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- Fall Events
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- Awards

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- Red & Blue - 3/1 - 3/2
- BOE Regular Meeting - 3/7
- BOE Public Work Session - 3/21
- Easter Recess - 3/28 - 3/29

APRIL

- BOE Regular Meeting - 4/4
- BOE Public Work Session - 4/16
- SSSS Spring Musical
4/11 - 4/13
- Passover Recess - 4/22 - 4/30

MAY

- BOE Regular Meeting - 5/7
- SSMS Spring Musical
5/10 - 5/11
- Annual Election & Budget Vote
5/21
- Schools closed for Memorial Day
5/27
- BOE Regular Meeting - 5/30

TO ALL ROCKVILLE CENTRE
SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Ms. Jeanne Love, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services at 516-255-8928, or Rebecca Taylor, Chairperson for the Committee on Special Education at 516-255-8928, or Dr. Danielle Lundgren, Chairperson for the Committee on Preschool Special Education at 516-255-8815.

YOUR SCHOOLS



SSHS PERFORMS PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

How did a miserable orphan come to be
The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up?





FALL EVENTS



SSMS PRESENTS HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

The kids at SSMS put a new twist on some Broadway classics!

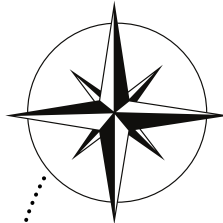
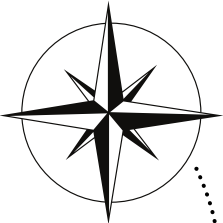


"One of the great things about the Broadway Revue, which is a tradition at South Side Middle School, is that it gives our students the opportunity to shine in a more particular way than when we do the spring musical," said Dr. Brian Zuar, the Director of Arts at RVC Schools.



SSHS PERFORMS PETER AND THE STARCATHER

A young orphan and his mates are shipped off from Victorian England to a distant island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They know nothing of the mysterious trunk in the captain's cabin, which contains a precious, otherworldly cargo. When the ship is taken over by pirates - led by the fearsome Black Stache, a villain determined to claim the trunk and its treasure for his own - the journey quickly becomes a thrilling adventure.



YOU CAN WATCH BOTH PERFORMANCES ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!





FALL EVENTS

FIVE-YEAR CURRICULUM REVIEW PROCESS PROGRESS UPDATE



As a part of our Board of Education Goals, we have instituted a comprehensive five-year curriculum review process across all content areas. Each major content area will undergo a thorough examination once every five years, with one year specifically designated as a spotlight year for each subject area.

- 22-23:** ELA Year 1: Spotlight and Review Curriculum
- 23-24:** Math Year 1: Spotlight and Review Curriculum
- ELA Year 2: Design and develop new ELA units across the grade levels

Status Update: Last year, the ELA committee aligned our vision with the Science of Reading and Literacy Briefs from the New York State Education Department. Emphasizing increased phonemic awareness instruction in Pre-K-2, we aimed for coherence and foundational literacy skills. In the upper grades, we focused on word work, increasing book clubs, use of comprehension strategies (i.e., top-down topic webs, two-column notes), and literacy progressions. Currently, we are in the second year of our ELA curriculum review. The focus is on researching writing practices that are aligned with the Science of Learning and delving deeper into progressions of reading and writing.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our curriculum and to see how we nurture a passion for learning!



SCAN HERE



FALL EVENTS



COMMERCE PLAZA PUTS FIFTH GRADERS IN BUSINESS



This year, fifth-grade students from across the Rockville Centre School District had the opportunity to take a special field trip to Commerce Plaza, the “Children’s Business Center.”

Commerce Plaza, located in Levittown, is a simulated business community designed to promote employment skills and financial literacy by providing students from all around Long Island with “actual” work experience.

The field trips were funded by a grant through the Rockville Centre Education Foundation that was awarded to Melissa Rice, a fifth-grade teacher at Watson Elementary. Rice said she first learned about Commerce Plaza from one of her daughter’s friends, who learned what it was like to work at Capital One Bank on a school trip.

“I am very grateful to the RVC Education Foundation. I got that grant just in time, because I felt that every fifth-grader needed to experience Commerce Plaza,” Rice said. She added that what really appealed to her was that the program offers lessons for teachers to work on with students before they take part in the experience.

“We taught them how to write a check, what a business might need to get started, and we did a station rotation learning credit cards, loans and investments,” Rice said. “We were able to have these real conversations about financial literacy. I’ve always been a huge proponent of the DECA program at the high school and I love seeing what my former students do there, so it seemed like a natural thing to start at the end of elementary school.”

Eight of our fifth-grade classes across the school district have visited Commerce Plaza, so far. Three classes from Covert and Hewitt will have their field trips in May and June.



FALL EVENTS

'THE COLORS OF FRIDA' COMES TO THE RVC SCHOOL DISTRICT



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in September and October, the renowned Teatro Society of the Educational Arts Theatre visited all five elementary schools across the Rockville Centre School District.

The Teatro SEA visits were funded by a grant from the Rockville Centre Education Foundation that was awarded to Freddy Junior Rodriguez, a Covert Elementary teacher, and the FLES team.



During their visits, Teatro SEA presented its production centered on the iconic Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

“I have always been a lover of art,” Rodriguez said, “and I know that through our art program here in Rockville Centre, the kids study Frida through her self-portraits, so they’re already coming with a background knowledge of who this person was, and then we were able to make lessons geared toward their specific topics.”



The production, “Los Colores de Frida,” gave students the chance to learn more about Kahlo and discuss her work. It also served as a springboard for bilingual education in the elementary school by exploring a range of topics in Spanish, including colors, emotions, cognates, art and heritage.

“Thank you to the RVC Education Foundation for helping us bring Los Colores de Frida to our schools,” Rodriguez said.





FALL EVENTS



NINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STUDENTS AT SOUTH SIDE COMPETE AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

Three seniors from South Side High School were selected by the Material Research Society to present the findings of their scientific research project to faculty from several of the nation's top colleges at the organization's fall meeting and exhibition in Boston on Nov. 30.

Over the summer, Sophia Bracco, Sergio Rosa and Dominic Rosiello worked with Stony Brook University researchers at the university's Garcia Center for Polymers at Engineered Interfaces, studying a substance known as partially reduced graphene oxide.

"We were testing the catalytic effects of partially reduced graphene oxide, and the reaction between use and hydrogen peroxide," Bracco explained. "Specifically, we wanted to look into thrombin and fibrinogen, which are blood clotting factors, to see if it would enhance the speed of clotting of those two proteins."

Herbert Weiss, the science research coordinator at South Side High, said the students decided "on a lark" to submit their research paper, and were invited to present their research in Boston.

"Generally, only graduate students and Ph.D.s get picked to present their work," Weiss said. "This means that all of the top schools are going to be looking at what they do."

Due to the magnitude of their work and its practical applications, the South Side students' project, entitled "The effects of partially reduced graphene oxide on the enzymatic activity of yeast," was also selected by the Material Research Society to be published in an affiliated academic journal.

"It's a really great achievement knowing that the work we did over the summer actually meant something," Rosiello said.

Six more seniors in the South Side research program — Noah Feigenbaum, Francis Hassin, Bianca Oronato, Allison Paulino, Natalia Skrodski and Avery Testa — also entered their independent research projects in the 2024 Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest science and math competition. Each year, 400 Regeneron scholars are selected from nearly 2,000 entrants nationwide.



WINTER EVENTS

SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL ART STUDENTS DRAW INSPIRATION FROM STREET ART

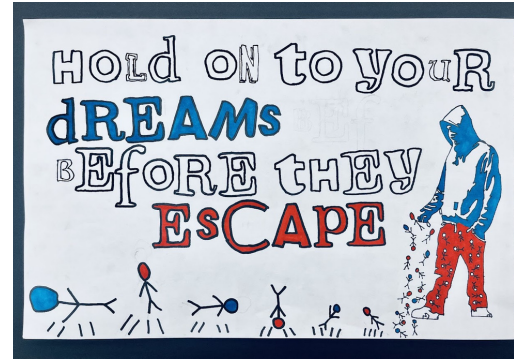
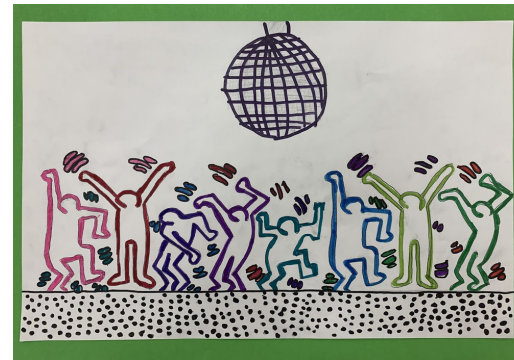


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During a lesson on the principles of emphasis and movement, eighth-grade students in the Studio in Art program at South Side Middle School were allowed to create their compositions inspired by street artists Keith Haring and Banksy.

Art teacher Christy Silecchia-Ferrone said the inspiration for the project was driven by whether their artwork should be considered genius or vandalism, and how both Haring and Banksy changed graffiti culture while elevating themselves to a finer art.

Inspired by these two renowned street artists, the eighth-grade art students came up with their own interpretations based on their concepts and designs. To learn more about the project or for more student artwork, scan the QR code.



WINTER EVENTS

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC TEACHES **KINDERGARTNERS ABOUT HEALTHCARE**

Kindergarten students from the Rockville Centre School District brought their beloved stuffed animals and teddy bears to a special Teddy Bear Clinic on January 19, 2024. The event was hosted by Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital and gave the kindergartners an opportunity to get a taste of what it's like to be part of the healthcare field.



The kindergartners who took part in the educational clinic, in the Rockville Centre Recreation Center, learned about hospital visits and medical procedures in a hands-on, interactive way.



The clinic aimed to prepare the students for a visit to the hospital by introducing them to different medical stations, including a physical exam station, medical imaging, surgery, physical and respiratory therapy.

“The Teddy Bear Clinic gives the students the opportunity to not only see and hear what they might experience at a hospital/doctor visit but to touch everything, use it on their stuffed animals and act it out,” Christine Dodd, a kindergarten teacher at Watson, explained. “Our hope is that if a real life scenario occurred, this visit instilled a sense of familiarity and they won’t be as scared or nervous going through it.”



At each station, health care professionals from Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital explained their roles, instruments, and procedures to the students. The physical therapy station allowed students to hop on one foot and stretch with their teddy bears, while the physical exam station enabled them to listen to their teddy bears’ hearts and check their ears and eyes.

The highlight of the clinic for many students was putting a cast on their teddy bears’ arms, ears, tails, legs, or hands at the medical imaging station.



AWARDS

SSHS STUDENTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN NYSSMA WINTER CONFERENCE ALL-STATE ENSEMBLES AND COMPOSERS SHOWCASE

Congratulations to the South Side High School students who participated in the NYSSMA Winter Conference All-State Ensembles and Composers Showcase!

James Giangregorio, composer
Electronic Music Showcase

Owen Cashman, jazz guitar
All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Paul Marquardt, French horn
All-State Symphonic Band

Paul Adal, cello
All-State Symphony Orchestra

Our teachers also ran into some alumni, Christopher Rakeman and Tobey Dwyer, who attended the conference with their college music education programs!





AWARDS



SOUTH SIDE CYCLONES BECOME NASSAU COUNTY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 20 YEARS

The Varsity football team finished the regular season with a near-perfect record - having lost only one game to Plainedge. The team would continue its streak into the post-season, defeating Lynbrook and Plainedge by a wide margin for a shot at the Nassau County Conference III championship.

Up by three with just minutes remaining, the Cyclones run out the clock, to capture the first Nassau County Conference III title for South Side High School since 2001.

“This is the best feeling I’ve ever had in my life,” said senior two-way lineman Bobby Galindo. “We’re a close-knit team and most of us have been friends since elementary school,” he added. “We’ve been dreaming about this moment for a long time and to make it come true is incredible.”

Fueled by the adrenaline of the more than 3,500 fans at Hofstra’s Shuart Stadium, the Cyclones went on to face East Islip in the hopes of bringing the title of Long Island Champions to Rockville Centre for the first time.

The Cyclones fell behind early with East Islip taking a 13-0 lead a few minutes into the game, but the Cyclones battled back closing the gap to 13-7 when Justin Singh ran the ball in for a touchdown with 2:31 left in the 1st quarter. The Cyclones then took a lead when Michael Melkonian found the end zone with 8:46 remaining in the 3rd quarter. The teams battled back and forth until East Islip scored with 5:49 left in the game. The Cyclones had one more drive in them as they started with the ball on their own 18 yard line and took it all the way down to the East Islip 24 before running out of time.

“We fought hard all the way and gave ourselves a chance at the end,” South Side head coach Phil Onesto said.





AWARDS



SOUTH SIDE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT COUNTY CROWN

The South Side girls' cross country dynasty keeps rolling on – the team won its fourth consecutive county championship in October.

Finishing with a 13-0 regular season performance, the cross country team went on to win the Conference 3 title before continuing its streak as the winners of the Nassau County Class II championship at Bethpage State Park.

Six runners from South Side earned All-County honors this year, including Claire Bohan, Maeve Nawrocki, Lana Jewett, Fayola Allison, Emma Sitterly, and Morgan McKenna.

“Every team has two fast runners,” Head coach Chris Webster told the Herald. “But what you need is a good 3, 4, 5, 6. They are the ones who win us the county and states.”

In the last four years, the girls remain undefeated in league meets accumulating an undefeated record of 52-0.





AWARDS

SOUTH SIDE GIRLS SOCCER WINS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The South Side girls' soccer program celebrated an outstanding fall season, which they capped off with a thrilling victory over Garden City in the Nassau Class AA Championship.

Tied 0-0 with the clock winding down, a late penalty placed South Side senior Nora Basile head-to-head with Garden City goalkeeper Marissa Patrissi for the second time in the past three years.

“When I scored against her in the semifinals two years ago, I went bottom right, where I usually like to shoot,” Basile told the Herald. “I saw one of their players pointing to the right side, so I thought I should go left this time.”

Basile’s strategy paid off, to secure a 1-0 victory over Garden City in overtime, while claiming the third county title for the cyclones in four seasons.

Following the game, the team advanced to the Long Island AA championship match against Smithtown West, which they lost 1-0.

