

# Sequoya Middle School

750 Waverly Avenue  
Holtsville, NY 11742



*"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence."*

Robert Frost

## Clubs

- Renaissance Academic Recognition Club
  - Select Chorus
  - Jazz Band
- Student Government
- National Jr. Honor Society
- Yearbook Club
- Drama Club
- Renaissance Community Service Club

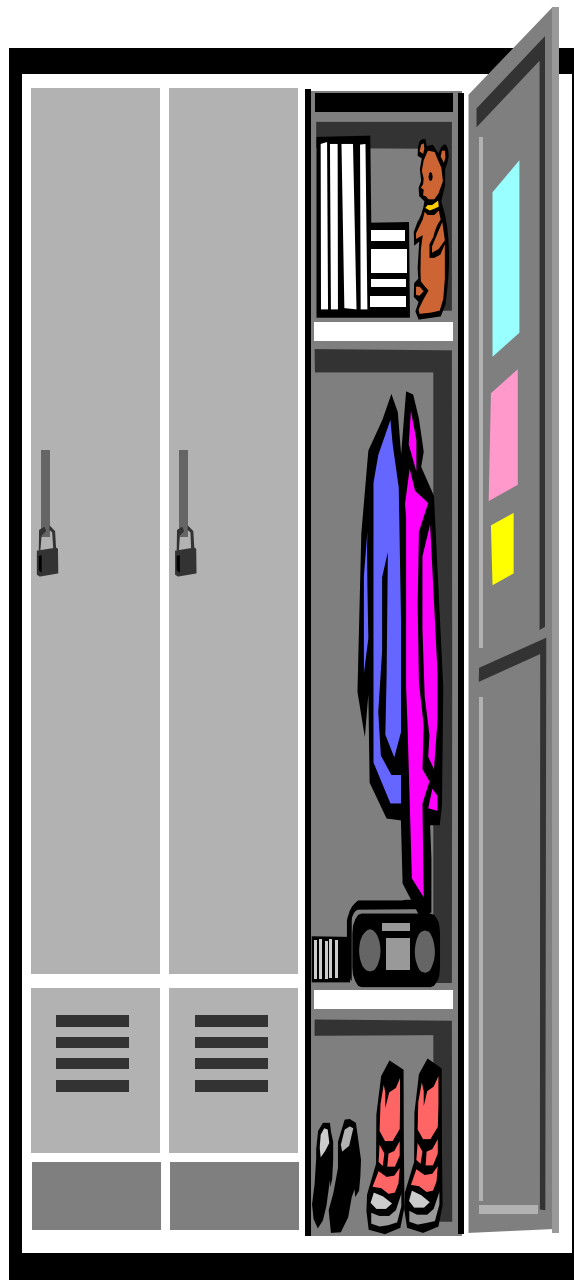
### Sequoya Middle School

Phone 207-7100

Fax 207-7118

Principal: Mr. Panasci  
fpanasci@sachem.edu

Assistant Principal:  
Ms. Gregory  
dgregory@sachem.edu



## Clubs

- 7th & 8th Grade Art Club
  - Peer Tutoring
  - Science Club
- 8th Grade Lego Robotics Club
- Environmental Action Club
- Game "Scrabble" Club
  - Book Club
- Literary Magazine
- Leaders Club
- Ecology Club
- 6th Grade Art Club
  - Best Buddies

## Sports

- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball

# Principal's Message

**Frank Panasci,  
Principal**

## Dates to Remember

- **November 21, 2011**  
Report Cards Posted on  
Parent Portal Grades 6-12
- **November 22, 2011**  
National Jr. Honor Society  
Induction 7PM
- **December 6, 2011**  
Grade 7 Concert 7PM
- **December 8, 2011**  
Grade 8 Concert 7PM
- **December 12, 2011**  
Grade 6 Concert 7PM
- **December 19, 2011**  
Progress Reports Posted on  
Parent Portal for Grades 6-12
- **December 26-January 2,  
2012**  
Holiday Recess
- **January 16, 2012**  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day  
(Schools Closed)

Dear Sequoia Community,

Quarter 1- 2011-12

It is hard to believe that 25% of the school year has passed already! The weather is changing for the colder and the leaves are falling from the trees. Our first sports season is winding down and clubs are up and running. We were fortunate to have a majority of the club funding restored. Students have been actively engaged in the classroom with challenging curricula. We are preparing students for success on the various assessments while offering opportunities to explore their interests with a diverse middle school curriculum.

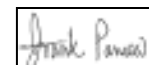
There were many exciting events during the first quarter of the school year. The grade 6 social was well attended and enjoyed by all. Students played games, ate popcorn and cotton candy and danced with their friends and sometimes their teachers. Preparations for Safe Halloween got a late start due to the uncertainty with clubs. Even with the delay it was a huge success with over 100 Sequoia students and many staff members volunteering their time and energy. Hundreds of elementary students were treated to a wonderful afternoon of games and trick or treating. Our Renaissance Club has coordinated several Spirit Days to acknowledge holidays, historical events and special occasions. The grade 8 trip to Ellis Island is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Grade level trips for grades 6 and 7 are actively being planned. In the coming months we have scheduled field trips, concerts, drama production, character education programs, guest speakers, dances and socials. We look to have all Sequoia students involved!

As has been reported in the media, education is undergoing changes on the local, state and national level. We are actively modeling our curricula to meet the expectations of the Common Core State Standards. We will continue to prepare students for the current State Assessment model while planning for newly developed Assessments in coming years. Overall we have shown progress with our assessments scores but we will continue to review practice to ensure continued growth. Our students are committed to achieving to the best of their abilities and we are committed to helping them meet their goals! At Sequoia, citizenship and character development are a focus along with academics. Students have demonstrated great citizenship and character with the commitment of their time, energy and resources to the various causes addressed at Sequoia.

In closing, I would like to encourage you to become involved in your child's education. Please consider joining the PTA or other school-community organizations. Continue to check the website ([www.sachem.edu](http://www.sachem.edu)) for updates on Sequoia and district happenings. If you have any ideas, questions or concerns please contact me at 207-7100 or [fpanasci@sachem.edu](mailto:fpanasci@sachem.edu).

We are looking forward to many great experiences in the next three quarters!

Sincerely,



Principal



*From Our Attendance  
Office.....*



If your child is going to be absent or late, please call the attendance office at 207-7100 (press “1” for Attendance) before 9AM or the absence will be considered illegal. Please state your child’s name, grade and reason for the absence. Calling your child in absent afterwards will result in the absence being considered illegal. An absence note is required on the first day the child returns to school. The note should be handed in to the Attendance Office. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**Bus Passes:** If your child must go home with another student (for supervision purposes only) a note is required in order for your child to receive a bus pass. Notes must be received in the attendance office during homeroom and must have the name and bus # of the student your child is going home with.

**Early Dismissals:** A note is required when someone other than the student’s parent is picking him/her up for early dismissal. Even if the person is listed on the emergency card, a note is still required. No exceptions will be made. Your cooperation is appreciated!

**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**



***Joby Mathew***

***Matt Olivieri***

***Emma Rigaud***

***Brendan Foy***

***Autumnrose  
Vargas***

***Anthony  
Cortes***

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!!**

# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## NOVEMBER 2011

**Kevin  
Slattery**



**Jill  
Lamia**



**Justin  
Bischof**



**Danielle  
Chiavola**



**Kianna  
Papele**



**Patrick  
Kinsella**



## **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

This summer, Sequoya Middle School had the highest participation in the Summer Reading Club at the Sachem Public Library of all of the four middle schools in the district. We had 106 students participate and between them they read 579 books.

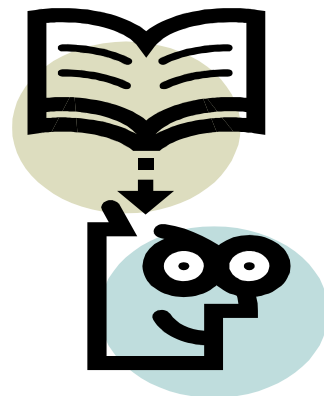
In addition to that amazing statistic, we had 8 participants in the Suffolk County Battle of the Books at the library level (Sachem Public Library) and four of those students won seats on the six member team that went on to the county level of the battle.

Our students who participated are: Madison Becker- grade 6, Kellie Bossong-grade 6, Kristin Bossong-grade 7, Glenn Houghton-grade 8, Phillip Houghton-grade 8, Chandana Kochath-grade 8, Meagan Ryder-grade 8, and Kinjal Sharma-grade 6. Kristin, Glenn, Chandana, and Meg were the four students who advanced to the county level.

I want to congratulate all of this summer's readers and extend a special congratulations to our eight students who grabbed the opportunity to take reading to the ultimate competitive level.

We have continued this year with the Sequoya Book club. We have a large and enthusiastic group and are planning many book- related projects. I will apprise you of them as they develop.

Mrs. Roslyn Mylroie, School Media Specialist  
Sequoya Middle School



## Delete Cyber-Bullying



Sequoia Middle School students recently participated in a national Anti-Bullying Prevention and Awareness contest sponsored by *Cablevision* called “Delete Cyber-Bullying”. The goal of the contest was to create a poster and slogan to raise awareness of the dangers of bullying and cyber-bullying. With the help of Mrs. Lori Hewlett, Health Department Chairperson, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade health educators, and Mr. Intravia, our Student Assistance Counselor, lessons were conducted on bullying and cyber-bullying. All of the students were encouraged to enter the Cablevision contest and advocate for deleting all forms of bullying in their school. Hundreds of posters were displayed throughout the Sequoia’s hallways. These posters illus-

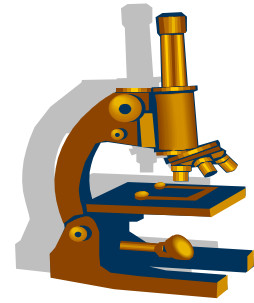
trated Sequoia’s strong commitment to addressing all forms of bullying.

Sequoia Middle School’s creative students managed to design some truly inspiring, clever, and brilliant posters, all baring the similar messages of preventing cyber-bullying and remembering to treat each other kindly and fairly. Two of Sequoia’s students claimed the top two prizes for all Long Island schools.

The grand prize was won by 8<sup>th</sup> grader VALERIE ROMERO, who created a simple, concise message warning students to “**BE NICE- ON THIS DEVICE!**” She won a tablet computer for her design. First place was taken by a smartly-designed creation by 7<sup>th</sup> grader STEPHANIE ROBERTSON reminding others that Cyber-bullies are “...**Insecure, Jealous, and NOT COOL.**” Stephanie won an XBOX 360 package.

All of Sequoia’s Health Education students should be commended for their well-conceived, creative messages educating their peers on the topics of cyber-bullying and bullying.

## Science Club News



**Advisors: Ms. Berton and Ms. Woolard**

**Students were happy to attend their first Science Club meeting of the school year. We will learn various ways to gather and investigate "evidence" in order to aid us in solving a 'crime' that will be committed in our CSJ Sequoya culminating activity.**

**We worked on cracking some codes at this meeting. The students were extremely excited at their successes! We will have regular investigations for CSJ Sequoya at each of our meetings.**

## 100% Homework Club

The 100% Homework Club has taken on a new face this year. We have created a bulletin board in the main lobby to showcase the winners of each weeks raffle. Names of students who have all their homework and give maximum effort are submitted by teachers.

## Sequoya Football

Mr. O'Connell

The Sequoya Football team took part in the Schem East Homecoming Parade. All of the student athletes wore their jerseys and showed support of the varsity fall athletes at Schem East High School. After the parade, the boys took part in a great day of fun filled activities capped off by cheering on the varsity football team against West Islip.



## **A Visit From Iraq**

**Miss Ortiz's 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Social Studies classes got a special surprise on October 24<sup>th</sup> from Mr. Williams, a friend of Miss Ortiz's that was returning home from work in Iraq. Mr. Williams, a retired member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, had happily agreed to participate in a class project when asked by Miss Ortiz. Miss Ortiz was instructing the class on how to write a friendly letter. Miss Ortiz had the class write letters to Mr. Williams in Iraq. In turn, Mr. Williams wrote each student their own individual letter. When Mr. Williams found out he was returning from his current job in Iraq, he offered to drive from his home in Tennessee to surprise the class. The Friday before the visit, Miss Ortiz distributed the letters Mr. Williams had written to the students. The students read the letters and brainstormed questions that they believed they would use in order to write back to Mr. Williams on the following Monday. On Monday, the students came to class to find Mr. Williams had arrived home from Iraq and was in their classroom. The students were very excited and spent the time in a question and answer session with Mr. Williams using the questions that they had prepared the previous school day. During social studies, Mr. Williams and Miss Ortiz prepared a joint power point presentation. Miss Ortiz reviewed information about ancient Mesopotamia as Mr. Williams shared information about the ancient ruins and geography of Mesopotamia, now Iraq. The power point included photos that Mr. Williams had taken for the class while he was in Iraq. After the power point, Mr. Williams shared information about the more than twenty countries he had visited, as well as answered questions about his military career. The day was a valuable experience for all of the students.**