

SAMOSSET PTSA SENTINEL

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A LETTER FROM THE PTSA

The Samoset PTSA has had another very busy year. Once again the school year began with the National PTA Reflections Contest. Congratulations to all of our students who participated and thank you to the staff members who continue to support this program. Samoset students led the way for Sachem with their strong showing at the Suffolk County level. I am pleased to announce that Samoset PTSA has partnered with the PTA at Sachem North in order to bring the Reflections program to the high school in the fall.

In this newsletter you will read more about Reflections and all of the other programs that the PTSA supports. Please know that we appreciate your support through your membership and your participation in our various fundraisers. Our PTSA is committed to supporting programs for Samoset students. We had a very unique situation this year in that our students did the leg work and research on an author that they wanted to bring to Samoset. The PTSA was incredibly impressed by the initiative of the students and was more than happy to be able to fund the author visit. This is what the PTSA is all about!

PTSA would not be able to provide all of these unique programs without the help and generous assistance from the clerical staff, the efficient custodial staff, and the faculty and administration's unending support. Thank you!

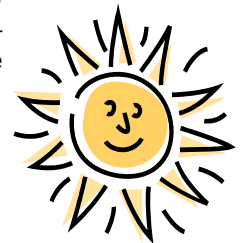
Thankfully, spring is finally here. Our annual Chinese Auction is just around the corner. We hope you will join us on Friday, April 30th to try your luck at winning one of our 70 plus baskets!

There is a nominating form at the back of this newsletter for the 2010 - 2011 school year. If you have a few minutes to spare, please consider joining this amazing group of volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of the PTSA and the students of Samoset.

Enjoy the spring and the remainder of the school year!

Janet Coleman

PTSA President



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Meeting Dates:

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

Tuesday, May 4

Monday, June 7

Please consider joining us at 7:30

p.m., as we begin to plan for the next school



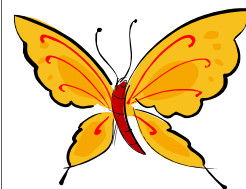
SPRING

Spring Picture Day is Tuesday, May 11.

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

All students will be photographed and proofs will be mailed to your home so that you will have the opportunity to see the picture before

you purchase them.



PTA REFLECTIONS : “BEAUTY IS...”

Reflections is a national PTA competition that encourages the arts and creative expression in our schools. The theme of this year's competition was “Beauty Is...” 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 Schem Central School district. Over 70 students entered the contest. Ten finalists were chosen and sent to the Suffolk County level of the competition.

Visual Arts: *Sarah Vallecillo, Samantha Baumann, Charlie Horn*

Literature: *Brook Coffey, Theresa Grnick, Katie Pfeil*

Photography: *William Sergio, Tyler Quigley, Zachary Hirt*

Musical Composition: *Phoebe Ambrosino*

Of those ten, three students received **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** at the Suffolk County Competition and have advanced in New York State level of the competition. They are as follows: *Samantha Baumann, Zachary Hirt, Tyler Quigley*.

A special congratulations to *Zachary Hirt* who received an award of Honorable Mention at the New York State Competition. Way to go Zachary!

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, “**Together We Can....**” The Reflections program will be available at Schem North next year in the fall of 2010.

PTA MEMBERSHIP 2010-2011

The Samoset PTSA has **334 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. Rattinger

7th grade: Ms. Schuster

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 who work tirelessly to lobby our policy makers and elected officials on issues that are important to the education, health and well being of all students. This year, Schem PTA Council presented a resolution at NY State PTA Convention. This resolution was approved and there are now two bills in the NY State legislature called "Denise's Law," named after a former Schem student who died of a drug overdose. If approved, "Denise's Law" will give parents the ability to get help for their children. There will be a process for parents to mandate their minor children into detoxification. The law also contains provisions to require insurance companies to pay for such treatment. This is just one example of the work that the PTA does. Thank you for your continued support!

😊😊 CULTURAL ARTS CORNER 😊😊

Every year Samoset's PTSA funds many programs which enhance state curriculum, are teacher supported, and bring to our students learning opportunities that extend beyond the typical classroom environment. The many programs for our **6th graders** begins with National Origami Master who relates and illustrates the true story of Hatshepsut, the woman king of ancient Egypt using a paper folding technique called origami and ends with a customized science show based on the 6th grade science curriculum. Both **6th and 7th grades** participate in quiz show that uses a life size game board to incorporate customized curriculum trivia, team-building exercises,



and character education. The **7th grade** enjoys a museum of Native American Indian artifacts; a slide show, museum and lecture on Egypt by Michael Harrold; a Revolutionary War re-enactor who discusses key points in American Revolutionary War history, and a motivational presentation by Para-Olympian Dennis Oehler. Our **8th graders** witness literature become theater through a chilling and comical performance of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart;" a motivational dialogue about diversity by Paul Failla; a Holocaust survivor presentation; as well as a presentation regarding her experiences before, during and after the Holocaust

by Ruth Sender, author of The Cage. Both the **6th and 8th grades** see a theatrical production that traces the life of a Jewish girl from the slums of Berlin to Auschwitz. The entire student body, **all of 6th, 7th and 8th grades**, were an audience for Ball in the House, a five man a cappella group that harmonizes vocal bass with a beat box performance. This was followed by a small group workshop. Through fundraising, and reimbursement through BOCES, PTSA has been able to bring these valuable, educational programs to Samoset.



WHAT IS THE 10,000 BOOK

Last year Samoset's Building Leadership Team challenged the Samoset students, faculty and staff to read 10,000 books. The launching of this challenge has resulted in over 7,000 books having been read. In the main hallway near the cafeteria, BLT has displayed "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 8,000 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. The contest, **"What is the Samoset Staff Reading?"** challenges our students to search out the various books read by faculty and staff, and each winner gets a prize. Our **"Spotlight on Writing"** bulletin board showcases excellence in our 6th, 7th and 8th grade writers and proudly posts some of Samoset's best writing.

KEEP READING and WRITING SAMOSET!!



CHINESE AUCTION

Friday, April 30th

The planning is underway for our Spring Chinese Auction fundraiser. Homerooms have collected items to create homeroom baskets. Any student or staff member that has contributed 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 or help out on the night of the auction. Please e-mail either Michele McKinney at MicheleMcKinney1@aol.com or Marie Gruick at Marie_Gruick@yahoo.com. Donations can also still be left in the main office.

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

NEXT TOP CAREER STARS: APRIL 22

April 22, 2010, will mark Sachem's 7th annual Career Night for all Sachem 7th graders. There will be 3 presenters for our 7th graders who will learn about the skills needed for 21st century careers and there will be speakers to address post high school career planning. Check out career night, Next Top Career Star, on April 22, from 7-9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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 morn-



SAMOSSET HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Finally a Holiday Craft Fair without any snow! On Sunday, December 6th, the PTSA hosted the 3rd Annual Holiday Craft Fair. The Samoset community got a jump on holiday shopping at the booths of over 80 participating vendors. 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 5th, to kick off your holiday season!

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

This past February, PTSA was able to bring to Samoset's 8th graders the opportunity to listen to testimony from 3 Holocaust survivors about their experiences in Germany during the Holocaust. Members of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County arrived at Samoset and spoke of personal experiences and memories of surviving this period in history. Listening to a survivor's story is a meaningful enhancement of state curriculum and

Bagels and Books Celebration

From a choice of 3 books, all of Samoset's 6th graders participated in a "Reading Across the Middle" program where students shared their ideas about the book at a "chat and chew" during lunch periods. They discussed their books with Sequoya peers via Skype. PTSA sponsored the culminating celebration, "Bagels and Books," early one morning. The students met in small groups to discuss the book with either a teacher, an administrator, or a community leader who had read the same book.. Afterwards,



Samoset PTSA Nomination Form

Samoset PTSA is looking for nominees for the Executive Committee for the 2010- 2011 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 04/28/2010 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.