CHERRY AVENUE BUZZ



October 2026 Edition

Dear Cherry Avenue Families:

September has been a productive month, where everyone has settled in nicely. It was wonderful seeing all of our families at PIN. Thank you, CA PTA, for overseeing school photos. We also had fun at our pep rally, despite homecoming being postponed.

We are so excited to attend the PTA Fall Festival on Friday, October 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please stop by for some fall fun and support our PTA and Cherry Avenue. PTA Red Ribbon Week is taking place during the week of October 26. During this yearly national campaign, we celebrate making healthy choices, along with showing school spirit. A list of events will be provided by the PTA in the near future.

October is Fire Prevention Month. Thank you, West Sayville Fire Department, for accommodating our kinder students on an upcoming field trip to the fire house and for providing assemblies for UPK and first through fifth-grade students, taking place this month.

At Cherry Avenue, in our back-to-basics fashion, we are focusing on friendship this month and designated the week of October 19 to do so. Fun activities await, where each class will be paired with another grade level to practice friendship skills, play board games, read books, and enjoy outdoor activity. Prior to this week, buddies will make two friendship bracelets, with the option of sharing one and keeping one. This activity was made possible, thanks to the generosity of our PTA. On Thursday, October 15, at 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting), we are excited to debut our Cherry Avenue song, which was created by our talented music teacher, Mr. West, and inspired by former student, Emily Finn. Families are invited to join us on the blacktop area behind the library. Our Cherry Avenue community will wear pink on this day, as a way to spread kindness and capture Emily's spirit and strength.

In addition, to support our back-to-basics philosophy and STRIDES, our district wellness program, we are excited to take a break from traditional homework one day per month. We encourage our students to participate in these "assignments" that foster kindness, respect, positivity, and communication. Teachers will allocate time each day following these assignments for students to share their experiences. We look forward to hearing all about these important life skills that help our children grow while building a kinder community and fostering human connections! A calendar will be sent home via Parent Square outlining the dates and suggested assignments; however, the date for this month is Wednesday, October 28.

As Halloween approaches, all students may dress up (no masks/accessories) in costume on Friday, October 30. The kindergarten parade, a tradition here at Cherry Avenue, will take place at 9:30 a.m. Families are invited to join us outside in the front loop to enjoy the performance.

Just a reminder that smart watches/gaming devices (e.g., gizmo and vtech watches) and phones, along with any other non-district owned technology devices are not permitted in school. Thank you for your support and understanding.

I have included two articles from the October 2026 edition of Parents make the difference! Pertaining to handling disappointment and developing a sense of responsibility through chores.

Do You Help Your Child Deal With Disappointment?
At some point, every child experiences disappointment. Are you helping your child learn to handle these moments? Answer yes or no to each question below to find out:
1. Do you help your child understand what can't be changed and what can? "We can't stop the rain, but we can change our plans."
2. Do you encourage your child to look on the bright side? "Your Lego tower fell, but now you get to build something new!"
3. Do you help your child learn from mistakes? "Next time, studying for a few more days could help."
4. Do you enforce the rule: It is OK to feel disappointed, but it is not OK to sulk? Your child's feelings are valid, but sulking does not solve problems.
5. Do you help your child brainstorm next steps—instead of trying to fix the problems yourself?
How well are you doing? If you answered mostly yes, you're demonstrating how to cope when things don't go your child's way. For no answers, try those ideas.

Chores Can Help Your Elementary Schooler Develop Responsibility

Responsible children do better in school and grow up to become productive, responsible adults. One of the best ways to help your child practice responsibility is through family chores.

Chores help your child:

1. Build school skills. Learning to follow directions and complete tasks correctly provides practice for following instructions on school tasks.
2. Feel needed. Everyone wants to feel that their contribution matters. Be sure to acknowledge your child's help, such as: "Elena unloaded the dishwasher, so cleaning up after dinner will be much faster tonight!"
3. Develop planning and time management skills. Figuring out how to finish chores on schedule helps your child learn how to prioritize tasks and manage time appropriately.
4. Feel a sense of ownership. A child who has taken the time to sweep the floor is naturally less likely to track mud back inside.
5. Take pride in effort. The satisfaction of a job well done can carry over to schoolwork and motivate your child to tackle a long-term project or start writing a research paper.
6. Learn essential life skills. Before leaving home, your child should know things like how to prepare simple meals, care for clothing, manage money and keep things clean. The earlier children learn these lessons, the more prepared they will be for the future.

Important October Dates

Thursday, October 1: Board of Education Workshop Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. - District Office
Tuesday, October 6 & Wednesday, October 7: PTA Scholastic Book Fair
Monday, October 12: Columbus Day - no school
Wednesday, October 14: Family Connect Night (no homework or studying for tests)
Thursday, October 15: BoE Business Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. - SHS, debut of school song @ 9:30 a.m. (wear pink)
Friday, October 16: PTA Fall Festival @ 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21: Family Connect Night, STRIDES Color/Glow Run @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - SMS
Week of October 26: PTA Red Ribbon Week
Tuesday, October 27: PTA Picture Retake Day and school red picture day (wear red)
Thursday, October 29: FBI Parent Presentation: *See What, Tell Who* @ 6:30 p.m. - SHS
Friday, October 30: Kindergarten Halloween Parade @ 9:30 a.m. (front loop)

CA Staff Shout-Out

Welcome to our new speech-language pathologist, Ms. Finkelstein! I'm so excited to be joining Cherry Avenue Elementary School as a Speech-Language Pathologist, who is passionate about helping children develop the communication skills they need to express themselves, connect with others, and feel confident in the classroom and beyond. Ms. Finkelstein looks forward to supporting our students, building meaningful relationships, and celebrating their growth and accomplishments along the way. When not at school, she enjoys concerts and cheering on the New York Islanders!



Please feel free to reach out if we can assist you in any way.

Warm regards,

Lisa Ihne, Ed.D.
Principal



