

Superintendent's Report
January 19, 2016
Board of Education Meeting

Elementary

Congratulations to Centre Avenue's Gr. 5 student, Shannon Monaco, and East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High Schools, Gr. 7 student Victoria Kelly, and Gr. 10 student Andrew Schwarzman, for having the winning essays for the Andrew J. Stern essay contest.

Centre Avenue School will be holding its National Geographic Geography BEE on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. Students will compete on stage and show off their geography skills. Centre has sent two students to the State level in the past and hopes to accomplish that goal once again this year.

The NED Show was held at Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools today as part of our continued efforts to provide all children with opportunities to build character. The assembly is part of a character based education program that centers around three important messages that have lifelong relevance. Never Give Up, Encourage Others and Do Your Best. Thanks to school social worker, Dawn Ragone, for bringing in this high-powered assembly and motivating students to make good decisions.

The fifth grade students at Centre Avenue were recently treated to a pizza lunch compliments of Assemblyman Brian Curran. Mr. Curran came in and presented a government lesson to our students. Brian Curran was impressed with our students' knowledge of our political structure and current events.

Dr. Parker is back in district this week working in both elementary schools to facilitate MOY data meetings with Grades K-4. We will be using our most recent data gathered to continue making informed decisions about how to best support our students.

Winter Writing Samples will soon decorate the hallways at Rhame Avenue. Students have been working hard to finish their "Winter Themed" pieces which include poetry, personal narratives, How To Flip Books, and imaginary stories. We are looking forward to seeing the beautiful work of our students displayed on bulletin boards throughout the hallways. Next, our students across all grade levels will be working on "Research Based Informational Writing" followed by "Narrative Writing to Develop Real or Imagined Experiences."

Second grade students at Rhame Avenue recently visited the Long Island Children's Museum after learning about geography and the Seven Continents in school. The students explored geography in two separate "hands-on" exhibits and learned more about cardinal direction points and graphing. As a culminating project at the museum, the students were able to use what they learned to create "treasure maps" which was an exciting experience for everyone.

Both fifth grade classes are reading the novel titled *Holes*, by Louis Sachar. As a whole class and in small group literature circles, students will be discussing character development, author's

craft, and themes of the novel. In social studies, students are learning about early peoples of the Americas and how they migrated here. Using their tablets, students are working in small groups to research the Adena, Haida, and Taino cultures. They will be sharing their findings with the class after creating a collaborative poster detailing their research.

The East Rockaway School District is pleased to announce that 20 district students had been selected to participate in the Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Festival concerts at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts this past weekend.

The students selected at Centre Avenue School are:

Matthew Pollackov- Trumpet

Sandra Quintanilla- Orchestra Violin

Chorus Sopranos: Ava Araoz, Emma Araoz, Lauren Kelly & Sarah Warszawiak

The students selected at Rhame Avenue are:

Joseph Bruzzo, Alto Sax

Sofia Valdebenito, Viola

Chorus Sopranos: Clare Acuti and Anthony Zappala

The students selected at East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School are:

Chorus: Natalia Cuttitta, Samantha Marx, Daniel Salazar

Band: Sarina Gonzalez, Kaitlyn Maltempi, Laura Millar, Emma Nicoletti

Orchestra: Andrew Schwarzman, Elizabeth Son and Gabriella Walsh

East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School

Danny Fusco broke the East Rockaway scoring record in Boys Varsity basketball, surpassing 1987 graduate, Mike West. Danny scored 28 points against Wheatley to break the record. This came shortly after he scored his 1,000th point against Carle Place. I, as well as Mr. Robinson were present when Danny broke the school record. His photo appeared in *Newsday*. Congratulations Danny on this great accomplishment.

The Guidance Department hosted two guest speakers recently. Dan Tramuta, Vice-President for enrollment at SUNY Fredonia spoke for nearly two hours on the changes coming down the pike in the financial process for college admissions. Daniel Maldonado from Nassau Community College gave a motivational address before the Curriculum Fair last Thursday. Both speakers were very well received.

Please join our middle school students and teachers this Thursday at the Science Fair beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Technology teacher, Nick Cimorelli, has been selected to present at the International Technology and Engineering Association's 78th annual conference, in Washington, D.C., in March. Mr. Cimorelli will be presenting the results of his classroom implementation of the Engineering for All Food Unit. The presentation will include an overview of the unit, which focuses on the growing food shortages the world faces and how engineering can potentially address human

challenges. Additionally, he will present to a group of teachers from across the nation on ways to embed math and science into authentic contexts, addressing national standards, planning instruction so that it fits into middle school programs and how he implemented the materials in his classroom.

The high school student council hosted a blood drive on Saturday, December 19, 2015, with a total of 51 donations from students, staff and community members. Thank you to all who donated.

Mr. Spero has been working on the selection of a mascot for the High School. A team at the High School began the process of soliciting student ideas through our art teachers, and reviewed several proposals and have been moving closer to a recommendation to the Board of Education for the new mascot. They will have a final recommendation within the next several weeks.

You may have seen the article in today's Newsday regarding results from a recent audit. The School District participated in an audit conducted by the Office of the New York State Comptroller. The audit involved purchasing procedures in the East Rockaway School District. The District has implemented new practices and will be following the recommendations made by the State.