



FALL 2010

SACHEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Official Publication of the Sachem Central School District • www.sachem.edu

2010-2011 BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Sachem is Going Green!

New Initiatives Help Conserve Energy and Cut Costs Around the District

With the regulation of energy consumption playing a vital role in our society, Sachem Central School District is proud to announce that we are bolstering our ongoing efforts to preserve the environment and save taxpayers money. Through initiatives around the district, such as our e-newsletters, online services and building upgrades, we are significantly reducing costs and conserving precious resources.

E-Newsletters on Sachem.edu

Beginning with this issue, the Sachem newsletter will be available almost exclusively through the district website, www.sachem.edu. (Two thousand printed copies of each newsletter will be available at the district office, and the annual budget newsletter will still be mailed to homes in May.) By switching to electronic newsletters, the district will save thousands of dollars in printing and postage costs while also reducing our paper usage and limiting our carbon footprint.

Online Services for Teachers, Parents and Students

District communications are transitioning to the electronic medium in several other ways as well. Digitizing these services allows the district to make information readily available, and to eliminate excess printing costs. Highlights include:

Parent Portal: A program that gives parents the opportunity to view their child's attendance, grades, assignments, schedule and transcript online. Parents can also update their child's personal information, which helps the school maintain accurate data.

Building and staff share drives: Computer networks that allow teachers and administrators to quickly and easily share information with one another and with students, encouraging collaboration across the district.

Cloud Computing: An online application that allows students and staff to create and share documents on the web and access them from any computer or smart phone, allowing fast, real-time collaboration.

Department and classroom websites: Teachers can upload assignments and share important updates, while parents and students can track and print important information and classroom materials.

PayForIt.net: A system offering parents the opportunity to prepay the cost of their children's lunches and review their food selections.

Greener Sachem School Buildings

New capital improvements around the district are helping the green cause as well. Most significantly, a new wind-power generation system is being installed at the Sachem High School East campus. In addition, the district has adopted weatherization improvements, upgrades to the energy management system, and piping and tank insulation to improve the overall efficiency of the heating system, among many other enhancements.

We encourage our community members to continue to recycle and conserve. By joining together in the effort to protect our environment, we are preserving the resources our children will rely on as they become the leaders of the future.

25 Years of Excellence

Sachem's Extended School Year Program Celebrates a Quarter Century of Quality Instruction

This summer marked the 25th anniversary of Sachem's Extended School Year program (SESY). A 30-day semester of individualized educational support, the SESY program provides instruction for students with disabilities who would otherwise be in danger of regression over the long summer break. During the summer semester, students in SESY receive five full days a week of instruction in all major academic areas (with a concentration in ELA and mathematics); support with social, physical and management needs; and continued transition experiences (for older students) to help prepare for postsecondary life in the community.

The mission of the SESY program is to bridge the previous and upcoming school years and maintain previously acquired skills to support deficit areas. SESY provides for current and ongoing needs, as well as preparing students for success in the fall semester.

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Sachem Central School District
WALTER C. DUNHAM
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245 Union Avenue
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*****ECRWSS*****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Meet Our New Administrators...



Coordinator of Student Services **Dr. Stephanie Allen** has held the position of assistant to the coordinator of student services at Sachem for the past two years. Prior to that, she served as special education chairperson for the Connetquot Central School District. Dr. Allen holds a master's degree and a doctorate in school psychology from St. John's University in Queens.

Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health Services **Peter Blieberg** comes to the district from East Islip School District, where his title was director of athletics, physical education, health, recreation and school nurses. He holds a master's degree in education from Stony Brook University.



Director of Food Services **Kathleen Cassidy** joins the district after serving as the lunch director in North Babylon for the past seven years. She is the current president of the Long Island School Nutrition Director's Association and has worked in the Rockville Centre and Carle Place School Districts, as well as at Western Suffolk BOCES. (No photo available.)



Assistant Transportation Supervisor **Michael DeMais** held the position of transportation supervisor at Kings Park School District and was interim transportation director at Elwood School District. He has also served as assistant director of safety for the corporation of Acme, Baumann and Alert.

Assistant Coordinator of Student Services **Julie DeCollibus** recently served as Sachem's chairperson for the committee on special education and as a special education teacher at Sachem High School North. She holds a master's degree in education/reading K-12 from Dowling College.



Sachem High School North Assistant Principal **Lisa Johnson** previously served as the school's assistant principal in a leave replacement role; she has also been an acting principal at Gatelot Elementary School. Ms. Johnson holds a master's degree in literacy education from Touro College.



Sachem High School North Principal **John Dolan** served as principal at the Smithtown West High School and is a former history and economics instructor in the Patchogue Medford School District. Mr. Dolan holds a master's degree in business administration from Adelphi University.



Sachem High School North Assistant Principal **Andrew Larson** is the district's former assistant personnel administrator and has served as an elementary school teacher at Waverly Avenue. Mr. Larson holds a master's degree in education, educational administration and supervision from St. John's University.



Waverly Avenue Elementary School Principal **Dennis Kelly** is a Sachem graduate who began his career as a second grade teacher in the district. Prior to taking this position, Mr. Kelly was an elementary assistant principal in the Harborfields School District. He holds a master's degree in elementary education from Dowling College.



Seneca Middle School Assistant Principal **John Ruggero** most recently served as the school's math department chairperson, and is a former math teacher. He holds a master's degree in education and earned advanced certification in the School Building Leader Program at Dowling College.



Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Paul Manzo** previously served as an assistant principal at Sachem High School North. He holds a master's degree in education/school counseling from Long Island University.



Coordinator of Student Services **Sue Tuttle** is the former assistant coordinator of student services for Sachem Schools; previously, she was an assistant principal for the Sachem Special Education Summer School. She received her master's degree in liberal studies from Stony Brook University.

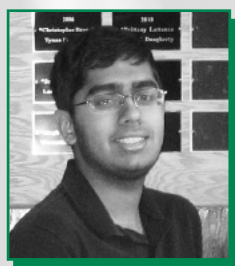


Tamarac Elementary School Principal **Michael Saidens** recently served as the principal of the Early Childhood Center in Islip Terrace. Prior to that, he was an assistant principal at the Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School in Greenlawn. Mr. Saidens holds a master's degree in special education from Dowling College.



National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students

Five Sachem High School East students and one student from Sachem High School North have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program for their scores on the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Sachem High School East seniors Varun Bhuchar and Janine Perri earned semifinalist status for achieving scores that placed them among the top 1 percent of over 1.5 million students who were tested across the nation. Sachem High School East seniors Justin Panno, Thomas Schultz and Kelley Tobin, and Sachem High School North senior Ryan Owens, were honored as commended students based on their scores, which were in the top 5 percent in the nation. Congratulations to Varun, Janine, Kelley, Justin, Thomas and Ryan on this outstanding accomplishment.



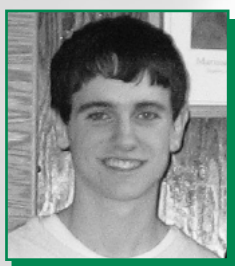
Varun Bhuchar



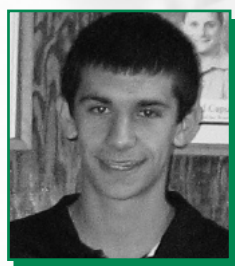
Janine Perri



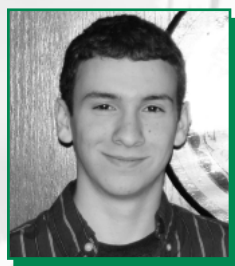
Kelley Tobin



Justin Panno



Thomas Schultz



Ryan Owens

Sachem High School East Senior Earns Perfect Scores on SAT

Congratulations to Sachem High School East senior Varun Bhuchar, who scored a perfect 800 on both the critical reading and math sections of the SAT exam. Varun was recognized by the Sachem Board of Education at a meeting in September for this impressive feat – a perfect score was only accomplished by .019 percent of all students who were tested. After graduation, Varun plans to study political science in college and pursue a career as an attorney.

Sachem AP Exam Results

16 Students Qualify as National AP Scholars

In May, 1,000 Sachem High School students took a total of 2,112 Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Approximately 18 percent of the 1.8 million students worldwide who were tested performed at a sufficiently high level to earn AP Scholar Awards.

The Sachem Central School District was recently notified of the current students and recent graduates who earned the AP Scholar distinction in 2010. Principals John Dolan and Rory Manning, and the entire Sachem community, are proud to announce that out of those Sachem students tested:

- 16 qualified for the **National AP Scholar Award** by earning an average score of 4 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more of these exams.
- 76 qualified for the **AP Scholar with Distinction Award** by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams.
- 56 qualified for the **AP Scholar with Honor Award** by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on 4 or more of these exams.
- 126 qualified for the **AP Scholar Award** by completing 3 or more AP exams with scores of 3 or higher.

The College Board’s AP Program provides academically prepared students with the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, for successful performance on the AP exams. We congratulate all of our AP Scholars, as well as every Sachem student who took one or more of these highly challenging exams. Impressively, 65 percent of the exams taken by Sachem High School East students, and 59 percent of the exams taken by Sachem High School North students, earned scores of 3 or higher.



Sachem Students Honored as All-State Musicians



Each fall, the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) selects the finest student-musicians from across the state to participate in the annual Winter Conference in Rochester, to be held this year from December 2-5. Students earn this recognition through their competitive performance at a NYSSMA solo and ensemble evaluation festival the prior spring. This year, four Sachem High School East students and six Sachem High School North students were recognized as All-State musicians:



Sachem High School East
Dina Caldararo – Mixed Chorus
Katelyn Onufrey – Women’s Chorus
Caitlin Yovino – Clarinet, Symphony Orchestra
Jonathan Boucher – Alternate

Sachem High School North
Grant Lindeman – Mixed Chorus
Danielle Mannino – Mixed Chorus
Ryan Owens – Jazz Guitar, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble
Marissa Girgus – Women’s Chorus
Brianna Ambrosino – Clarinet, Alternate
Matthew Pedersen – Alternate



Board of Education 2010-11 District Goals

The Board of Education's district goals represent the mission of the Sachem Central School District and are used to measure annual progress. **The goals for the 2010-11 school year are...**

Provide Safe and Secure Schools

The Board of Education is dedicated to maintaining a safe, secure and orderly environment where anti-bullying and character education programs will be utilized in grades K-12 to promote positive peer relationships and successful student learning environments for students.

Enhance Student Achievement, Quality of Instruction and Leadership Skills

The Board of Education is committed to implementing a curriculum that incorporates critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and civic responsibility. Supported by a K-12 curriculum council of educators and administrators, our graduates will be college ready and prepared for 21st-century careers.

Improve Parent, Community and Staff Communication

The Board of Education will continue to enhance communication through a variety of electronic media and technology resources in an effort to be environmentally responsible.

Improve Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Throughout the District

The Board of Education will continue to focus on balancing the needs of students with sensitivity to our taxpayers.

Technology Integration

The Board of Education supports a curriculum that will require students to exhibit a range of functional and critical-thinking skills related to information media and technology.

"We Are Sachem"

The Board of Education is dedicated to promoting one Sachem family and collaboration among our 18 schools. This will support consistent academic programs and activities.

Moving On

Longtime Members of the Sachem Administration and Staff Say Farewell

After a list of the 2009-10 school year's staff retirees was published in the summer graduation newsletter, the Sachem Central School District bid farewell to an additional 57 dedicated individuals who have served our students and community with care and commitment for many years.

Among the recent retirees are Assistant Superintendent Paul Kopp (32 years), Waverly Elementary School Principal Susan Greiner (13 years), Coordinator of Student Services Paul Stellino (15 years) and Secretary to the Superintendent Pat Sterling (14 years).

We thank each of them and all of our departing colleagues for their countless contributions to the Sachem schools and community. We wish them all much success and happiness as they pursue their future endeavors.

High School Legacy Projects Help Build a Better Sachem

9/11 Memorial at Sachem North

The freshman class of Sachem High School North is in the planning stages of building a memorial in honor of the victims of 9/11. This tribute site will be attached to the existing Rain Garden, which was built this past summer. To cover construction costs, ninth graders are conducting fundraisers throughout the year, the first of which was the Fallen Heroes Memorial 5K Run/Walk held on November 7 that helped raise \$2,530.

Class officers are working with their peers to finalize a design for the memorial and hope to have the project completed by September 11, 2011. To help make the memorial particularly meaningful, Sachem High School North has requested actual pieces from the World Trade Center site. So far, an anonymous source was kind enough to donate a section of the marble flooring from the main lobby of Tower Two.

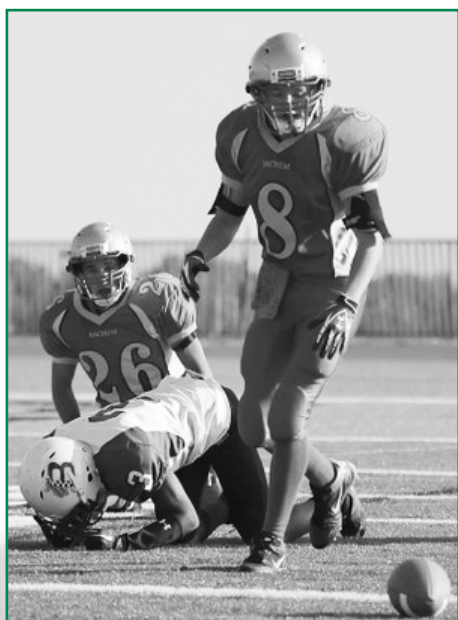
LED Marquee at Sachem East

Last year, Sachem High School East held a special fundraiser – a buy-a-brick campaign for the school's memorial garden – to help raise money for a new LED marquee. Thanks to the proactive campaigning of several school organizations, including student government and the PTA, the fundraising goal was reached, and ground will be broken on campus for a full-color LED sign.

The school's new LED sign will display informative messages for both students and parents as they enter from Granny Road. It will have the capability of displaying quality graphics and even short video clips. Installation is expected to begin this November and will take approximately one month to complete.

SPORTS NEWS

HOMECOMING CELEBRATIONS: WE ARE SACHEM!



Sachem High School East and Sachem High School North hosted their annual homecoming parades and football games this October under the unified 2010-11 district theme "We Are Sachem."

Sachem High School East's homecoming celebration kicked off on the evening of October 22 with a dazzling fireworks show attended by hundreds of students and community members. The homecoming parade took place the next day, followed by the Sachem High School East boys' varsity football game. The Sachem team hosted the Brentwood squad in a highly contested match that saw the Sachem boys fall short with a final score of 20-3.

Sachem High School North's homecoming game and parade was broadcast live on *MSG Varsity Network*. The game provided much entertainment for the home-team fans, as Sachem defeated opponent William Floyd High School by a dramatic score of 40-6.

Thank you to all those who came out to support the homecoming festivities!

