

Superintendent's Report
Board of Education Meeting
March 22, 2016

Elementary

On April 7, 2016, the East Rockaway School District will be hosting "7 Million Minutes - Part 2." This is another round of workshops for all district parents to insure student success. Administrators will be presenting parent workshops on various topics. This year we invited students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 to join their parents. Students will also be participating in workshops and pizza will be served for students. Sign up can be done on our website or RSVP by returning the flyer that will be sent home. There will also be a Connect-Ed reminder.

Last Friday and Monday, I met with Assemblymen Brian Curran and Todd Kaminsky. Also joining me were Mr. Robinson, PTA representatives Ms. Devlin and Ms. Acuti, as well as Board members Ms. Ochtera, Mr. Schloth and Mr. Gamache. Many useful conversations took place. We expressed our concerns for long term assurances of money, APPR guidelines, restoration of GEA; upcoming state testing, the opt-out movement, and the new chancellor. The meetings were fruitful and we thanked them for coming to East Rockaway.

Rhame and Centre Avenue sixth grade students are presently upstate at the YMCA in Port Jervis for their annual Sixth Grade Environmental Field trip at Greenkill. The principals have reported to me that the weather is beautiful and the kids have enjoyed their first full day experiencing "project adventure," a series of team building activities. I have received some pictures back. The students are scheduled to arrive back in East Rockaway on Wednesday afternoon.

Kindergarten registration was held last week at Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools. We want to thank our office staff, schools nurses, speech and language therapists, school psychologists and the registrar for scheduling appointments and screening the children in preparation for their arrival into Kindergarten this September. If you know of a child that will be 5 years old, on or before December 1st, please have their parents call Carol Hernandez at the Registrar's Office.

Focus on Careers week took place across both Elementary Schools at the beginning of March and we want to thank our Elementary Social Worker Dawn Ragone for coordinating all of the exciting events and experiences that took place for our students. Some of our visitors included doctors, lawyers, police officers, firefighters, nurses and TV/Radio Personalities just to name a few. The kids were energized and motivated to learn about a wide variety of career possibilities.

Fifth and sixth grade students across both Elementary Schools received Puberty lessons this past week from our Athletic Director, Mr. Dom Vulpis and High School Physical Education Teacher, Ms. Karin Leary. The students were also given a presentation by Ms. Dawn Ragone about the Social/Emotional component of growing up and feeling good.

Grades 3-8 NYS Assessments are scheduled to be administered in the beginning of April for ELA and Math. A recent letter went home regarding procedures for the assessments and requesting parents who plan to opt out their children from the tests notify us as soon as possible

so we may prepare for the logistics of the assessments.

March is "Music in our Schools Month" here in East Rockaway. The students at Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools have been treated to a variety of performances from our orchestra, band and chorus. The 6th grade students took a field trip to the High School for their annual "music orientation program" led by Mr. Tom Schloen and the high school music department. Select students at both elementary schools also performed their NYSSMA solos for all to enjoy at this month's PTA meetings. Thanks to Ms. Lalama, Ms. Weil and Mr. Ceglio for all of their hard work and appreciation for music that has been translated into the hearts of their students. *

East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School

Guidance Department: The following activities are happening in the Guidance Department:

- Learning Styles inventories with all Grade 7 students in the College and Careers classes.
- Junior college planning sessions with all Grade 11 students this month.
- All students in Grades 8 – 11 have completed the course selection process.
- The counseling department is excited to announce the next college visit will be to Marist College on April 7th.
- Ms. Spiteri and Mr. O'Driscoll have been conducting counseling groups with students, addressing academic issues, goal setting and school success skills. These groups will continue throughout the spring.

College application decisions are arriving and the bulletin board of acceptances is displaying the good news in our hallway for all students, staff and visitors to view.

Music Department: March is District-Wide "Music in our Schools Month." On March 4th and March 5th several of our music students participated in the NYSSMA Piano Festival at Nassau Community College. Elementary and Junior High instrumental music students are participating in the Harry Chapin Practice-A-Thon. Money raised will go toward Long Island Food Banks. Our Grade 6 music orientation program took place on March 8th. Ms. Silver's Grade 7 general music students have written a mini opera on *Lord of the Flies*. They will be rehearsing and presenting this in class over the course of the next two weeks. It is a direct tie into the Gr. 7 English Curriculum.

NYSSMA students performed solo performances for "Music in our Schools Month" at the Rhame Avenue School PTA meeting on March 9th and at the Centre Avenue School PTA meeting on March 14th. On March 30th students will be travelling to River East Elementary school for Part 1 of the "River East Rockaway ELA Music Project." There are 32 students in Grades 8-12 participating in this program.

Daniel Quadrino, a graduate of Rhame Avenue School and East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School spoke to fifth and sixth graders for Career Week just in time for "Music in Our Schools Month." He shared his passion for acting, singing, dancing and song writing with a PowerPoint presentation of the Broadway Shows he has played in. He is currently in the cast

of *Wicked* on Broadway.

Art Department: March 20th was the Art Supervisors Association Art Show at Farmingdale State College. Several of our students were represented in the Nassau Community College 18th Annual Arts and Science Fair, “What Matters?” Jake Wooding, one of our eighth grader's art work, won in his division. His work will be on display at the College in their G Building for two weeks from March 21st to April 4th.

LIATA/Nassau Art in Heart- Massapequa Mall - March 18-April 17

Colors of Long Island- Long Island Museum- Through May 1

The 80th Edition of Rock Rivalry was a huge success. Congratulations to the senior class on their victory!

Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Basketball team on their Class C Long Island Championship victory over Pierson/Bridgehampton. Congratulations to the Boys Varsity team for reaching the championship game and competing against the Stony Brook School.