

# Tama-Rap

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

APRIL/MAY 2006

Sachem Central School District

## Principal's Message

### Reminders:

- Dr. Murphy will attend our **May 3rd PTA meeting** to discuss the 2006/07 budget
- Grade 4 NYS Science Assessment April 27th and May 9-10th
- **Please get out and vote on BUDGET VOTE DAY, Tuesday, May 16th**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying spring!

The time of year is drawing near when the staff meets to discuss class placement for the 2006-2007 school year. Creating balanced classes (both academically and socially) requires a great deal of consideration and many people are involved in the process. Teachers recommend placement to accommodate the needs of our students. These recommendations are based on academic achievement, ability, social/emotional growth, support services and gender ratios. The class proposal is then reviewed by a number of service providers such as the psychologist, social worker, reading teachers, resource room teachers and speech therapists as well as by me.

If you would like to offer additional information about your child's learning styles, strengths and/or weaknesses, please send me a letter by May 1, 2006 so that it can be factored into our decision in creating balanced classes. Of course, the teachers know the children well at this point in the year and a letter is not required. Due to the extensive decision making process that we put into balancing the classes, we do not accept letters requesting a specific teacher.

Our staffing and number of sections for each grade level will not be finalized until the end of the summer. You will receive your child's class assignment in late August. As always, we appreciate your awareness and understanding of the long and thoughtful placement process.

Sincerely,

*Bernadette Gentile*



### APRIL

- 3 Internet Safety Workshop-4-5pm
- 4 Half Day—Teacher Conf.
- 6 Science Fair
- 7 Third Marking Period Ends
- 10-17 Schools Closed-Spring Recess
- 20 PTA Meeting—8:00 p.m.  
Homework Help Presentation
- 26 Report Cards Distributed
- 27 Grade 4-NYS Science Assessment

### MAY

- 3 PTA Meeting—8:00p.m.  
Grade 5 Parent Orientation at Middle Schools—7:00p.m.
- 9-10 Grade 4—NYS Science Assessment
- 15 Kindergarten Orientation for Incoming Students & Parents
- 16 BUDGET VOTE  
First Grade PARP Assembly
- 18 Spring Concert—East 7:30p.m.
- 29 Memorial Day—Schools Closed

### JUNE

- 1 Kindergarten PARP Assembly
- 5-9 Kindergarten Screening
- 9 D.A.R.E. Graduation
- 14 Half Day of School/Field Day
- 20 Grade 5 Field Trip
- 21 Grade 5 Moving Up—HS East
- 22 Last Day of School for Students  
Report Cards Distributed

### BUDGET VOTE DAY

**Tuesday, May 16th**

**Please get out and vote!**

## Home-School Connection

The Home-School Connection is made up of teachers who volunteer their time, along with two parents and the building principal, in providing pertinent information to the community as needed. The first workshop was held in October and focused on parent/teacher conferences. At the second workshop in December, a detective from the Suffolk County Computer Crimes unit spoke with parents about internet safety.

Due to the importance of the topic and our concern for the safety of our children, we are planning another Internet Safety Workshop for *every 4th and 5th grade student and his/her parent or guardian*. We were fortunate to schedule a special guest speaker: **Christopher Hansen of NBC Dateline!** Mr. Hansen is a correspondent for NBC News' award-winning newsmagazine "Dateline NBC." Mr. Hansen's accomplishments are too numerous to list, however, you might recall a recent unprecedented hidden camera investigation of sexual predators on the internet. He is scheduled to be here on **Monday, April 3, 2006 from 4:00—5:00 p.m.** to discuss internet safety with us. The workshop will be held in the cafeteria and all students who attend will receive a certificate of attendance. Please make every effort to attend this important workshop.

**If you misplaced the notice that was sent home and would like to attend this valuable workshop, please write a note to Mr. LaGrega by Friday, March 31st. Please include your child's name, classroom teacher's name, and the parent/guardian who will also attend. We look forward to seeing you there!**



## School Visits :

Whenever you stop by the school, whether it is to visit the classroom for a scheduled event or to pick up your child, please remember to take your valuables with you. Apparently, there were reports of items taken from vehicles parked on other school grounds. Even if you plan on just "running in" to drop something off, please remember to take your valuables with you!

"IT TAKES A  
VILLAGE TO RAISE  
A CHILD."  
~UNKNOWN

## "Spring Fever"

As spring approaches, parents and educators often notice changes in children's behavior. It is the time of year when we often must review basic classroom/building rules and remind children of appropriate behavior with their peers. If spring has brought on a bad case of the "sillies" for your child, here are some possible explanations—and what to do about them.

- Allergies—Your child may not have the language skills to articulate the lightheaded feeling that often accompanies allergies and can leave children feeling distracted. If itchy eyes, sniffles or headaches accompany the onset of silliness in your house, check with your pediatrician about allergies.
- Weather—The change in climate can bring about changes of air pressure that have children feeling out of sorts, too. Also, long days of rain and the lack of outdoor play can make children feel "antsy" and restless. Try to be consistent about keeping routines and have a stash of fun, rainy-day activities on hand.
- Vacations—Although students love the break from school, the changes in routine and large blocks of unstructured time can unknowingly lead to stress. Try to keep things as normal and planned as possible. Also, provide a "buffer" of time at the end of the vacation and before school resumes to reacclimate your child to the regular routines.

The restlessness some children feel during this time of year can lead to inappropriate language or behavior. Reminding them of rules and appropriate behavior is very helpful!

## Kindergarten

- PARP Assembly—Parent representatives from each kindergarten class (see below) met with Ms. Gentile, Mrs. Wahi (K-1) and Mrs. Epervary to discuss the PARP assembly scheduled for June 1st from 9:45a.m. to 10:30a.m. Parents and guardians of kindergarten students are invited and should expect to receive a flier with more detailed information some time in May. Parent representatives are: Mrs. Mieczkowski (K-1), Mrs. Balsamo (K-2), Mrs. Candela (K-2), Mrs. Heffeman (K-3), Mrs. Johnston (K-4) and Mrs. DeBenedictis (K-5).
- Orientation—Kindergarten orientation for incoming kindergarten students is scheduled for Monday, May 15th from 9:45a.m. to 10:30a.m.
- Kindergarten Registration—If you know of any new families moving into the neighborhood or any families with a child possibly eligible for kindergarten next year, please encourage them to contact the school so that they may register for kindergarten as soon as possible. This will help in determining the number of sections and creating balanced classes. Thank you!

## First Grade

P.A.R.P.—(People As Reading Partners) First graders will celebrate their love of reading on Tuesday, May 16th at 9:45a.m. in the cafeteria. Children will sing songs for their parents/guardians and will receive a certificate and book, generously donated by the PTA. This celebration marks the end of PARP—a three month long program in which children were read to by a reading partner at home. We are so proud of all the families that participated!

## Third Grade

- Fertile chick eggs have been ordered! Classroom incubators will be set up upon our return from the spring break. Our feathered friends are expected to hatch in May.
- Chorus has begun for our third grade citizens! Many of our eager vocalists are enjoying this new experience. They are looking forward to performing in front of a live audience at their Spring Concert in June. More information will follow.

## Fifth Grade

- Fifth grade students will be busy this spring with many activities and field trips. Thanks to the Tamarac PTA, we will be participating in the National Circus Project during the week of May 22nd. Fifth grade students will prepare to perform on Friday, May 26th.
- D.A.R.E.—(Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Weekly lessons began in March with Officer Ralph. The program focuses on resisting drugs, alcohol and tobacco as well as ways to avoid peer pressure and stress. D.A.R.E. graduation will be June 9th.
- Moving Up—As the year progresses quickly, we are confident that our students are well prepared for their journey to Sequoya. Our moving up ceremony will be held on June 22nd at Sachem East. Please look in your child's folder for more information on all of these events.

## Second Grade

- At the end of April, students will have the opportunity to go back in time to the 19th Century! Each second grade class will be visiting the Long Island Museum One Room School House. During this field trip, children will experience what school was like by role playing with materials used during that time period. More information will follow.
- P.A.R.P.—To begin the transition to the intermediate grades, second grade students hold an informal PARP celebration with their peers at the end of the school year.

## Fourth Grade

- The 4th Grade NYS Science dates are April 27th, May 9th and May 10th. The children have been learning about electricity, powders and crystals. During the spring, students will also learn about plants and the plant cycle.
- Children have been practicing their vocal range and honing their musical skills in preparation for the Spring Concert on May 18th. More information will follow.

