

# YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Inside This Issue

- **School Roundup**
- **SSHS Girls Soccer: State Champions**
- **Siemens Finalist and Semi-Finalist**
- **NYSSMA All State**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### December

26-30 Schools Closed—Winter Recess

### January

2 Schools Closed—Winter Recess

4 Board of Education—Public Work Session

16 Schools Closed—Martin Luther King Jr Day

18 Board of Education meeting

31 Board of Education—Budget Work Session

### February

7 Board of Education— Budget Work Session

13 Board of Education meeting

20-24 Schools Closed — Mid Winter Recess

## Nassau County Tries to Pass the Buck to School Districts

During the course of the last year, the Nassau County Legislature initiated two actions that could have significant impact on school districts, including Rockville Centre. Both of these legislative actions shift the financial burden from the County to local school districts.

The first action involves Nassau County Legislature's approval of legislation that shifts the financial responsibility for multi-year back payments for tax certiorari settlements from the County to school districts. Tax certiorari proceedings are the legal process by which a property owner can challenge the real estate tax assessment on a given property in an attempt to reduce the property's assessment and real estate taxes.

Earlier this year Rockville Centre, along with other school districts, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, and other municipalities brought a lawsuit against the County. This consolidated lawsuit is pending before a justice in the Supreme Court of Nassau County. In the past, attempts by the County to shift the burden to school districts and towns have been denied by both the State Supreme Court and the Appellate Division.

Rockville Centre's tax certiorari liability could approximate \$1.3 million each year. School district business offices will be responsible for tracking tax certiorari claims and legal counsel will be needed to handle the tax certiorari proceedings creating an additional legal burden.

The second action involves an attempt by Nassau County to impose sewer use charges on school districts which had previously been "exempt users." Rockville Centre joined with other school districts and other users classified as exempt, including Hofstra University and St. Francis Hospital, to successfully argue a motion seeking a preliminary injunction preventing the enforcement of the imposition of the sewer use fees while this litigation proceeds.

Since the County does not have sewer meters, these fees would be measured solely on total water consumption. School districts would be at a disadvantage because of high water use for irrigating fields, as would schools with pools. At this time there are no County plans to install sewer meters to measure the volume of water flowing into the sewers from the school districts.

## SIEMENS SCIENCE COMPETITION

South Side High School is proud to announce that Austin Wild was named a National Regional finalist for a Study of the Extracellular Matrix in Dental Pulp Stem Cell Differentiation with and without Static Magnetic Fields, in the Siemens Science Competition. His work was read and recognized by the CEO of Stem Save and Dr. Jeremy Mao of Columbia University. Austin will be going to Columbia University to make a presentation on his lab research to Dr. Mao.

A second South Side High School student, Nick Suss was selected as a Semifinalist for his study on the Effects of Polycaprolactone and UV Treated Poly (methyl methacrylate) Electrospun Fibers on Osteogenic Differentiation of Dental Pulp Stem Cells.



Left to right: South Side High School Principal Dr. Carol Burris, Siemens Regional Finalist Austin Wild, Siemens Semifinalist Nick Suss, and Science Research teacher Herb Weiss.

# School Roundup

## COVERT

The Holiday Season is upon us and Covert is giving thanks in style. To Celebrate, Covert held its annual Thanksgiving Day Feast in the gymnasium. Each student created a place mat with drawings and writings depicting the things that represent Thanksgiving and what they are thankful for. The children and adults of Covert ate together wearing their orange "Covert Rocks" t- shirts. The Zorn's catered food was served by members of the PTA. The Feast is a great opportunity for the parents, children, and staff to celebrate together, and to realize how lucky we all are to be a part of an amazing school! The school then continued the celebration by watching Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving, which is an all time classic. The feast was also highlighted by the fourth grade canned food drive where the students in are taught the importance of philanthropy and gave the school a chance to help needy families within the community. We are looking forward to a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



## HEWITT



First grade students at Hewitt School have a better understanding of how "a picture is worth a thousand words." In an effort to enhance the children's study of *needs and wants*, S.T.E.L.L.A.R. teacher, Christine Flanagan, and first grade teachers Maria Argondizzo, Colleen Powers, and Louise Sommers, invited former Assistant Superintendent, Delia Garrity, and Rockville Centre resident, Diana Silon, into the library to illustrate how *needs and wants* differ in communities throughout the world. Mrs. Garrity and Mrs. Silon, volunteers with H.E.L.P International, have made several mission trips to Masese, a small, poverty-stricken village in Uganda. In an admirable effort to help others in need, these two women and their families have been working hard to help establish and sustain a primary school for the impoverished children of this African community. They presented an informative video, showed descriptive pictures, and then shared their own personal experiences in an effort to help the children better understand how *needs and wants* can differ dramatically. After seeing for themselves the poor living conditions facing the Masese children, Hewitt's young *Hurricanes* enthusiastically brainstormed ways in which they could help the Masese families. The entire experience helped to impress upon the students the importance of giving back, one of the themes threaded throughout their first grade year.

## RIVERSIDE

Technology has made yet another stop at Riverside Elementary School this year with the arrival of the SMART Table. The SMART Table is a touch screen table that allows primary students to use their hands to complete interactive learning activities and games, encouraging collaboration. It also helps children develop skills in reading, counting and visual spatial awareness. Multiple students are able to play word and picture games simply by dragging the images around the screen. Students thoroughly enjoy this new addition to the Stellar Center.



*Students in Mrs. Mayo's Kindergarten class are using the SMART Table to learn about people and their different jobs.*

## WATSON



Watson School children are thrilled with the iPads the Rockville Centre School District recently distributed to students. They are adapting to this new technology and are discovering the many ways the iPads can be used to enhance their educational experiences. These mobile, tablet devices engage students with interactive media and extend learning beyond the classroom. The Watson School faculty plans to incorporate iPad technology across all aspects of the curriculum.

Watson School children are meeting the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning by using the iPads to integrate critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity with information, media and technology skills.

*Watson School fourth grade students explore the many educational functions of iPads.*



# School Roundup

## WILSON

Each month at Wilson School, the Sunshine Club sponsors a charity to which the staff and families can donate money. The charities are chosen based on a connection to a student, staff member, or family in our community. This year, so far, the Sunshine Club collected over \$1500 in September and October for the American Cancer Society. October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month so we felt that this was an important cause for us to adopt.

In November, we chose The Williams Syndrome Association as our Charity of the Month. The Williams Syndrome Association is a national non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals and families affected by Williams Syndrome. One of our Wilson kindergarteners, Julia Dell'Unto, was born with Williams Syndrome - a rare genetic disorder that results in individuals suffering with mild to severe cardiovascular problems as well as developmental delays. Early detection and better medical care are increasing survival rates and improving life for people with Williams Syndrome.

Recently, we were able to present Julia's family with checks totaling \$1850 to send on to the Williams Syndrome Association.

Moving forward, the Wilson School Sunshine Club will be sponsoring a Toy Drive for the month of December. In conjunction with Senator Dean Skelos's Office and South Nassau Communities Hospital, we will be collecting new toys, games, books and electronics that will be distributed to needy children in our community and neighboring communities at holiday time. We also joined HELP International, an organization that works with the impoverished community of Masese, Uganda, by holding a jewelry sale at Wilson School on December 9<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the purchase of beaded items created by the "Mothers of Masese" went directly to their community to help support the continuation of the first free school in that area. We thank the Garrity and Silon Families of Rockville Centre for bringing this cause to our attention and for all the good work they do with HELP International and the Masese Community.



*Teacher Therese Cohen presents Julia Dell'Unto and her mother Jill Dell'Unto with \$1850 for the William Syndrome Association.*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



SSMS held its 9th Annual National Young Readers' Day showcase on November 10th. Jesse Corben, an author who read his book "Pennies for PE" to Ms. Sausa's class, talked about his authorship and the importance of reading and writing. Mr. Pellettieri; Asst Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Elizabeth Pryke; Hewitt principal and Mr. Darren Raymar, principal at Covert Elementary were just a few of the professionals that shared the importance of reading with our sixth grade. Mrs. Campbell commented on how her students were so appreciative

of the event that they were eager to write thank you notes to their readers. Mr. Pellettieri taught them survival techniques from the "US Armed Forces Survival Book." Mrs. Pryke read a book about the Pledge of Allegiance and the importance of our patriotism towards our country. Ms. Mancusi, a retired math teacher read a beautiful dragon book on circumference and math symbols. The students enjoyed their special time with the guest readers on Young Readers' Day. Students enjoyed being read to and loved the book choices their readers presented.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Students from South Side High School took time to raise awareness during National Smoke Out Day on November 17, 2011. During this event members of the Rockville Centre Youth Council and SSHS SADD/Youth Decide Program co-hosted a table in the main lobby filled with pictures, posters, signs, and informational brochures that focused attention on the dangers of tobacco use.



*Pictured here from left to right: Nicole Woelfel, Cavlie Mchale, Michaela Beck Elizabeth Edell, Carol Meschkow (from the Tobacco coalition), Michael Garcia and Verden Salvador.*



# The South Side High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team Wins the State Championship!



The South Side High School Girls Soccer Team brought home their 16th State title in school history on November 20th when in the final minute of the game sophomore Katie Ford scored a goal, breaking the tied score of 0-0 and winning the game and the New York State Class A championship.

"This year's great success was due to the hard work and passion of the girls. The girls worked tirelessly to increase their physical strength and strategies. Their determination to succeed as a team is what put the Lady Cyclones on top. Coaching such an amazing and talented group of girls is truly an honor and I am so proud of each and every member of the team," said Coach Shannon McEntee.

McEntee was named the New York State Girls Soccer Coach of the Year and two of her players also received prestigious awards; Christina Klaum was named 1<sup>st</sup> team All State and All Long Island, and Caitlin Wallace was named 2<sup>nd</sup> team All State.



## **SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL ALL PURPOSE ROUTE - JANUARY 23 - 27, 2012 EXAM SCHEDULE - ROUTE # 07-123**

**TO SCHOOL RUNS START AT: 7:40am and 11:50am  
OUT FROM SCHOOL: 10:10 - 10:40 - 11:40 - 2:10 - 2:40 - 3:40**

### **Bus # 1:**

Long Beach Road @ Willow Street  
Long Beach Road @ May Street  
Woodland Drive @ Long Beach Road  
Johnson Place @ Weir Street

### **Bus # 3:**

Lakeside Drive @ N Village Avenue  
Judson Place @ N Village Avenue  
N Centre Avenue @ Maine Avenue  
Midpoint Wellington Avenue on N Centre Avenue (Martin Luther King Center)  
Hillside Avenue @ Clinton Avenue

### **Bus # 2:**

Atkinson Road @ Hempstead Avenue  
Bulson Road @ Hempstead Avenue  
Roxen Road @ Hempstead Avenue  
Andover road @ N Village Avenue  
Demott Avenue @ N Village Avenue

### **Bus # 4:**

Lee Avenue @ Maple Avenue  
Rutland Avenue @ S Marion Place  
Lenox Road (100' East of S Park Avenue)  
S Centre Avenue @ S Park Avenue





# Six South Side High School Students Perform in All State Ensembles

NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) provides individual music students and school ensembles, such as bands, orchestras, and vocal ensembles, the opportunity to be assessed by a trained adjudicator. Music literature in the NYSSMA Manual is divided into six levels of difficulty, Level VI being the most difficult. A seventh category is Level VI All State.

Of the 6,652 students who were adjudicated for solos at the All State level, 891 of them were selected to go to Rochester, NY and perform in All State Ensembles, six of which attend South Side High School. Congratulations to the following students on being selected for this prestigious honor:

**Giancarlo Michnovicz, Trumpet**  
**Ian Bowen, Bass**  
**Justin Wong, Cello**  
**Alyssa Adler, Soprano**  
**Mairead Koehler, Alto**  
**Kasey Ng, Viola**

**All State Wind Ensemble**  
**All State String Orchestra**  
**All State String Orchestra**  
**All State Women's Chorus**  
**All State Women's Chorus**  
**All State Symphony Orchestra**



*Alyssa Adler & Mairead Koehler*



*Mrs. Karen Faust Baer & Dr. Howlett conductor of the women's chorus*

Along with the students Mrs. Karen Faust Baer, South Side's Chorus and IB Music Teacher, was the accompanist for the All State Women's Chorus. She has served as accompanist for All State Choruses for the past 20 years and is revered by music educators, students, and parents, across the state of New York.



## Kindergarten Registration Information

Kindergarten Registration will be conducted by the **District Registrar in Room #105, South Side High School, 140 Shepherd Street, Rockville Centre, New York.** Registration dates are as follows:

<b>COVERT SCHOOL</b>	<b>JANUARY 13, 2012</b>	<b>8 AM - 11:50 AM</b> <b>1 PM - 4 PM</b>	<b>A - L</b> <b>M - Z</b>
<b>WILSON SCHOOL</b>	<b>JANUARY 17, 2012</b>	<b>8 AM - 11:50 AM</b> <b>1 PM - 4 PM</b>	<b>A - L</b> <b>M - Z</b>
<b>WATSON SCHOOL</b>	<b>JANUARY 18, 2012</b>	<b>8 AM - 11:50 AM</b> <b>1 PM - 3 PM</b>	<b>A - L</b> <b>M - Z</b>
<b>HEWITT SCHOOL</b>	<b>JANUARY 19, 2012</b>	<b>8 AM - 11:50 AM</b> <b>1 PM - 4 PM</b>	<b>A - L</b> <b>M - Z</b>
<b>RIVERSIDE SCHOOL</b>	<b>JANUARY 20, 2012</b>	<b>8:30 AM - 12 PM</b>	<b>A - Z</b>

Registration packets may be downloaded online by logging on to [www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org) and clicking on the Kindergarten Registration logo. Packets can also be picked up at your child's home school, the Registrar's office in Rm. 102 at South Side High School, or may be mailed to you directly by calling the Registrar at 516-255-8926.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PACKET AND OBTAIN THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD PRIOR TO KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION.**

If there is any reason that you will not be able to attend registration at the time assigned, or if you are not planning to send your child to the Rockville Centre Public Schools; please notify the Registrar.

If you have any questions, please call the Registrar, Ms. Eleanor Condenzio at 516-255-8926.





## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The District has implemented a new communication process for emergency notifications. 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](mailto: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.

