

## Superintendent's Report

The Kiwanis Kids Clubs are up and running across both elementary schools in Grades 4-6. In each K-Kids Club, students work together on community service projects, develop leadership potential and build moral character. We are thankful to the Kiwanis for bringing us this opportunity and helping to enrich our school culture.

Achieve 3000 implementation has begun across both elementary schools. Teachers received a full day of training this past week and students are beginning to access this new program in order to help build reading strength and stamina through close reading of rigorous informational text with targeted scaffolding. Students work independently with tablets on a grade-level topic that is precisely matched to their Lexile® level. This preliminary effort allows students to build reading strategies, and it also prepares them for the grade-appropriate, whole-class instruction that follows.

The Centre Avenue PTA is sponsoring the Reflections Program and is working with students and parents. The National PTA Reflections Program welcomes students of all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Students reflect on a theme, create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts and earn positive recognition for their achievements.

Centre Avenue Visitors Day will be held this Friday 9-10 a.m. Parents will get the opportunity to watch their children learn in the classroom. This program helps foster the home and school connection.

Elementary students in Grades 5 and 6 are working on a new program to improve reading skills. The Scholastic Guided Reading program uses nonfiction texts and packed with new nonfiction books and instructional resources that explicitly support higher standards with strategically challenging texts in a complex text continuum.

Centre Avenue recently had the Nassau County Police Department meet with Grade 5 and 6 students to learn about cyber-bullying and the dangers of social media websites.

A number of students in all three of our schools have been accepted into the 2016 Nassau Music Educators All-County Music Festival. They will all be recognized for their achievement at a later Board of Education meeting.

Our elementary schools recently purchased subscriptions to RAZ Kids for K-2 students to ensure success in the classroom and beyond with engaging, developmentally appropriate leveled books at 29 reading levels to increase comprehension and fluency. Students can read texts at their level and in their areas of interest anytime with 24/7 Web access to practice what they need to become better, more confident readers.

Rhame Avenue students have recently completed their first major writing task of the school year. Classrooms across every grade level focused their writing tasks around fictional literature and students responded to these various works by formulating their own opinions and supporting them with evidence from the text. Our bulletin boards throughout the hallways are now

decorated with these beautiful student work samples. We are extremely proud of the progress our students have made with their writing and look forward to their Research Based Informational Writing pieces which are up next!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams have been working with Laurie Pendleton, an educational consultant and literacy expert brought on by the District to help strengthen and enhance our guided reading program in the upper elementary grades. Last week, Laurie visited classrooms, modeled lessons, de-briefed with teachers and helped support our vision of reading growth and success for all students.

### East Rockaway High School

The High School has expanded its administration of the MAP assessment to provide data for the AIS teachers to better differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of individual students. This is one strategy amongst many to help strengthen the AIS program.

Thinking Maps implementation is underway. The team of five teacher trainers has gone through three days of training, and led a faculty wide training on Election Day. Maps are already being used throughout the building. A full-scale implementation will begin second semester after teachers have had one-on-one support from the trainers. The teacher trainer team consists of Patricia Murphy, Sara Perrone, Rob Kennedy, Rebeca Rodriguez and Val Parasmio.

Sara Perrone and Frank Altamore also recently provided turn-key training for Compass Learning, a computer-based math and reading program, to help support teachers who are using this new program in their AIS classes.

East Rockaway High School is proud to say that the Geometry results on last June's Common Core exam demonstrated over 7% growth, which was the highest rate of growth in Nassau County. Congratulations to Mrs. Palazzolo, Mr. Altamore and the entire department, and Mrs. Hansen for her leadership.

The new research initiative is underway across all grade levels. Students are performing an inquiry-based research project culminating in a written paper. The initiative is modeled after the New York State model and can be found on [engageny.org](http://engageny.org).

Ms. Ruiz reported that this evening the Board of Education approved the LI-SPAN (Long Island School Practitioner Action Network) Agreement. This is a no cost program for the District. It is made up of a consortium of school mental health professionals who come together to provide training and hold monthly meetings for school staff in the event a school district experiences a crisis. They will deploy trained mental health staff to the district if the need arises. This is not only beneficial to our district but other districts who may not have the staff to handle a crisis.

Ms. Ruiz spoke about the upcoming forum on substance abuse treatment and prevention on December 3, 2105, at 7:30 p.m. in the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School Band room. This forum is presented in conjunction with the East Rockaway School District's Prevention Task

Force and Assemblyman Todd Kaminski. She thanked Ms. Guggino-Hastings and Ms. Mednick for coordinating this forum. She encouraged all community members to attend this informative discussion on drug prevention and treatment.

Ms. Ruiz wished all community members a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with their families; we all have much to be thankful for and she is thankful as well.