

Your



Schools

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOLUME 41 NUMBER 1 October 2019

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- Soaring to New Heights
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- Highlight Moments

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER 5TH

SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR ELECTION DAY; SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY

NOVEMBER 6TH

BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC WORK SESSION, COMMONS ROOM
SSHS AT 7:30 PM

NOVEMBER 11TH

SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 27-29TH

SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

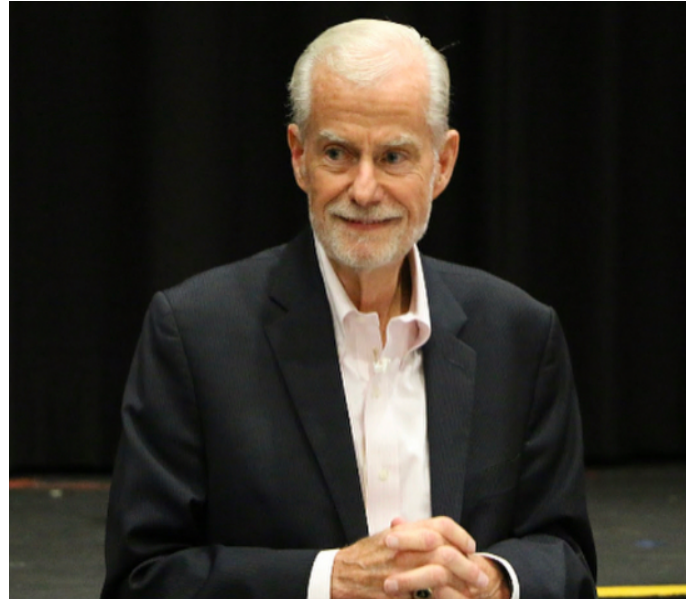
Message about Special Education from Noreen Leahy

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, (516) 255-8928, or Dr. Orly Gadon, Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Education at (516) 255-8942.

DR. JOHNSON

ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT



Dr. William H. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, has announced his intent to retire at the completion of the current school year. Dr. Johnson's impact on the students of the Rockville Centre school district and on the community as a whole is immeasurable. During his thirty-three years as Superintendent, his mission has been to support all students achieving their highest potential by removing gates, increasing access to curriculum and elevating the District's learning standards.

The Board of Education has chosen the search firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to guide and assist through the process of finding a new superintendent. HYA is a consulting firm that specializes in working with School Boards and recruiting top tier candidates to fill leadership positions. HYA's first task was to create the definition of what our community is looking for in our next superintendent. The "leadership profile" was created through information gathered over the past month. Community members were invited to participate in an online survey which was accessible on our website through October. Focus groups were held over several days. Representatives from leadership groups including PTA, SEP, Administrators, Teachers, Union Representatives and Village Administration were invited to attend private forums with HYA. Open forums for the public to attend were held during both morning and evening hours.

At this time, HYA has completed gathering the information and have begun the process of creating the profile for our future Superintendent of Schools. HYA will be in attendance at the Board meeting on November 6th to present our "leadership profile" and provide an update to the community on their progress. The interview and appointment process are expected to take several months. Our goal is to have our next superintendent in place July 1, 2020.



SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

'Soaring to New Heights' is this year's theme at Watson Elementary School and under the direction of Acting Principal, Jen Pascarella, Watson students continue to soar to new heights.

As part of a grant funded by the Rockville Centre Education Foundation and the Watson School PTA, social-emotional learning is being emphasized as an integral part of a child's education from the first day of school to the last. The goal of this program is to make students feel empowered to reach their full potential, take risks, solve problems out of their comfort zones, and stretch their minds to find answers in a nurturing and relaxed environment.

On the evening of October 17, 2019, Watson School opened its doors to students and their families for *Soaring to New Heights, An Evening of Mindfulness and Enrichment*. Many rooms dimmed their lights, played soft music and set a tone in which children could easily unwind, relax and communicate with their peers. They were introduced to mandalas, musical mirror movements, the Totika communication game and spent time relaxing in the "Zen Den". Mindfulness stations allowed students to focus on music and art in a relaxed, gentle manner. Some young writers composed and illustrated books of motivational quotes. Yoga and Zumba workshops were big draws for students to learn poses and meditative breathing.

From the moment children entered Watson School that evening, they were encircled with tangible support and tools to help them navigate their emotions and work through problems that may arise in school and at home throughout the year.



"Someone" Middle School Fall Revue

The cast of 66 and crew of 12, South Side Middle School students have been rehearsing for this year's Fall Revue, 'Someone'. This represents the largest number of students participating in our Middle School fall performance in recent history. The performance will showcase the need for human connection which is something all of us crave from the time we are born. That connection can be found in anyone. However, in our constant search for this, we lose track of how many people we already have in our corner who want to be there for us through it all. We invite you to join us for an evening of Broadway tunes that reflects the search for this connection. The tunes will fill you with excitement, disappointment, discovery and hope. The show will include songs from "Thoroughly Modern Millie", "Legally Blonde", "13", "Mamma Mia", "Wonderful Town", "Dear Evan Hansen", and more.

Join us on Friday, November 8th at 4:30pm and Saturday, November 9th at 7:30pm at South Side Middle School. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door.



“You Can’t Take It With You”

High School Fall Drama

On Wednesday, November 13th, Thursday the 14th, Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th, the South Side High School drama club will perform “You Can’t Take It With You,” a 1936 comedy by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. The play takes place in the home of the eccentric (and a little wacky) Grandpa Vanderhof who lives with his daughter, Penny Vanderhof Sycamore, her husband and her daughters Essie and Alice. The family and some of their eccentric friends march to the beat of their own drum, engaging in such madcap activities including collecting snakes, making fireworks, dancing ballet, and writing plays that never get produced. Grandpa does not believe in paying taxes. When the arrival of government agents coincides with Alice bringing her fiancée’s family over to meet the in-laws, the screwball comedy shifts into high gear. You won’t want to miss it!

NEW POSITION – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Ms. Deniz Cabas has been appointed as District-wide Elementary School Counselor. This is a new position for our school district and was developed based on the recent emphasis by New York State Education Department on the importance of students having access to a certified or licensed school counselor at an early age. The goal of the position is to help inspire students to strive for success and consider college and career opportunities as they advance in their school careers.



NEW ADMINISTRATORS

WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTING PRINCIPAL JEN PASCARELLA

Jen Pascarella, Assistant Principal of South Side Middle School, was appointed as Acting Principal at Watson Elementary School effective Wednesday, October 2nd. Pascarella has been working in Rockville Centre School District for 26 years and has been an Assistant Principal for the past 12 years. Her depth of experience and knowledge of the District programs will provide wonderful support for the Watson Elementary students and staff.



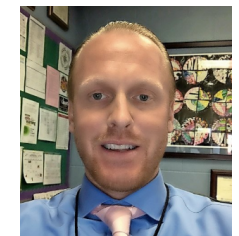
SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MICHAEL DUGGAN

Before coming to Rockville Centre, Michael Duggan was the Assistant Principal for the past four years at Bronxville High School in Westchester. Prior to that, he taught science for 10 years in New York City at both the high school and middle school levels. While passionate about science, Duggan is also concerned about the social-emotional learning and growth in students and has the proper credentials and skills needed to be an effective Assistant Principal for middle school students.



RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ERIK WALTER

Erik Walter began his career teaching fourth and fifth-grade for the New York City Department of Education and later was an Assistant Principal for four years at P.S. 64 in Ozone Park. He then went to the East Rockaway School District, where he spent the last five years as the Principal at Rhame Avenue School. “It’s really an exciting next step on my journey, and I feel like it’s a place now that I’m really going to be able to call home. I see myself, for the rest of my career, being a part of Rockville Centre schools.”



HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS

Each year South Side Middle School's eighth grade students participate in Challenge Day, a social-emotional learning program designed to encourage students to create stronger connections with the school community, show greater empathy towards others and be more inclusive. Through various activities during Challenge Day, students, joined by teachers and staff members from across the District, learn to be more understanding of other peoples' experiences, how their actions affect others and how to express themselves in a healthy manner.

IN
RVC
HERALD

SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS

SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL



RIVERSIDE & WILSON

Wilson and Riverside Elementary students engaged in a number of activities on their annual Ashokan trip. Students learned canoeing, team building, natural science and watershed studies. They also roasted marshmallows on a campfire.



STAY CONNECTED

Follow RVC UFSD on Social Media

Facebook: Rockville Centre School District

Twitter: @RVCschools



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ON
FIOS 1
AND PIX11



South Side High School students created informative posters about saving the environment and gave out ribbons in support of saving the earth. In a poll conducted at the opening of the school year, climate change came up as a topic most students were concerned about. Students made a difference by informing their peers about ways to help the environment.

HEWITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Hewitt Elementary students learned about different plants and vegetables at Dee's Nursery. Students had a great time taking a spooky walk through the haunted corn maze and decorated Halloween treasure chests.

COVERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Covert Elementary School had a great time at their annual Raymar Children's Fund Fall Festival! We were happy to see so many smiling faces. Students participated in activities including a bean bag toss, decorating cupcakes and spraying Principal Raymar with silly string!

MEET THE NEW STAFF

Erik Walter earned his Bachelor of Arts at SUNY Cortland, Master of Arts at Adelphi University, and Master of Science at Touro College. Mr. Walter will be working as Principal of Riverside Elementary School. **Michael Duggan** earned his Bachelor of Arts at Bowling Green State University and Master of Science at Pace University. Mr. Duggan will be working as Assistant Principal at South Side Middle School. **Deniz Cabas** earned her Bachelor of Science at SUNY Cortland and her Master of Science at NYIT. Ms. Cabas will be working as a District-wide Elementary School Counselor. **Casey Devenish** earned her Bachelor of Arts at Marist College. Ms. Devenish will be working as a Part-time Foreign Language Teacher at South Side Middle School. **Lauren Erickson** earned her Bachelor of Science at Molloy College. Ms. Erickson will be working as a Special Education Teacher at Watson Elementary School. **Matthew Formichelli** earned his Bachelor of Science at Dowling College. Mr. Formichelli will be working as a Special Education Teacher at South Side Middle School. **Jessica Goro** earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at Queens College. Ms. Goro will be working as a Special Education Teacher at South Side High School. **Shannon Haselton** earned her Bachelor of Science at Hofstra University. Ms. Haselton will be working as a District-wide Music Teacher. **Laura Heller** earned her Bachelor of Science at St. Joseph's College and Master of Science at Dowling College. Ms. Heller will be working as a Part-time Business Teacher at South Side High School. **Dylan Jensen** earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at LIU Post. Mr. Jensen will be working as a Science Teacher at South Side Middle School. **Lindsey McDonald** earned her Bachelor of Arts at St. Joseph's College and Master of Arts at Columbia University. Ms. McDonald will be working as a Special Education Teacher at South Side Middle School. **Erica Morello** earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science at Queens College. Ms. Morello will be working as an Academic Support Teacher at St. Agnes. **Margaret Mosher** earned her Bachelor of Arts at SUNY Cortland and Master of Arts at Adelphi University. Ms. Mosher will be working as an Elementary School Teacher at Watson Elementary School. **Richard Petrone** earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science at Hofstra University. Mr. Petrone will be working as a Part Time Special Education Teacher at St. Agnes. **Angelina Scolari** earned her Bachelor of Science at Hofstra University. Ms. Scolari will be working as a District-wide Music Teacher. **David Shotwell** earned his Bachelor of Arts at SUNY Binghamton and Master of Education at University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Shotwell will be working as a Social Studies Teacher at South Side High School. **Jessica Zelnick** earned her Bachelor of Science at Binghamton University and Master of Science at Columbia University. Ms. Zelnick will be working as a District-wide Part-time Speech Teacher.

