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Sachem's Best

WAVERLY FIRST GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN "THE GREAT BEDTIME STORY PAJAMA DRIVE"

Students in Ms. Ryan Shaw's first-grade class at Waverly Elementary School in the Sachem School District have just completed their successful participation in "The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive," a partnership between Scholastic Book Clubs and The Pajama Program to help provide new books and pajamas to children who need them most.

On November 24, the class celebrated their charitable effort with an in-class "pajama party." The children wore their pajamas to school and brought in their favorite book to read and share with others. Although the class' pajama drive was already underway, "this celebration really motivated my kids and helped them connect with the idea of other children sitting in their brand-new pajamas, enjoying a good book," explained Ms. Shaw.

By the end of November, Ms. Shaw's class of 24 students collected 33 pairs of brand-new pajamas to donate to the program. Congratulations to these Waverly students and their families for their selfless donations.

Last year, caring classrooms across the country donated almost 18,000 pairs of pajamas, and Scholastic Book Clubs matched every single pair with a new book. This year, Scholastic Book Clubs and the nonprofit Pajama Program strive to provide 25,000 brand-new pajamas and books to needy children living in group homes, shelters, foster care and orphanages.

On November 24, first graders in Ms. Ryan Shaw's class enthusiastically read their favorite books in comfortable pajamas to show their support for The Pajama Program.



January 2011

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SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY TEACHES WENONAH ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ABOUT THE WATER CYCLE

On Wednesday, November 10, 2010, Wenonah Elementary School in the Sachem School District welcomed Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) Administrative Coordinator Donna Mancuso to speak with students about the water cycle.

The curriculum used in the presentation was based on New York State testing standards. With a focus on the source and protection of Long Island's drinking water, Ms. Mancuso used visual aids to explain the water cycle. Using a model with aquifers, she demonstrated the effects of a gas station leak or the damage everyday pesticides can cause to wells. "Diagrams, handouts, a quiz and certificates are all used to ensure we have fun while learning about water," explained Mancuso.

For the past six years, the Authority has been educating elementary and high school students across Suffolk County. Their elementary educational outreach program targets students in grades four through eight and has been incredibly successful with continual growth. Last year, the SCWA traveled to more than 80 schools, and they plan to speak to even more students this year.

"Public education is an essential ingredient in maintaining the quality of our water resources. It is critical for all Long Islanders to understand that our water comes from the ground beneath us, and the earlier children understand that, the better," stated Jeffrey Szabo Suffolk County Water Authority CEO. "We are proud to offer this presentation at no cost to all schools in Suffolk County."



Ms. Mancuso teaches the water cycle to students.

SACHEM THUNDER 9U TRYOUTS

Every Sunday

Beginning January 9th 11am

Merrimac Elementary School

1090 Broadway, Holbrook 11741

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SEQUOYA SIXTH GRADER NAMED LONG ISLAND YOUNG SCHOLAR OF MATHEMATICS

Frank Panasci, Principal of Sequoya Middle School in the Sachem School District, is pleased to announce that sixth grader Cynthia Brand has been named a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics and has been accepted into the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students. This program is run by SUNY Old Westbury and supported by many prestigious organizations.

Cynthia competed against 850 top-ranked students nominated by school districts throughout Long Island for this honor. Only 75 students were selected, which indicates that Cynthia is among the top one-tenth of one percent for math students at her grade level. Stacy Rose, the GATE teacher at Waverly Elementary School in Sachem, mentored Cynthia and guided her through the application and testing process for the Institute. It is of note that Cynthia had a perfect score on her Grade 5 Math Assessment.

Students involved in this program will spend 60 hours in class and on related projects covering mathematical topics including algebra, geometry, number theory, probability, theory of finite differences and mass point geometry. Related science topics, such as developing a profile of the ocean floor, will also be studied. Past Institute graduates have gone on to win prestigious national and international math, science and engineering awards and contests.

Congratulations to Cynthia and her family on this wonderful honor! Ms. Mancuso teaches the water cycle to students



Sequoya sixth-grade student Cynthia Brand is congratulated by Principal Frank Panasci and fifth-grade GATE teacher Ms. Stacy Rose.

COUNSELING

Sachem Community Youth Services offers free, short term, formal counseling to youth and their families residing in the Brookhaven portion of Sachem School District. Counseling is being provided by a social worker. Please call 585-1811 to make an appointment.

SACHEM CYS YOUTH COUNCIL

Do you want to make a difference in your community but don't know how you can help? If you are between the ages of 10-20 and want to join a team of other teens in order to organize community service projects, plan trips, and have a voice in your community, call Sachem Community Youth Services at 585-1811.

CAYUGA ELEMENTARY STUDENTS READ FOR THOSE IN NEED

Twenty-one third graders in Mr. Sangiorgi's class at Cayuga Elementary School in the Sachem School District are participating in Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomCare program, a philanthropy-based literacy campaign designed to teach children about the joys and importance of reading and giving.

The students in Mr. Sangiorgi's class have been presented with the challenge to read ten books each. Upon the successful completion of the challenge, Scholastic Book Clubs, a division of Scholastic, the global children's publishing and media company, will donate one million new books to disadvantaged children nationwide.

"I think it's a great program that not only promotes reading for enjoyment, but also teaches the value of helping others," said Mr. Sangiorgi. "So far this year, our class has read 220 books and counting...The students are very excited that all their effort is going to help out other children!"



Mr. Sangiorgi's third-grade class at Cayuga Elementary School in Sachem has read more than 220 books, which will help put new books in the hands of disadvantaged children across New York through Scholastic's ClassroomCares program.

FREE BASKETBALL NIGHTS

Open gym nights for basketball on Mondays, when school is in session, at Sagamore Middle School from 7pm - 9:30pm. Students ages 10-18yrs. Must have current Sachem School ID to enter. For more information please call Sachem Community Youth Services at 585-1811.

YARDWORKERS AVAILABLE

Sit back, relax, and let our youth take care of your yardwork jobs! Sachem Community Youth Services has many pre-screened youth looking to be hired to do yardwork around your house. For more information, please call 585-1811.



FREE ARTS & CRAFTS PROGRAM

Sachem Community Youth Services offers a free Arts and Crafts program for ages 7-12 every Tuesday from 5-6PM. Come be creative and have fun! Please call 585-1811 for more information.

