

YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June

- 18 Board of Education Public Work Session
- 27 Last Day of Instruction
- 27 HS Graduation

South Side Middle School Students are One Step Closer to Completing a Virtual Marathon!

Fifteen students at South Side Middle School have been working towards completing a “virtual marathon” as part of the Achilles Kids Program. Achilles Kids is a free running/walking program for children with all types of disabilities. Their goal is to help motivate children to run or walk in PE class. The centerpiece of the program is a 26.2 mile “virtual marathon” which is completed over the course of the school year.

“On April 9th, the students celebrated their half marathon accomplishment (13.1 miles) with a medal ceremony. Our goal,” said PE teacher Carolyn Ferguson, “is to complete a full marathon (26.2 miles) by the end of the school year.” She went on to say, “this program has had a far reaching impact on our students’ lives. The joy on their faces, the enthusiasm with which they greet their friends and the sparks of recognition when working with their favorite ‘Best Buddy volunteers’ all speak to the amazing impact of this program.”

Achilles Kids provides materials and incentives to help get children involved, with the hope that they will develop a lifelong love of running and exercise.

To All Rockville Centre School District Residents

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Dr. Noreen Leahy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education, at (516)255-8928, or Dr. Orly Gadon, Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Education at (516) 255-8942.





South Side High School Names their 2014 Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Meghan Connelly

We are pleased to announce that Meghan Connelly was recently named the Valedictorian of South Side High School's Class of 2014. As a candidate for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, Meghan has challenged herself by taking the rigorous classes available to her. She is the type of student that teachers love to teach. Her natural curiosity, impeccable work ethic and overall desire to achieve are what make her so deserving of this prestigious recognition. Over the years her teachers have referred to her as a student who "stands out for her work ethic, and leads class discussions with insightful questions."

Outside of the classroom, Meghan's commitment to her activities is commendable. She has been a Girl Scout for the past 13 years earning both her Bronze and Silver Award. For her Silver Award, Meghan, along with her troop, made "learning dolls" shaped like people that doctors used at the Kennedy Krieger Institute to show patients exactly what was going to be done to them. In addition, from the time when Meghan was in middle school she has been a member of the Cross Country and Track teams and has played the clarinet since elementary school.

Meghan is a unique young lady who is unstoppable. She has the ability to assess a situation and solve it. She is the type of young lady who is true to herself and her interests. Meghan is passionate about animals and spent last summer at the Bronx Zoo as a member of their Summer Teen Program. She thoroughly enjoyed this experience and plans to major in animal science. Meghan is comfortable and confident in who she is, which is what makes her a leader. She will certainly continue to shine when she attends the University of New Hampshire in the fall and in all her future endeavors.

Michael Spelfogel

Michael Spelfogel is the Salutatorian for the South Side High School Class of 2014. Michael is truly a unique individual who is extremely intelligent and driven, possessing a genuine thirst for knowledge. He is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate who especially loves science and math, having taken part in our Science Research Program and academic competition teams. He is also gifted in foreign languages and is on his way to mastering Spanish through his IB Spanish courses. In addition to Spanish, Michael studied French at South Side and has even begun to learn the Chinese language on his own.

A kind and generous individual, Michael spends a great deal of time on worthy causes within the community. He has done a great deal of volunteer work for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and even volunteered to travel to Costa Rica to teach English to children. Moreover, he possesses a true entrepreneurial spirit, having begun his own international business venture selling products online to customers around the world. This past summer Michael was an intern with a company in China, giving him an experience that few students have earned so early in their careers. A gifted orator, he has received acclaim in national public speaking competitions. He will certainly find huge success in our global economy as he is perfectly fit for an international business career. Michael, along with a few others, also began the SSHS Tutoring website where he is assisting his fellow classmates through free, online tutoring. It is a program that he will be bringing to other local high schools as well.

Michael does it all and is unquestionably well-deserving of this honor. He is certainly destined for greatness throughout his time at Stanford University and beyond.



(L to R) Valedictorian Meghan Connelly, SSHS Principal Dr. Carol Burris, Salutatorian Michael Spelfogel

Former Covert Principal Passes Away at the age of 100



Former Covert Elementary School Principal, Leonora Roth passed away on February 11 at her home in Westchester. Roth began working in the District as a second grade teacher at Hewitt Elementary School in 1956. In 1970, she became the Principal of Covert and worked there until retirement in 1984, at the age of 70.

Roth, who turned 100 on January 11th, is survived by her children Susan, Gail and Merrill, and her five grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester on February 16th. Contributions in her memory can be made to Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Glengary Road, Croton N.Y., 10520, or to the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Rd, Montrose N.Y., 10548.

Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES)

The FLES program provides elementary school students with Spanish language classes 3 times in a 6-day cycle. Students are taught using songs, games, body movement and art activities. In collaboration with the classroom teacher, the FLES teacher coordinates lessons based on current curricula themes.

Students continue to acquire vocabulary and develop their language abilities and talents through the FLES program. First and second graders have had lots of fun learning to say the numbers and alphabet through games, songs, and interactive activities. Third graders learned about Latin American countries like El Salvador and Costa Rica. Ask them, and they'll be sure to tell you all about the flag, food and music of the countries. Fourth graders finished creating recipes with *los ingredientes* from *el supermercado*. Next time you go food shopping together, your child can bring you the *lechuga* and *tomate*. Fifth graders are well on their way to middle school Spanish, as they continue to impress us more than ever. Now we are learning ways to describe ourselves and others by using higher level adjectives. Through the FLES program, we will continue to implement varied and engaging activities, so that our students may develop a deeper understanding of their own language and a further appreciation of cultural diversity.



(Left) Covert fifth graders have perfected the Spanish conjugation of the verb *SER*, which means 'to be'. Before learning the verb, the students practiced naming the various pronombres (subject pronouns). To help them remember the subject pronouns, the students viewed a video called "Pronoun Paradise". The song/rap was very catchy and memorable. Students then had a ball toss where they had to correctly sing the chorus of the song/rap.



(Right) Hewitt's fourth grade students review the body parts in Spanish. While learning the parts of the body, visuals were used on the Smart Board and on flashcards, as well as a song where the students had to move certain parts of their body based on the what the lyrics instructed .



(Left) Riverside's fifth graders have acquired an abundant amount of Spanish through the past few years. Sra. Rodriguez is currently teaching character traits through the use of various kinesthetic games and Smart Board interactive activities. The students used their iPads to conduct research on character traits, so that they could write acrostic poems in Spanish.

(Right) Watson School's first grade students have had an amazing year immersing themselves in the FLES program. The students have greatly increased their Spanish vocabulary through the use of songs, interactive Smart Board activities, and games. One of the ways Sra. Rodriguez has taught the students the Spanish alphabet and its correlating sounds is through the song, "Cosmo."



(Left) Wilson's wonderful first graders learn their alphabet. To do so, they learned their "Alfabeto" song. These kids are ready to march to the beat of their A,B,C song. They learned how to spell their own names in Spanish and the funny sounds certain letters make in our alphabet. Along with that they also learned the difference between las vocals (vowels) y consonants (consonants).



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National Merit Scholarship Finalist

South Side High School Student Nicolas Marcotrigiano was named a Finalist in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. As an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, Nic has distinguished himself as an outstanding student across all of the academic disciplines. He is also a constant presence on our stage. Throughout high school, he has been involved in our theatre department performing in all of our fall dramas, student directed plays and spring musicals. Nic is also an accomplished trumpet player, a newly appointed Eagle Scout, and actively involved in our Debate Club, the school newspaper and our various honor societies. It is quite an honor to advance to finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program of 2014 by demonstrating through distinguished performance high potential for future academic accomplishments. Nic will attend Haverford College in the fall.



Pictured L to R: SSHS Principal Dr. Carol Burris & National Merit Finalist Nicolas Marcotrigiano

Stefan B. Lichter Memorial Scholarship



Pictured (L to R): Director of the Arts Brian Zuar, Jim Dragovitch, Scholarship recipient William Dragovich, Carolyn Lichter and Aaron Lichter

At the Annual Rockville Centre School District Jazz Concert, 8th grader William Dragovich was awarded the Stefan B. Lichter Memorial Scholarship. William plays the saxophone in the wind ensemble and the jazz band at South Side Middle School and has been selected for All-County each year since 5th grade. Currently he is taking the 8th grade music studio class where he is expanding his knowledge of music theory while composing a variety of short original pieces of music, including some in the jazz idiom.

The Stefan B. Lichter Memorial Scholarship was set up by Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Lichter in 1993, in memory of their late son, Stefan, who was an avid student musician and played the trombone in South Side's Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble. Scholarship recipients may use their scholarship for lessons, a summer music program or toward purchase of an instrument.

Donations to the Stefan B. Lichter Memorial fund may be mailed to Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Lichter, 8 Muirfield Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.

School closings and other urgent messages will be sent through ConnectEd, a telephone and email communication system. Contact information on file for students and staff will be utilized for these notifications. Other community members who wish to receive District-wide messages should send an email with their name, phone number and/or email address to connected@rvcschools.org or send a letter to the Business Office in the Administration Building at 128 Shepherd Street, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 requesting to be added to this messaging list. Parents who would like to change their contact information should contact the main office of their child's school.