

Superintendent's Report
March 24, 2015

- The first meeting of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee took place on March 10. The Committee reviewed baseline information regarding our school district, including enrollment data, demographic data, achievement data and financial data. The district's new mission statement, *Setting a Course for Excellence*, was unveiled and the four priority areas established by the Board of Education were shared. These areas are: Achievement, Opportunity, Communication and Innovation. The four priority areas will form the basis of our goals during the next five years and will also be the foundation for the Strategic Planning Steering Committee's work.

At our next meeting on March 31, we will review the results from the survey which was sent to the committee members and work together to prepare a community survey which will be launched in April. Our hope is to get input from as many stakeholders as possible. The survey will be placed on our website and focus groups will be conducted in the community with the dates and locations to be determined.

The Members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee are: Trish Albate, Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, Marie Anderson, Mary Boccuzzi, Mariah Capone, Dineen Cilluffo, Jake Caracciolo, Austin Caracciolo, Christine DelValle, Theresa Devlin, TJ DiPietro, Danielle Fiorentino, Keith Gamache, Michelle Gamache, John Giannotti, Tara Gonzalez, Meridyth Hansen, Mona Hecht, Carol Hernandez, Courtney Jackson, Joann Krudis, Dr. Richard J. Meagher, Andrew Miller, Patti Nicoletti, Kristin Ochtera, Vicki Perlman Alspector, John Piccarella, Geraldine Pizzo, Jeanine Prucha, Stephanie Quiroz, Michael J. Racanelli, Devin Ralph, Terence Randell, Dina Reilly, James Robinson, Lisa Ruiz, Carol Sanders, Danielle Schaezle, Stacy Sommer, Neil Schloth, Joseph Spero, Samantha Yagnisis

Thank you to all our committee members for volunteering their time.

- Congratulations to 5th grade, Madeleine Prucha, for qualifying for the State level of the National Geographic Geography Bee. Madeleine competed with thousands of grade 4 through 8 students. This is only the second student to make the State Bee from Centre Avenue in the many years of the Bee's existence.
- Centre and Rhame Avenue Schools held Kindergarten Registration last week. If you know of a child that has not registered, please call Carol Hernandez at 887-8300 ext. 440.
- Elementary parent/ teacher conferences are this week. Please call your school for an appointment if you have not done so already.

- Centre and Rhame Avenue will be going on their Greenkill environmental field trip March 30, 30 and April 1st. Students will be learning about teamwork, pond ecology, forest ecology, orienteering, and rock wall climbing.
- Centre Avenue School is hosting a “Beautiful Girl” workshop for district parents on April 20, 9-11 a.m. in the library. The program helps promote self-confidence in girls and their achievements.
- 4th grade students in Mrs. Kane’s class at Rhame Avenue Elementary School have been working hard to fulfill a pledge to complete more “Random Acts of Kindness.” Through a partnership with Mepham High School in Bellmore, students are making shamrocks adorned with messages of hope and positivity for a St. Baldrick’s event held every year at Mepham High School to help raise money for pediatric cancer research. The shamrocks will fill the halls of the high school with wonderful phrases and quotes of encouragement. We will be following the same model here at Rhame to help spread a positive vibe for all students.
- The Art Club, run by Rhame teacher, Allison Gerbert, was busy creating beautiful recycling posters to enter into the “Covanta Twenty-Fifth Annual Recycling Poster Contest.” These students are also helping to decorate our school and raise awareness about recycling and how we all can play an important role in helping to keep our Earth as clean as possible.
- 6th grade students at Rhame Avenue have partnered with our 1st graders as “Reading Buddies.” Each week the children find time to read stories to one another and engage in activities to help make reading a fun and enjoyable experience for all. Our 6th grade students are really stepping up to the plate as model students and role models for our younger children. It is amazing to see these students mature and prepare themselves for middle school. They are always looking for ways to help their fellow peers and serve the community.
- The students and faculty at Rhame Avenue have been participating in the W.O.W. or “Word of the Week” challenge during the month of March. This activity, sponsored by the Vocabulary Action Team, challenges students to guess a sophisticated vocabulary word based upon a given picture. Students are encouraged to use dictionaries, thesauruses and other student guesses to refine their entries. The Vocabulary Action Team also sponsored an event this past week called, “Dress as Your Favorite Word Day”
- Rhame Avenue Elementary School students recently performed in the annual Talent Show. This event was sponsored by the PTA and allowed all students to showcase their talents. The children worked hard at rehearsals to choreograph dances with their friends, sing songs, act out skits and much, much more! The audience was filled with excitement and the Talent Show was a big hit!

- In celebration of Youth Art Month, we are showcasing our talented students. We started off with the prestigious Nassau All-County Art Exhibit, which took place on March 15 at Adelphi University. Our student artists included Katrina Ipke (3), Grace Wayar (5), Sophia Passanisi (6) Amy Ogura (10), Alisha Kahn (12), Theresa Fusco (12), Elizabeth Seiban (12), Camila Garate (12), and Senior Scholarship Winner, Kelsey Radigan. Currently at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville, the 6th annual Art in Heart Exhibit is showing until April 19 hosted by the Long Island Art Teachers Association. Elementary exhibitors include Jordan Lu, Manaka Ogura and Nicholas Nunez from Centre Avenue and from Rhame Avenue, Kara Stroh, Leslie Madera and Nicole Acampora.
- In June, The New York State Art Teacher's Association will be hosting their Legislative Exhibit in Albany for our State Legislators to view the outstanding talents and to recognize the impressive art education programs throughout New York State. Student exhibitors will be Grace Sommer (2), Isabella Abruzzo (6), Adriana DeMatteo (2) and Brian Boyce (6)
- Seniors, Diana Sharkey (baritone saxophone), Brianna Holmes (trombone), and Junior, Emma Nicoletti (percussion) were selected amongst students from 26 different high schools throughout Long Island to participate in the Tilles Festival Band at the 2015 LIU Post Band Festival. This festival will take place at the Tilles Center at LIU Post throughout the weekend of April 24-26, with rehearsals on Friday and Saturday, and a final concert on Sunday, April 26 at 7 p.m. Students will be performing the music of composer, Rossano Galante, who will serve a residency throughout that weekend and will conduct his own music in concert. This should be an inspiring and musically enriching experience for all.
- For Music in Our Schools month the music department invited the 6th grade students to rehearse with the high school Band, Orchestra and Chorus students. The event took place on March 24th- the elementary students arrived at the high school at 8:00 a.m. where they were treated to a faculty performance, engaged in some "ice breaker" exercises and then move into their performing groups for an intense rehearsal with the high school students. At the conclusion of the rehearsal portion of the event, each group put on their own performance for their peers.
- The Girls Varsity Basketball Team won the Nassau County Basketball Officials Sportsmanship Award this past season along with New York State Team Scholar Award, receiving a team average of 90%!
- This year we celebrated the 79th annual Rock Rivalry competition. This was easily one of the best years in memory regarding participation, sportsmanship, and creativity. This year also included a new academic component, "Quiz Bowl," which featured teams of four squaring off and answering trivia questions. The faculty is quite proud of our students and their efforts and accomplishments.

- We are proud to announce that this year's Valedictorian is Diana Sharkey and our Salutatorian is Courtney Jackson. Each of these young ladies has distinguished herself in academics, leadership, and character. We could not have two finer representatives of our school.