

SAMOSET PTSA SENTINEL

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A LETTER FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT

The Samoset PTSA hit the ground running in September and has not stopped since. We kicked off the school year with the National PTA Reflections Contest. Congratulations to all of our students who participated and thank you to the staff members who continually support this program. A very successful book fair was held in October. The Samoset staff members were extremely creative in their efforts to encourage students to read! Once again the snow fell in early December as we hosted our second annual Craft Fair. Make no mistake: our Craft Fair was a huge success. A little bit of snow did not keep the Samoset Community from coming out and doing a little holiday shopping. Thankfully spring is just around the corner and the planning has begun for our Chinese Auction on May 1st. The funds raised by the PTSA are used to support the many Cultural Arts programs that enhance the curriculum of our students throughout the year.

A world of thanks is owed to the many parent volunteers and faculty members who work behind the scenes to make this all possible. Without these people, who continually go above and beyond, Samoset would not be the wonderful middle school that it is.

Please consider getting involved by joining one of our many committees or by becoming a member of the executive board. There is a nominating form at the back of this newsletter for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Wishing you and your students a happy and successful end to the school year!

Janet Coleman

PTSA President



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
PTSA MEETING DATES

*** THANK YOU ***

Meeting Dates:

There are still a few more PTSA meetings scheduled for this year:

Thursday, March 19

Tuesday, May 12

Monday, June 8

Please consider joining us at 7:30 p.m., as we begin to plan for the next school year!

Thank You !



A special thank you to **Ms. Miller** (Samoset Math Department chairperson) who was our guest speaker at our October meeting. Ms. Miller provided parents with an overview of the math department and demonstrated how to use the on-line textbook as a way to help our students succeed in math. We would also like to thank **Mr. Higgins** (Samoset Social Studies Department Chairperson) and **Mr. Saccullo** (Samoset Social Studies Department) who both attended the January PTSA meeting and gave a very informative talk on writing DBQ's. There was a great discussion which answered many questions and excellent hand outs were available for reference.

The Samoset PTSA truly appreciates all that you do for our students!

PTA REFLECTIONS.... “WOW!!”

Reflections is a national PTA competition that encourages the arts and creative expression in our schools. The theme of this years competition was “WOW.” Students had to take this theme and express their ideas within the following categories: literature, dance, film, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Samoset Middle School made quite a showing and had the most winners of any school in the Sachem Central School district. Over 70 students entered the contest. Fifteen finalists were chosen and sent to the Suffolk County level of the competition.

Visual Arts: *Shelby Guercio, Diandra Reyes, Joseph Hannett*

Literature: *Max Anthony Boisrond, Theresa Grück*

Film Production: *Evan Walters, Brandon Chun, Raphael Prodomou, Brian Savona*

Photography: *Stephanie Busch, James Brako-McComb, Chris Piro*

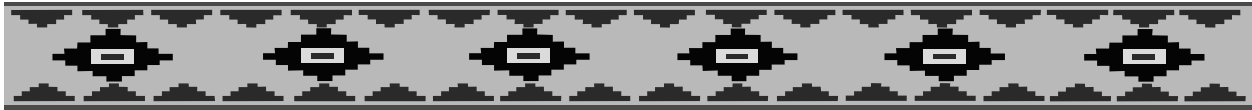
Musical Composition: *Phoebe R. Ambrosino, Zabin Huy, Sarah Liberti*

Of those fifteen, four students received **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** and have now advanced in the competition and will compete against children from throughout New York State. They are as follows:

Evan Walters, Brandon Chun, James Brako-McComb, and Phoebe R. Ambrosino

Special thanks go to Ms. Cavanaugh, Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. DePierro, Mr. Lucas and Mr. Gerrity for your support with this program. Without your cooperation and encouragement it would not have been such a success.

Get ready for next year's PTA Reflections Program, “**Beauty Is...**,” which begins in the Fall of 2009.



PTA MEMBERSHIP 2008-2009

The Samoset PTSA has **331 members** this year!

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and students who supported the PTSA membership drive. A special thank you to Mrs. Goldhammer and Ms. Sbordone for organizing the staff membership drive.



Fall Membership Drive Bagel Breakfast Class Winners:

6th grade: Mrs. Santucci

7th grade: Mrs. Jagos

8th grade: Mrs. Creighton

When you become a PTA member you are not only supporting your local PTA but you are also supporting the state and national PTA that work tirelessly lobbying our policy makers and elected officials on issues that are important to the education, health and well being of all students. For more information visit www.NYSPTA.org.



CULTURAL ARTS CORNER



Samoset has been busy with Arts in Education programs sponsored by Samoset PTSA. From our first program in September to the last program in June, Samoset students are exposed to a variety of curriculum enhancing programs that are Samoset teacher approved. Annual favorites include the *Eastern Woodland Indian* program and *Revolution in the Classroom* for our seventh grade students, *Storigami* (a program designed to enhance listening skills while teaching a bit of origami) and Michael Harrold for our sixth graders and Michael Carbonaro with his rendition of Edgar Allen Poe's "*The Tell Tale Heart*" for our eighth graders.

Character education and diversity always play a large role in Samoset's Arts in Education programs. Each year, a multi-media production designed to capture the attention of our media savvy youth is brought in for the entire student body. This captivating program uses today's popular music, lyrics and images projected onto three enormous screens to reach our students. A powerful presentation, this program has had a great impact on Samoset's students. Diversity is explored in the engaging program brought to Samoset students by Dennis Oehler and Disabilities Unlimited. Mr. Oehler is a Gold Medal Para-Olympian who explores, challenges and discusses the meaning of "disability" with our seventh graders.

Still to come this year is a full stage presentation of *Four Score and Seven Years Ago*, a play based on the Civil War, the *All American Game Show* which combines educational questions with some good old fashioned fun and the *Dirtmeister* to wrap up the year.

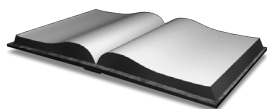
Samoset PTSA has a strong history of supporting the Cultural Arts program. It has always been a wise investment. Each year, we receive "money back" (in the form of BOCES credit) for every dollar we have spent on Cultural Arts during the previous year. This year we received 44.1 cents "back" on every dollar we spent last year. Reimbursement percentages had held steady in recent years, but due to the state of the New York State's budget, this year's reimbursement was drastically reduced. This year's 44.1% return was a 9% reduction from the previous year's reimbursement. This reduction cost Samoset over \$3000 in anticipated cultural arts money (overall). Despite the drop in this year's reimbursement, we were able to replicate all programs from previous years due to the PTSA's commitment to funding this program.

Thank you to all PTSA members for continuing to support the Cultural Arts program for our students.

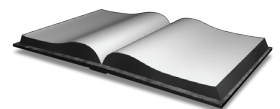
WHAT IS THE 10,000 BOOK CHALLENGE ??

This past fall Samoset's Building Leadership Team challenged the Samoset students, faculty and staff to read 10,000 books by year end. The launching of this challenge has resulted in over 2,000 books having been read thus far this year. To celebrate each milestone the students were rewarded with a Pajama Day for reading the first 1,000 books. Recently, at the 2,000 book milestone, music was played during all lunch periods. For every additional thousand books read, more great incentives will be offered. Some include a "No Homework" day, key chains, ice cream parties and movies at lunch. If we reach our ultimate goal, we'll see Ms. Cavanaugh in the dunk tank!!

In the main hallway near the cafeteria, BLT has posted "bricks" on which the title of the book read and the reader's name are listed. Our bulletin board is teeming with thousands of books read by students, faculty, and staff. Additional bricks are available in the main office, the library and from your homeroom teachers. Keep your eyes on our 10,000 Book Challenge Thermometer and see the "temperature" rise as we climb our way to 10,000 Books. Samoset is closing in on the 3,000 book mark. Every book you read counts toward our goal—including books read for a class, during D.E.A.R. time, at home for fun, or read aloud to a younger brother or sister. Let's rise to the challenge!



KEEP READING SAMOSET!!!!



CHINESE AUCTION: Friday, May 1st

The planning is underway for our Spring Chinese Auction fundraiser. Homerooms will begin collecting items to create homeroom baskets. Any student or staff member that contributes an item to the class basket will receive five free tickets to be used on the night of the auction.

We are always looking for volunteers to help collect donations, make baskets and help out on the night of the auction. Please e-mail Michele McKinney at michelemckinney1@aol.com.



Scholastic ½ Price Spring Book Fair: April 21, 22, & 23.

The Spring Book Fair will be held April 21st through April 23rd. Every English/ELA class will visit the book fair. This is a great opportunity for the students to stock up on books for summer reading!

WORKING WITH THE STARS: APRIL 23

April 23, 2009, will mark Sachem's 6th annual Career Night for all Sachem 7th graders. The guest speaker at career night will be **Mr. Robert Greifeld**, a 1975 graduate of Sachem High School. Mr. Greifeld is the CEO of Nasdaq which was recently recognized by Forbes magazine as Company of the Year. Also, 7th graders will have the opportunity to meet with and learn from 3 different professionals who will speak about their careers. Registration for this event will be coming home soon!

On-Line Announcements:

Check out Samoset's daily announcements on-line and keep up to date on all the PTSA and Samoset school events and happenings posted during morning announcements. Access "Samoset's News" through www.Sachem.edu.



SAMOSSET HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

What would a Holiday Craft Fair be without a little bit of snow! On Sunday, December 7th, the PTSA hosted the 2nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Once again the Samoset community did not let the snow stop them from coming out to do some holiday shopping from the over 80 vendors who participated. To round out the shopping experience there was great food, holiday music and Samoset students who cheerfully wrapped gifts.

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us next year on Sunday, December 6th, to kick off your holiday season!

SPRING PICTURES

Picture Day is Tuesday, April 28.

These will be casual shots taken on a white background, so be sure to wear your brightest colors!

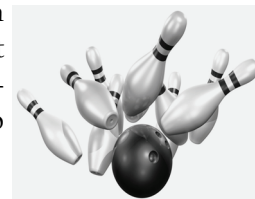
All students will be photographed and you will have an opportunity to see the pictures before you purchase them.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please continue to save Box Tops! In the main office there is a collection box for Box Tops next to the telephone. We earn 10 cents for each Box Top and it is surprising how much cash that can add up to when everyone sends in their Box Tops! Thank You!

SAMOSSET PTSA ADULT BOWLING LEAGUE

The Samoset Bowling League has really taken off this year. There are over 20 teams that meet on the 4th Saturday night of each month at Centereach Lanes. There has been some great bowling, good times and a lot of laughs with friends both new and old! Next September, watch for information coming home and round up a team to join in on the fun!



Samoset PTSA Nomination Form

Samoset PTSA is looking for nominees for the Executive Committee for the 2009-2010 school year. The positions available are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council Delegate.

In order to be eligible for nomination to an office you must be a current member of Samoset, Gatelot, Cayuga or Wenonah PTA's.

Nomination Form

(You may nominate yourself or someone else)

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

For which position are you nominating this person? _____

Current Position held in the PTA: _____

Previous positions held in PTA: _____

Any other information that will help the committee evaluate this nominee: _____

Chair people and members are also needed for Samoset Committees. Chairs are appointed by the Executive Committee. Please check any that you would be interested in.

Cultural Arts _____ Craft Fair _____ Membership _____ Newsletter _____

Book Fair _____ Pictures _____ Reflections _____ Chinese Auction _____

Please submit nominations by 4/15/2009 to: Samoset Middle School, 51 School Street, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 Attn: PTSA Nominating Committee.

All submitted nominations are confidential and will be seen only by the Nominating Committee.

Samoset BLT Interest Form

The Building Leadership Team (BLT) at Samoset is looking for parent representatives to serve on the Samoset BLT. This is a two year position and every parent/guardian is eligible to be a BLT member.

As a parent representative you will be part of a shared decision making team made up of the principal, teachers and parents. A BLT's purpose is to raise academic standards and student achievement, to ensure that students acquire the knowledge and skills they need, and to enable all children to achieve to the best of their abilities.

BLT meetings are held once a month at Samoset, usually during the school day.

If you are interested in being considered for a position on the Samoset BLT please complete the form below and return it to the Samoset PTSA mailbox (Main Office) by April 15. Please address the envelope to "BLT Parent Position"

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Current Grade Level of Children: _____

Have you served on a BLT before? _____

Please tell us something about yourself and why you would like to serve on the BLT:
