

Superintendent's Report
April 21, 2015

- Centre Avenue School hosted the Beautiful Girl program for parents that strives to improve self-esteem in girls on Thursday and was coordinated by Dawn Ragone our elementary social worker.
- Grades 3-8 students were administered the State ELA test last week and will begin the State math tests tomorrow.
- I am sure you all read reports in the news about the numbers of opt outs across Long Island and the State. Our district had 52% of students in grades 3-8 who were eligible to take the exam opt out of the ELA assessment.
- Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue school teachers will be trained by Dr. Mark Sicklic during a staff meeting April 27 on allergies.
- 7 Million Minutes presentation was held on March 30. We had a great turnout.
- Parent University will be held on April 29, at 7 PM
- The Rhame Avenue PTA held their annual spring fundraiser at Warehouse 5 in Island Park on Friday night. Over 100 guests were there to support our school and the event raised over \$5,000 for our students.
- 6th graders in Mrs. Sheerin's and Mr. Bixhorn's classes have been enjoying their new classroom libraries thanks to a generous grant from the East Rockaway Education Foundation that was awarded to Mrs. Longworth, 6th grade Teaching Assistant.
- Mrs. Banducci's class has been demonstrating how a little kindness goes a long way. The children sent hearts with kind messages to friends at a school all the way in Connecticut where they were added to their kindness tree. They wanted to show just how far a little kindness can actually go.
- Students across all grade levels at Rhame Avenue have recently completed their third writing unit of the school year. This particular unit focused on the narrative writing style and the students were excited to show off their published pieces. Rhame bulletin boards are decorated with these incredible writing pieces throughout the school. You will find everything from 2nd grade narratives written in the same style as Author Mo Willems after reading the *Knuffle Bunny* series, to journal entries written by our 5th grade students from the perspective of Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea after studying their expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase.
- Student Council sponsored a "Garbage Free Lunch Day" in recognition of Earth Day where students were encouraged to produce as little trash as possible to help keep our environment safe and clean.
- College visits are in full swing. Students recently went to the University of New Haven and Queens College. Students enjoy the experience and gain valuable information about the schools, as well as experience interacting with admissions representatives.
- The annual Band Trip to Disney was a success despite some travel challenges. Students were outstanding and handled the obstacles they faced with great poise and maturity. Thanks you to Mr. Schloen, Ms. Murano, Mr. Ceglie and our chaperones.
- The annual blood drive took place this past Monday.
- The Washington trip took place at the end of March and was a success.

- The incoming 6th grade students will visit the middle school on April 28th. Parents will also come for a special orientation on May 4 at 7:00 PM
- The first annual Chopped competition will take place on April 30. Two teams of middle school students will compete. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the event.
- Our Strategic Planning Steering Committee is in full swing.
- The ERSD Prevention Task Force was created in the fall of 2014 with the goal of preventing and reducing substance abuse and other risky behaviors for our youth through information sharing, collaborative planning and the implementation of educational programs and pro-social activities.

In its first year, the prevention task force:

- worked with the police department to provide training and resources needed to identify youth who are impaired by substances
- hosted the district's first Parent University offering workshops on a variety of topics including substance abuse prevention, bullying, transition, and online dangers
- worked with the Village of East Rockaway Recreation Center to create additional positive and healthy activities for youth
- worked on aligning the district's curriculum in the areas of prevention, health and social/emotional development