

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 6th Annual RVC Family Fun Fitness Fair and Substance Use Awareness Walkathon
- Teddy Bear Clinic at South Nassau Communities Hospital
- Watson's *Power of Play Pavilion*
- National Merit Scholarship Student Recognition
- South Side Middle School Broadway Revue
- South Side High School's Open House

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

25-29 Schools Closed—Winter Recess

January

2 Schools Reopen

10 Board of Education Meeting

24 Board of Education Public Work Session

February

7 Board of Education Public Work Session

19-23 Schools Closed—Mid Winter Recess

26 Schools Reopen

28 Board of Education Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session

March

14 Board of Education Budget Work Session

27 Board of Education Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session

29-30 Schools Closed—Passover/Easter Recess

6th Annual RVC Family Fun Fitness Fair and Substance Use Awareness Walkathon

The District hosted its 6th Annual RVC Family Fun Fitness Fair and Substance Use Awareness Walkathon at South Side Middle School. Residents came together to promote healthy living and unite against substance abuse, violence and bullying. This fair was sponsored by the Rockville Centre Wellness Committee and the Rockville Centre Drug, Alcohol and Violence Prevention Task Force. Participants included students from South Side High School's SADD, Youth Decide and the RVC Youth Council, as well as members of JV & Varsity sports teams. During the event families participated in outdoor activities such as weightlifting, yoga and an obstacle course. Medical experts shared their knowledge about acupuncture, chiropractic health and sports injury prevention. Vendors, including Revolution Yoga, CrossFit The Rock and the Lice Clinic of America, shared information on various products that promote healthy living. It was a fantastic day and fun was had by all.



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.



Kindergarteners Visit Teddy Bear Clinic at South Nassau Communities Hospital

Kindergarten students throughout the District took their favorite stuffed animals on a field trip to the Teddy Bear Clinic at South Nassau Communities Hospital. This program is designed to provide children with a better understanding of how common emergencies are treated and aims to decrease a child's fear associated with an emergency room or hospital visit. The students met with doctors and nurses who treated their Teddy Bears by taking X-rays, suturing, casting for broken bones and treating respiratory ailments.

Hewitt Kindergarten teacher Michelle Ebel said, "We are grateful that South Nassau Communities Hospital opens their doors to us each year. I truly believe that the visit helps to alleviate any anxiety students might have during an emergency situation. Meeting medical professionals during this visit is very comforting and helps reassure them that they are there to help them in an emergency."



Watson's Power of Play Pavilion

Watson School was transformed into an exciting venue dubbed *The Power of Play Pavilion* during a school-wide event that was supported by a grant from the Rockville Centre Education Foundation. Throughout the evening the entire school building was abuzz with students participating in physical, mental and strategic games and activities designed to promote collaboration and problem solving. Over two-hundred and fifty students and their parents enjoyed the program. The goal of this initiative is for students to benefit from the social interaction inherent in the games. Watson supports the principle that students who experience the learning and playing of games with and among their peers learn how to share, take turns, communicate with each other and solve problems collaboratively.

Virtually every classroom housed an activity designed to spark the imagination and natural curiosity of the students. They created structures with a variety of building blocks and Legos and defied gravity with games such as Gravity's Edge, Gravity Maze and Staxis. Children solved hand held Perplexus mazes and stretched their vocabulary with Boggle. Additionally, the gym housed a variety of fitness activities, including climbing up the cargo net, traversing the school's rock wall, competing in the box jump game and dancing with hula hoops.

Watson School students will continue to be engaged in *The Power of Play* activities throughout the school year.



National Merit Scholarship

Congratulations to the South Side High School seniors who qualified as Semifinalists and Commended Students in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Matthew Trencheny and Peter Weiss were named Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented students now have the opportunity to compete for 7,500 scholarships that will be offered next spring, worth approximately \$32 million dollars.

Approximately 1.6 million juniors in over 22,000 high schools across the U.S. entered the 2018 National Merit Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Semifinalists, who represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, are made up of the highest scoring entrants in each state.

Our Commended Students, Spencer Kirsh, Luke Shannon and Alexander Valenti, placed among the top five percent of the students who entered the 2018 National Merit Program and may become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Congratulations to all!



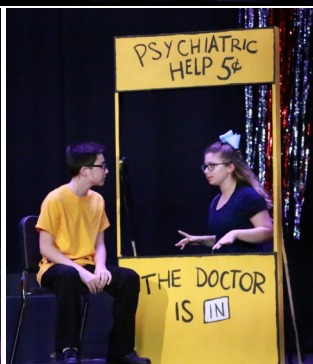
Pictured l to r: Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Johnson, Matthew Trencheny, Peter Weiss, Board President John O'Shea, High School Principal John Murphy



Pictured l to r: Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Johnson, Alexander Valenti, Luke Shannon, Spencer Kirsh, Board President John O'Shea, High School Principal John Murphy

South Side Middle School Broadway Revue

This year South Side Middle School presented "Oddly Awesome," a Broadway Revue for anyone who has ever felt like they don't quite fit in. The show highlighted feelings we've all had at one time or another when society, our peers, or our own internal monologue makes us feel like we're not enough. It is a story of the courage, support and friendship it takes to stand up and be ourselves. The show celebrated what make us unique and wonderful while providing a musical journey of self acceptance that so many can relate to. Students wowed the audience while performing musical selections from High School Musical, Wicked, Chicago, Side Show, Pippin, Shrek and more!





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2nd Annual South Side High School Open House

During the 2nd Annual Open House, community members were given the opportunity to tour South Side High School and meet the faculty and students who make it a world-class school. The event showcased academic offerings from every department, as well as the High School's many clubs, groups and extracurricular activities.

Some highlights of the event included virtually dissecting a human heart in the z-Space Lab, shooting hoops with members of the Varsity Basketball team in the gymnasium, and having a portrait taken by one of our talented photography students in the photo studio. Attendees listened to live music performed by our student musical groups in the lobby. Visitors experienced the integration of technology and craftsmanship in the outdoor structures classroom, which was updated with a CNC machine that can cut objects according to the specifications that students program on a computer. Attendees also watched as a 3D printer brought student-designed art to life and explored the many clubs that were set up throughout the hallways and in the library, including French Club, The Cyclone Chronical, Glamour Gals, HELP-UGANDA, Context Literary Magazine and the Coding Club.

