

Seneca Middle School Quarter III Newsletter 2021

Happy Spring to all our wonderful Seneca families! The days are longer and brighter and compared to what we were living through last year, we are fortunate to be able to go outside and enjoy the beautiful season that is upon us.

Third quarter has seen all of our hybrid students back in school every day. It is very satisfying to see our halls and classrooms full again. We are working very hard to keep everyone as safe as possible while going back to school life as we used to know it. We appreciate your support of our teachers and staff as they are working tirelessly to make it a great educational and social experience for our students.

Seneca is always busy and alive with activities. This quarter we hosted the Peer Educators who held an online Project Kindness event for our 6th graders. Our 7th graders got to experience a virtual SeneCon with great presenters and activities. Our foreign language teachers and our prevention counselor, Mrs. Garcia, organized a program of traditional dances and culture for our 7th and 8th graders in celebration of World Language and Cultural Diversity Week. Our 6th and 8th graders participated in a virtual Game Show Assembly challenging their knowledge of our government, and we had a Junior Iron Chef competition.

As we enter our 4th and final quarter, we are preparing for State and final testing and for our end of the year fun activities such as our drama presentation and our 8th grade celebrations. Please read on for more information and for pictures from the events that already took place. Remember to check our website, our twitter, and Instagram accounts for the latest updates.

Seneca Website:

http://www.sachem.edu/schools/seneca_middle_school

Twitter: @SachemSenecaMS

Instagram: seneca_ms

ADMINISTRATION

GEMMA M. SALVIA
PRINCIPAL

DENISE DOLAN
GEORGIA AFKENDIOU, Ph.D
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT STAFF

- KARA PROCTOR
Grade 6 Counselor
- JAMES DUFFY
Grade 7 Counselor
- ADA CONTE
Grade 8 Counselor
- STEPHANIE GARCIA
Substance Abuse Counselor
- EVA SANSONE
Social Worker
- CYNTHIA TLOCZKOWSKI
School Psychologist

A MESSAGE FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Your child's course recommendations for next year will be available to review on the Parent Portal later this spring. How do you find them? A new tab will appear at the top of the Parent Portal titled "Course Requests". When you click on the tab, you will see a list of the courses that will appear in your child's schedule next year. The courses are NOT LISTED IN ANY

PARTICULAR ORDER- they are just a list. Please contact your child's Guidance Counselor if you have any questions about the courses that you see. It is very important that you review the course recommendations when they are posted since they are time sensitive. All teacher recommendations are subject to change pending final course grades in June.

OUR EVENTS

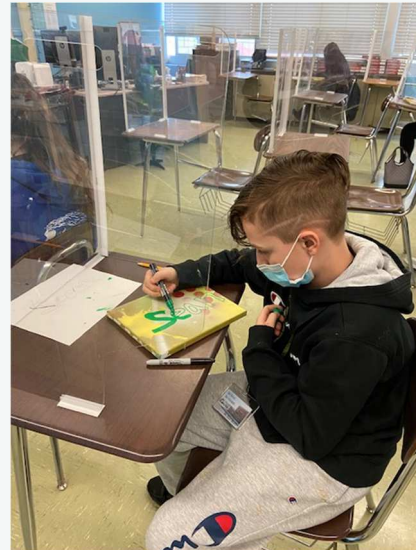
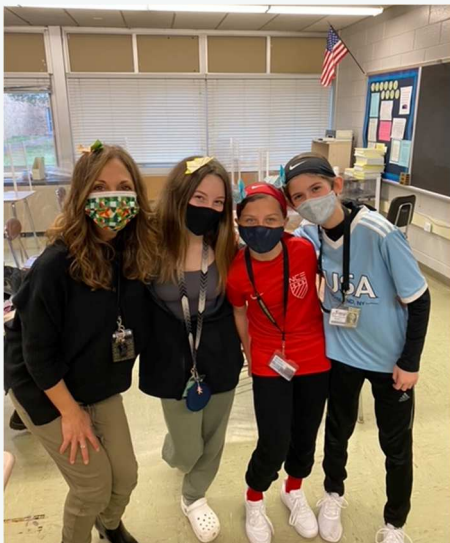
The **National Junior Honor Society** is holding a school wide fundraiser throughout the months of April and May. The fundraiser is for The Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House is a program located near top children's hospitals. This program allows parents/guardians who are far from home to stay close to their hospitalized child and benefit from the comforts of home without incurring hotel and food costs. Our NJHS members will be

collecting items during the months of April and May that will help the parents/guardians during their difficult time. Such items include: 6th Grade, canned goods and non-perishable food, 7th Grade household items, and, 8th Grade, personal care items. Additional items include new toys, puzzles or books in the original wrapping. We are excited to see the success of this fundraiser! It is for such a wonderful cause.



SeneCon is a pop culture event that celebrates literacy, the arts, and hands-on learning organized by our librarian Mrs. Robson and our ELA Department Chair Mrs. Stumpf. The presenters included artists David O. Miller and Danny Cross, storyteller and origami instructor Shrikant Iyer,

illustrator and author George Conner, and musician Brent Daniels. Students, faculty and administrators wore their favorite superhero costumes and students participated in hands on activities led virtually by our guests.



RECOGNIZING OUR STUDENTS

Seneca takes great pride in recognizing our students. Each month, we celebrate our Students of the Month, nominated by classroom teachers. Each week, we recognize Students Who Make a Difference, and to date, we have acknowledged over 650 students, some multiple times. We also celebrate students' academic success at the end of each quarter through our Renaissance Program, and special recognition is given to students who achieve Academic Excellence with an overall average of 95% or better.



Students of the Month February

Grade 8 – Sahar Fatima

Grade 7 – Ben Asante

Grade 6 – Madison Tarantino

IMPORTANT DATES

April 13
Quarter III ends

April 14
Quarter IV begins

April 20
ELA Testing

May 4
Math Testing

May 28-21
Memorial Day
Weekend

Students of the Month March

Grade 8 - Brayden Tappin

Grade 7 - Keira Stumpf

Grade 6 - Grace Saposnick



Seneca Drama Proudly Presents...



Decades of Magic: a musical journey through the many decades of Disney movie musicals, from Snow White to Descendants! There's something for everyone to enjoy in this musical revue! Watch our wonderful cast of thespians as they take the stage from the comfort of your home. Performances will be available to stream on June 4th and 5th, 2021. Ticket information will be available soon!

Yearbook Information

Yearbooks are now on sale! Purchase yours today at WWW.BALFOUR.COM for \$25. Reserve your copy TODAY. Any extra books will be sold in June for \$30. DON'T MISS OUT, they will sell out!!!

OUR EVENTS

On March 12th, 7th grade students participated in Seneca's **Junior Iron Chef** competition organized by Mr. Frontino and our Family and Consumer Science Chair Ms. Faller. The four teams were the *Cannoli Queens*, the *Poppin Pancakes*, the *Burrito Baddies* and *Chefs of the Caribbean*. The students' creations were judged by a group of volunteer faculty and staff who virtually observed the students at work and tasted the delicious end results. They had a difficult time coming to a decision but the *Poppin Pancakes* carried the day! Our student chefs were Ivy



Andrieszyn, Megyn Arasin, Alisha Bergs, Michaela Bergs, Lily Brady, Isabella Carlton, Sophia Carpenito, Sophia Gandolfi, Camryn Goodman, Isabella Kirklava, Gabriella Petroski, Ava Randazzo, Isabella Rodrigues, Kayla Saporita and Mia Savarese.



Foreign Language Teachers Grace Markowitz, Lorie Fernandez, Brooke Failey-Ramirez, Virginia Meric and Diamela Peguero-Collazo, and prevention counselor Stephanie Garcia created a cultural diversity event to help celebrate **World Language and Cultural Diversity Week**. The week long event encompassed dance workshops, introduction to Foreign Language lessons for 6th Graders, an international lunch menu, and student speakers sharing the daily announcements in their native languages like Turkish, Italian, Greek, Gujarati, and Vietnamese. 7th and 8th Grade students participated in a fun and safe Dance Workshop provided by Seneca's Foreign Language Teachers. Students learned dances from around the world, such as Italy's Tarentella, Cuba's Cha Cha, Dominican Republic's Bachata, Ireland's Step Dance and Colombia's Cumbia. It was a fun experience for all and a great way for the students to express themselves and learn. Even in times of a pandemic we strive to help the students expand their horizons!

