



Samoset News

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Samantha P. and Sarah L.



Our trip to Ellis Island was very fun. We left school at 5:45 in the morning. The bus ride was not that bad. When we got there it was a little chilly. Then it gradually got warmer and the view was very nice.

We saw the Statue of Liberty but we did not get to go to Liberty Island. When we finally arrived at Ellis Island the view was breath-taking. The building itself was very historical and beautiful. Inside the building was a huge room, however, 100 years ago it was jam packed with immigrants waiting to become American citizens. We learned about cultures and food. We learned about how hard it was to be an

immigrant. There were diseases and the sick immigrants were not allowed to come into the country. We took lots of pictures. We went to the "wall of immigrants" and a lot of people found their ancestors. It was very cool. There were also artifacts like clothes, instruments, paintings and cameras. The island cafeteria had very good food. It was disappointing to leave the city, but we had to go back to Samoset. It was an experience that the eighth graders will never



Principal

Mary T. Cavanaugh
(Mcavanaugh@sachem.edu)

Assistant Principal

James Horan
(Jhoran@sachem.edu)

Up coming events at

Samoset:

- 10,000 Book Challenge
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Giving Tree
- 7th Grade Field Trip to Old Bethpage
- National Junior Honor Society Inductions
- 6th grade Ancient Egypt presentation

Samoset's Club Fair By Anthony A.



On September 22, 2008, Samoset held its annual Club Fair. There were a lot of students from sixth through eighth grade. At the Club Fair there were many clubs to choose from. Newspaper, Web Slingers, and Technology were just a few clubs at the fair. The Club Fair was held during lunch periods to prevent students from missing their classes. Students walked from table to table asking the advisors questions about the clubs that they were interested in.

A lot of students were interested in the Technology

Club. The Technology club is a club where each student is able to create objects such as wooden structures.

The clubs I joined were the Newspaper, Art Club, Renaissance, and Web Slingers. I joined the Newspaper club because I like to write. I also joined the Web Slingers club because I like the computer. Finally, because art is one of my favorite things to do, I joined the 6th grade Art Club. There is a long school year ahead, so I look forward to attending each club meeting and having a fun time!



Anthony A. interviews Ms. Cavanaugh

"In the future, I plan to stay here at Samoset, to make it even better than it already is!"

On October 14, 2008, Anthony A. had the opportunity to sit down with Ms. Cavanaugh to ask her a few questions.

Q. Do you have children? Yes! I have two children, one girl who is married named Trisha and one son, named Steven.

Q. What inspired you to become a principal? I like teaching. I thought I had some ideas that would help make a school a good place for kids.

Q. How long were you a principal of Samoset? Five years

Q. Before becoming a principal, what was the career you wanted? I wanted

to be a nurse.

Q. Were you ever a principal for another school, if so was the school out of state? Yes, I was a principal at another school in the District. I was the Principal of Seneca for two years. I never was a principal out of state.

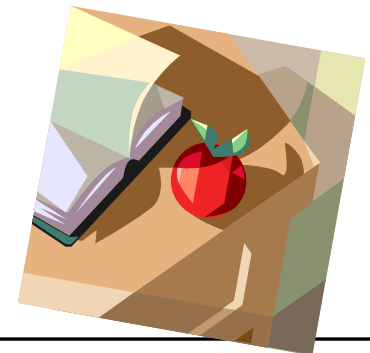
Q. Did you ever teach, if so what grade? I started out as an art teacher, teaching pre-first through sixth grade. I taught one year as a high school art teacher. I also taught fifth and sixth grade special education.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job? One of the things I enjoy most about my job is talking to the students.

Q. What is the most challenging part of your job? Trying to be fair, consistent and also trying to stay up to date with the changes in education.

Q. Why are the seventh grade wing restrooms closed most of the time? Sometimes it makes it difficult for the sixth graders to go to the restroom. We do not have enough staff to monitor it.

Q. Where do you see yourself in the future? In the future, I plan to stay here at Samoset, to make it even better than it already is!



Student of the Month

Samoset's Student of the Month has started. Each month teachers are asked to pick one student they feel is doing well academically as well as showing great character. Once the list of students is suggested for that month, a questionnaire is sent to every one of that student's teachers, to see if everyone agrees that that student should be re-

ceiving Student of the Month. Once the selection is made, the students and parents meet in the morning to receive an award, head of the lunch line pass and some other goodies. September's Student of the Month goes to Amanda L. (8th grade), Nicole C. (7th Grade) and Kimberly L. (6th Grade). Keep up the great work!

What's Your Favorite Lunch?

By Ellora LaCarrubba



Have you ever wondered what lunch people want the most? Well, after conducting a lunch poll of students and staff, here are the results! The top vote getter was a tie between pretzels and nachos. Chicken nuggets (you should try them with cheese) and pizza, two of my favorites, came in third.

The results were:

1. Pretzels & Nachos (tied)
2. Mozzarella Sticks
3. Pizza & Chicken Nuggets
4. Spicy Chicken & Muffin

Roast beef melt, sandwich, taco hero, taco, roast beef, turkey wrap with lettuce and tomato, and soup were all tied for last.

Thanks to all those who participated. For those of you who didn't, I hope your favorite meal made it on the list!





Halloween Dance By Alexa C.

On October 17, 2008 the new sixth graders of Samoset Middle School had their very first Halloween dance. What a big hit with almost everyone dressed up and ready for a night of dancing and fun. Mr. Hanley, one of Samoset's great 6th grade teachers, was an awesome DJ; well, you just had to be there! You could have gone and gotten your picture taken with a group of friends or hung out in the cafeteria and enjoyed a bag of popcorn and a drink. There were

so many great costumes there, but my personal favorite was the girl who was a mime. Her costume was as simple as black clothes and a painted face, but I think this girl really put her mind into it. She was a mime and didn't talk the whole evening. She really acted out the part. Mr. Williams had a great costume too. He was stuck in a cage held by Frankenstein! Unfortunately, my opinion doesn't count and teachers can not win, sorry Mr. Williams. So, if you don't remember who the winners were for the costume contest, here they are again.

Marialena P. as a Geisha Girl
 Kyler P. as a Chick Magnet
 Sarah B. as a Pink Rocker
 Peter C. dressed as a woman
 Robert C. as a Movie Theater Floor
 Alex L. as Elvis
 Kyle K. as Indiana Jones
 Kiriakos P. as Jack in the Box
 Amanda G. as an Alien
 Brandon M. as a Gas Pump
Congratulations to all the winners!
 Special thanks to Mr. Hanley for being the DJ for the dance and to all the teachers who attended and helped out with the event.

INTERVIEW WITH MS. ALEXANDER By: Patrick A.

Ms. Alexander is a new 6th grade teacher here at Samoset. We would all like to welcome her to our building. Here are a few questions that Patrick A. asked our new teacher!

Q. How long have you been a teacher in the Sachem District? **2 years**

Q. Are you new to Samoset? **Yes**

Q. If you are, what school did you teach at first? **Seneca**

Q. What's your favorite subject? **Math. I love working with numbers!!**

Q. What college did you go to? **I went to Bloomsburg University, in Pennsylvania**

Q. Did you grow up in the Sachem com-

munity? **No, I went to Commack School District**

Q. What kind of car do you have? **A black Ford Explorer**

Q. What is your goal for the year? **To have all my kids pass 6th grade math and I want everyone to enjoy math.**

Scarecrows

by Ms. Sbordone and Mrs. Allert's ELA classes

Ms. Sbordone and Mrs. Allert's ELA classes did a thematic unit on scarecrows. We read books about scarecrows, went on a field trip to Stonybrook Village to see real scarecrows, and did a task analysis of what it would take to make our own scarecrows. With all

that knowledge and the help of donations, we put together two scarecrows, one in each class. Thanks to Mr. Cappellini for making our frames and to Mr. Creamer for our great pumpkin faces! Our scarecrows are proudly displayed in our memorial garden.



Character Education

Many motivating presentations and projects have been occurring throughout Samoset this year. Mrs. Carlen, Mrs. Capuano, Mrs. Morgillo and Dr. Burger worked closely this year to bring exciting activities to Samoset.

We began this year with another stimulating multimedia performance from Camfel productions "TRUST ME!" Trust me is an educational experience that challenges students to consider the integrity of their character in their words and actions with those around them. Students then participated in discussions following the presentation in their classes.

Goal setting was another activity the students were involved in this year. Each student participated in a class discussion on setting "SMART" academic goals. SMART is an acronym for setting goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely. The goals were then sent home to all the parents and guardians...good luck to all!

Character Counts Week was October 18th - 24th which involved many exciting activities. Prior to this week students and staff donated items for a community service garage sale benefiting Samoset Cares. Word jumbles, grade level character color day, word searches, and a Life-Saver character count were enjoyed by all during the week. Classroom presentations

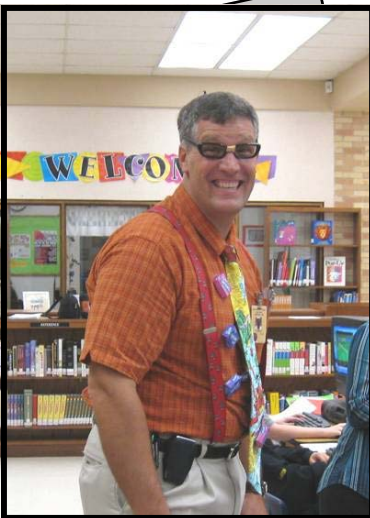
were also conducted during Physical Education classes for all grades.

Additional character education programs and community service projects are planned for the remainder of the school year. Our "Fall Clean-up" clothing drive is currently underway. Students and staff are collecting clothing, accessories, household items and toys. Cultural Awareness week is scheduled for the week of November 10th - 14th and many building-wide activities will take place. Our community service project for December is "Locks of Love" hair donations. Students and staff with at least 10 inches of hair will be donating it to children with medical hair loss.

Keep an eye out for more Character Education and Community Service programs to continue throughout the year from the awesome students and staff at Samoset Middle School!!!



Book Fair



At the end of October, Samoset hosted its annual Scholastic Book Fair. Students attended this event during their English classes. Dedicated members of the PTSA guided students in making their choices. The varied selection of books, posters, pencils, pens, and erasers tempted many students into making purchases. Another incentive to buy books was provided by Samoset's teachers. Depending upon the number of books sold, teachers pledged to perform various silly stunts. For example, because over 300 books were sold, Ms. Guarino allowed Nicole Austin, a student, to do her make-up for the day! Who knows what crazy things will happen next year.

- 50 books sold**— Ed, our security guard, will arrive at school dressed in a secret costume!
- 100 books sold**—Ms. Dansky will do cartwheels in the gym!
- 150 books sold**—Mrs. Schuster will wear pigtails to school for a day!
- 200 books sold**— 6th period lunch duty teachers will sing and dance to YMCA
- 250 books sold**— Mrs. DePierro will allow her students to do a complete make over on her for a day
- 300 books sold**— Nicole Austin will do Mrs. Guarino's make-up
- 350 books sold**— Mrs. Shaefer will beat box to the theme to Mario Brothers on her flute!
- 400 books sold**—Ms. Alexander will teach in her prom dress all day!
- 450 books sold**—Mr. Williams will allow students to cut pieces of his ties off for a week!

DON'T be a Bystander!!!

BULLYING Is

Abusive... Violent... Behavior

Physical **** Verbal **** Emotional

Bullying can include:

- hitting
- name-calling
- threatening
- intimidating
- kicking
- spreading rumors
- pushing
- tripping
- humiliation
- excluding someone from a group
- destroying someone's things

Report it !

If **you** or **someone you know** is being bullied at school... inform an adult:

- Parents
- Teachers
- Counselors
- Administrators

We can STOP bullying behavior.

With your help all students can feel safe at school.

Together we can make a difference !!

Character Counts at Samoset Middle School!

Throughout the halls of Samoset Middle School many students go above and beyond and display positive character everyday. Even when it may not be the "cool" thing to do, our students resist the temptation of negative peer pressure and do something kind for others. Each year hundreds of students are noticed for their acts of kindness towards others and

are recognized by Samoset administration and staff.

This year the following students have been noticed for displaying a kind act or gesture during the months of September and October and were congratulated by Ms. Cavanaugh and Dr. Burger. Their names will be added to our "Wall of Character" located by our main entrance.

Casey B., Maxanthony B., Alex C., Amanda D., Christian D., Raja D., Kevin D., John E., Michael F., Lauren F., Dante G., Theresa G., Kristina H., George C., Rachel K., Laura L., Alex L., John M., Nick M., Karen N., Nicole N., Brittany P., Nick P., Stefanie P., Brooke P., Ali R., Jessica R., Gia R., Kirsten R., Robert S., Joseph S., Nick T., and Blake T.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

Samoset Middle School 6th graders Welcomes G.R.E.A.T.



Introduction

Sheriff Vincent F. DeMarco recognized the need for a proactive approach in gang prevention here in Suffolk County and researched the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program which was being provided in many states throughout the nation. The G.R.E.A.T. program slogan is "No Violence is GREAT."

The G.R.E.A.T. middle school curriculum is a skills-based curriculum designed to produce knowledge and attitudinal and behavioral changes through the use of facilitative teaching, positive behavior rehearsal, cooperative and inter-

active learning techniques, and extended teacher activities. The curriculum has integrated National Learning English Language Arts Standards and National Health Standards and is based on effective research practices.

Goal

To prevent youth crime, violence, and gang involvement while developing a positive relationship among law enforcement, families, and our young people to create safer communities.

Program Structure

The G.R.E.A.T. middle school curriculum was designed for middle school entry-level stu-

dents in 6th or 7th grade. Taught in the classroom by specially trained, uniformed law enforcement officers, G.R.E.A.T.'s violence prevention curriculum is a life-skills competency program designed to provide students with the skills they need to avoid gang pressure and youth violence. The curriculum can be used in conjunction with other prevention programs encouraging positive relationships among the community, parents, schools, and law enforcement.

The 6th grade students participate enthusiastically and leave each session with increased knowledge and excitement to learn more about the program.

8th Grade Girls Soccer

By Miranda H.

In 2008, the Samoset girl's soccer team's final record was 4 wins and 6 losses. I can honestly tell you from being apart of the team, the girls never gave up. Most of our games were very close. They were 1-0 losses at the 4th quarter sometimes with about a minute or even a few seconds left. It was very frustrating but we kept going. This year was the first time ever that there was an 8th grade team and a 7th grade team. We were very excited about this because we got to play with all of our friends unlike last year when we were split up. The girls on the team were amazing. We had 3 great goalies, Kaitlyn Y., Frannie B., and Jackie R. Each one of them had pretty amazing saves that could have cost us a game. Our defense was great. Megan H. and Allison U. were a big part of

the team. Megan was almost like the mother of the team. She always knew what to do if we were hurt or if we were having trouble with something. They are both great players. Katie W., Kristina H., Sam R., and Jackie S. were also great players. They were in the middle and kept control of what went on during the game. Kristina just ran up and flew past everyone and would score a goal. It was pretty amazing. Also outside defenders such as Jessica M., Lauren W., and Amanda L. were always ready to fight. Then came they mid-fielders such as me, Miranda H., Kaitlyn Y., Kayla W., Frannie B., Taylor A., and Francine L.. Running up and down the field could get pretty tiring, but for me it's my favorite position because I get to be a part of both sides, defense

and offense. Our forwards were Brittany B., Jackie R., Jessica R., Cadence B., Nicole J., and Amanda D.. They always tried very hard. Our team this year was a "great group of girls" as Ms. Ing always tells us, but we really were. I am very proud to be a part of this team and I would like to see everyone next year improving even more. If we didn't have such a great coach like Ms. Ing, we wouldn't be anything. Thank you Ms. Ing for being such a great coach and I will miss you next year! Great season girls!



7th Grade Girls Soccer By Sarah C.



What an amazing season! Considering that it was our first

time playing a school sport, we pulled off 5 wins, 3 ties, and 2 losses! We had a great coach, Ms. Treacy, that made us the team we are today. Thinking back to the tryouts you can definitely see a huge improvement in all of the girls. Later into the season everyone had make new friends. Our teams

also got to go to The Olive Garden where we took pictures and ate A LOT! Although it was freezing on our last game day we came out with a 4 - 0 win. On the bus ride home we all sang out hearts out. What a great way to end the season! Great Job Girls!

What is going on in Ms. Ing and Ms. Kevins 7th Grade Math Class
By Greyson L.

We made a Venn Diagram project on Real Numbers in math class. All numbers on the project represent a real number. Then we broke up the numbers into two categories: irrational or rational. We then broke the numbers into integers, whole and natural number sets. The numbers in the center belong to the color they are on and to the number sets beneath them. Some numbers that are listed in the outer sections do not belong and do not fit into the rational numbers. For example an irrational number is 4.1211211121112.... or pi. They keep repeating with different numbers and do not end. A rational number can be ordered on a number line. These numbers end or repeat. An integer can be a positive (greater than zero 1, 2, 3,4,... etc.) or negative number (less than zero -1,-2, -3, -4,... etc.). Whole numbers are 0,1,2,3,4,..... etc. Finally, natural numbers are 1,2,3,4,..... etc.

10,000 Book Challenge

On Monday, November 3rd we began Samoset's 10,000 book Challenge. The Building Leadership Team (BLT) set a goal of 10,000 books to be read by the students and faculty. Each Homeroom teacher will be given a stack of paper "bricks". As students complete a book (pleasure reading) they will fill out a brick and turn it in during homeroom. Each week the bricks will be counted and added to the display cabinets outside of the auditorium. A wall of reading will be built and hopefully take over many of our bulletin boards. We will have a counter, to be updated each Monday, also displayed near the Auditorium.

Rewards will be given to the Samoset family after each 1,000 books read. All students and faculty can participate. At 1,000 books EVERYONE can wear their pajamas to school.

Door Decorating Contest

Starting October 27 until October 29th, students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade were able to bring in Halloween decorations to decorate their homeroom classroom.



tober 30th, when students from the community came to Samoset and trick-or-treat in a safe environment.

Students came in early, or stayed after school with their homeroom teacher to get their doors decorated. The doors remained decorated until Safe Halloween on Thursday, Oc-



Winners are: Mrs. Fahie and Mrs. Sbordone's HR (6th grade) Mrs. Sarakos and Mrs. Smith's HR (7th grade) And Ms. Marlowe's HR (8th grade).