families for all of your support and assistance. We are very fortunate and grateful for the strong home-school connection we have with all of you.

We have one retiree among us. Congratulations to Senior Office Assistant, Ms. Debbie DeThomasis, who has worked in the main office for the past ten years. Although bitter-sweet for Cherry Avenue, we wish Ms. DeThomasis a retirement filled with good health, happiness, and fun!

Thank you to our hard working, generous PTA. We are grateful for the partnership and for all that you do to make our school community a better one! We are looking forward to Staff Appreciation Week, where you continue to go above and beyond spoiling us with festivity and love. National Teacher Appreciation Day is on May 5 and School Nurse Day is held on May 6—a great time to show our gratitude and appreciation!

Congratulations to UPK teacher, Ms. Straub, who is the recipient of SEPTA's Special Educator of the Year Award and will be honored at the SEPTA End-of-Year Dinner on May 14!

The NYS Grade 5 Science Assessment is taking place on Friday, May 1, along with the Math Assessment for grades 3-5 on May 6 and 7.

The next few weeks will be extremely busy. Please adhere to the dates listed for your convenience.

More Important Dates

Wednesday, May 27: Family Connect Night, SHS Community Connect Day

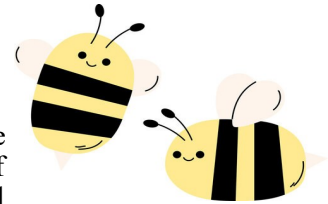
Thursday, May 28: Incoming 6th-Grade Parent Orientation @ 7:00 p.m.—SMS, Sayville District Science Symposium @ 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.—SHS

Friday, May 29: CAMRUN @ 9:30 a.m. (wear red of CAMRUN shirt from last year) - rain date 6/5

Monday, June 1: SHS Senior Walk @ 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 2: Field Day (rain date 6/4)

Wednesday, June 3: All Elementary Band & Orchestra Concert @ 7:30 p.m.—SMS



Dates to Remember in May & June

Kindergarten Screening	6
PTA meeting @ 7:00 p.m. & Evening Plant Sale	7
Mental Health Awareness Day—wear green	7
PTA Plant Sale	8
CA Chorus Concert @ 7:00 p.m.—SHS	11
Fit Club (rain date 5/13)	12
UPK Screening	13
Fine Dining Luncheon & Back-to-Basics HW	14
SEPTA Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.—VIP Room	14
Budget Vote	19
PTA End-of-Year Party @ 6:00 p.m.—Snapper Inn	21
5th-Grade Orientation @ SMS	22
Memorial Day—schools closed	25
Sayville STRIDES Carnival (rain or shine) @ 7:00 p.m.—SMS	27

OVER

Monday, June 8: KISS (incoming kinder orientation) @ 6:00 p.m.—CA Café

Wednesday, June 10: Last day of 5th-Grade STRETCH

Thursday, June 11: CA Math Carnival (during the day for students)

Friday, June 12: Flag Day Ceremony @ 9:30 a.m.—outside front of building (weather permitting)

Tuesday, June 16: Last day of 4th-Grade STRETCH, incoming UPK parent orientation @ 6:00 p.m. @ Sunrise Drive, Kindergarten Musical @ 9:15 a.m.,

Wednesday, June 17: 5th-Grade End-of-Year Field Trip

Thursday, June 18: UPK End-of-Year Celebration @ 9:15 a.m., BoE Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—SMS

Friday, June 19: Juneteenth –schools closed

Tuesday, June 23: 5th-Grade Moving-Up Ceremony @ 9:30 a.m.—OJHS

Wednesday, June 24 and Thursday, June 25: Early dismissal for K-5 @ 11:10 a.m. and UPK @ 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 25: Last day of UPK

Friday, June 26: Last day of school for K-5, 10:00 a.m. dismissal, K-5 report cards available via portal

I have included three articles from the May 2026 edition of *Parents make the difference!* about chores, summer reading and stress management techniques.

Doing Chores Develops Your Elementary Schooler’s Skills

When children are active participants in taking care of their homes, they learn valuable skills and gain a sense of ownership. Chores help children:

- Become “stakeholders.” When your child contributes to household care, it’s an investment in your home. This sense of ownership makes your child more careful and respectful of the shared space.
- Gain essential life skills. Each new chore you teach is a practical hands-on lesson, equipping your child with useful skills that build independence.
- Learn to be less self-centered. Kids understand that everyone in a family or group has a responsibility to the others. They don’t expect others to handle their responsibilities.
- Improve time management skills. Accomplishing homework, activities and chores teaches your child to budget time effectively.
- Develop self-discipline and persistence. Chores require children to stick with a task even when it’s not fun—which helps them develop a strong work ethic and the ability to push through challenges.
- Gain a sense of pride and competence. A completed task provides immediate gratification. If your child is responsible for the laundry, the stack of clean shirts is a visible and rewarding accomplishment.

Help Your Child Create a Summer Reading Habit

Getting children to read in the summer can be tough when outdoor fun is calling. To keep your child reading, simply treat it like any other fun summer activity. Show your child that reading is enjoyable and can happen anywhere, anytime—without feeling like homework.

If you help your child make the connection between reading and the simple pleasures of childhood, the desire to read may last a lifetime.

To take a summer approach to reading:

- Suggest that your child reread a favorite book. Then, find another book by the same author. Or, find one on the same topic.
- Connect books with summer activities—sports books for a summer league player, for instance, or camping books for a camper.
- Let your child stay up past bedtime when a book is just too good to put down.

- Start your child on a series of mystery or thriller books. These page-turners hook kids into a reading habit.
- Encourage a change of venue. Read books at the beach or pool, in a tent or at the park.
- Watch movies, videos and plays based on children’s books. Then, read the books together and compare the versions.
- Share your favorite childhood books with your child.
- Encourage your child to retell or act out stories from books.

Teach Your Child These Healthy Stress-Management Techniques

In a national survey conducted by Boys and Girls Clubs of America, 70% of youth rated their ability to cope with challenges as medium to very low. And 71% said that when something important goes wrong in their life, they can’t stop worrying about it.

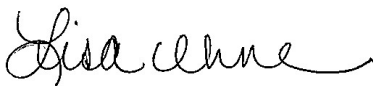
As student stress and anxiety continue to rise, it’s important to share coping strategies with your child. Discuss these techniques:

- Deep breathing. When anxiety strikes, have your child breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth several times.
- Physical activity. Ride bikes, shoot baskets and visit the playground. Encourage your child to take up a sport or another active hobby. Suggest your child play outside with friends. They might play catch, kick a ball around or enjoy a game of hopscotch or tag.
- Spending time outdoors with the sights, sounds and scents of nature. Go for hikes, explore parks or camp out in the backyard.
- Creative pursuits. Drawing, writing, painting, singing or playing a musical instrument can all reduce stress.

Source: The State of Youth Mental Health, Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

On behalf of the staff and me, we wish you all an amazing, healthy summer! Best of luck to our current 5th-grade students and we cannot wait to see our returning students and families in September.

Sincerely,



Lisa Ihne, Ed.D.
Principal

