

# SCHOOL *Bell*

School News and Information for the Community Summer 2009 Volume 17 Number 4

## 2008-2009 School Year Highlights-at-a-Glance

From academic achievements to arts awards to athletic recognition, we applaud the many accomplishments of Ossining's students, teachers, administrators and staff during the 2008-2009 school year, including:

- Seniors Gus Boehling and Ilana Rice were named National Merit Finalists. Ilana was named a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winner.
- Brookside staffers knitted scores of hats for infants around the world.
- Claremont Jazz Band members took their show on the road to celebrate our troops by serenading veterans in Montrose.
- Three OHS seniors in the award-winning science research program were named Intel Semifinalists: Talia Fox, William Snyder and Ilana Rice. Five seniors were finalists in the Young Epidemiology Scholars competition: Kelly Ennis, Lauren Kaufman, Ilana Rice, Sabeena Trilokekar and Fraser Williams. (Ilana won a \$35,000 scholarship in the competition.) Talia, Ilana, William, and Fraser were also named finalists in the NYS Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Congratulations, scientists!
- In honor of Veterans' Day, the Ossining wrestling team invited veterans from the Montrose VA hospital to watch their match against Hendrick Hudson. A great time was had by all.
- The Sustainability Education curriculum, designed to be infused in every discipline and developed with input from AMD teachers at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, has been implemented throughout this past school year.
- Ossining High School artists' work has been shown at the OSilas Gallery, Pace Small Works Art Show, Katonah Museum, and Philipsburg Gallery.
- AMD eighth grader Jaime Loeb was Section 1 tennis champion; senior James Brundage was state wrestling champion and a Con Ed athlete of the week.
- Last fall, a well-attended conference was held at Roosevelt School to explore anti-bias curriculum for prekindergarten.
- Brookside's new outdoor classroom has provided a natural location for students' environmental science units.
- A three-year NYS Education Department Literacy Zone grant for nearly \$200,000 per year was awarded to the Ossining School District to support a variety of programs promoting literacy and lifelong learning for the entire Ossining community.
- OHS students placed second among 42 high school teams in the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon, an environmental science competition held this spring at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill.
- OHS Project Earthquake students won first place in the Youth Business Skills Olympics Workshop. ■



Park Early Childhood Center students raised nearly \$2,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. Students learned the value of community service by collecting spare change to help cancer patients. Park School students who helped collect Pennies for Patients include, from left to right, kindergartner Chris Smith, first graders Joshua Gitlin, Justin Perriott, Thania Arevalo, Erianna Guadagnoli, and kindergartner Janiya Doughy.



## Ossining Union Free School District

### A Message from the Board President and Superintendent of Schools

Dear Colleagues, Parents/Guardians, Families, Students and Neighbors:

We would like to thank the Ossining community for its continued support of the critical mission of the Ossining Union Free School District: The success of all children in the schools, with an emphasis on high standards and equitable outcomes.

With your "Yes" vote for the 2009-2010 District Budget, which increased only 0.44 percent over this year, we will be able to continue to provide the award-winning programming in cultural arts, science, athletics and language arts that the community has come to expect, coupled with excellent classroom instruction, small student-teacher ratios and innovative after-school activities that enrich the lives of our students and enhance their education.

While the past several years have provided us with exceptional economic challenges, this year's "Children First" budget placed students front and center and simultaneously respected our community.

We thank the community for supporting our work, and we welcome the return of Dana Levenberg to the Board of Education, along with newcomer Kimberly Case. We also thank departing member Irwin Kavy for his six years serving the schools as a Trustee.

**Alice Joselow**  
President, Board of Education

**Dr. Phyllis Glassman**  
Superintendent, Ossining Union Free School District

## Residency Re-registration Begins Next Fall

In keeping with the New York State Education Department regulations, the Ossining Union Free School District is required to ensure that all students are legal residents of the Ossining School District. While the residency and custodial requirements outlined in our district policies are carefully adhered to during the registration process, there are limited opportunities to confirm a family's residency once a child is enrolled. In the fall of 2009, all students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be required to re-register to ensure that they continue to be eligible for educational services in the Ossining Union Free School District. In addition, a random-selection process will be used to re-register students in other grades as well.

During the summer, parent(s)/guardian(s) of a child(ren) in the aforementioned grades will receive a Residency Re-registration letter and form. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will attend a designated night for re-registration and submit the completed re-registration form with the appropriate original proofs of residency. Parent(s)/guardian(s) who do not complete the re-registration process will receive final notice indicating that their child(ren) will not be permitted to continue to remain enrolled in the Ossining Union Free School District. If you have questions about the re-registration process, please contact Dr. Angela White, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and Administrative Services, at 941-7700 extension 330. ■



## Facilities Improvement Planning... Continues!

By now, many in the Ossining School District community are aware of the grade reconfiguration happening in September (see related story, page 4). But the work of the Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee has not ended with these grade moves.

As stated in the Board Goals, under the leadership of the Deputy Superintendent and Executive Director of Finance and Operations, with the support of external consultants and in partnership with staff, families and community residents, the District has this year extended the work conducted during the previous school year regarding facilities improvement. The Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee (see member list) will continue to address this goal in concert with other district staff and stakeholders.

The following provides answers to some of the questions raised by members of the community regarding facilities improvement planning:

**Q. Why was the Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee formed?**

**A.** To help the Board of Education answer the question, "How, in the most fiscally responsible manner possible, do we provide the best possible learning spaces for school children in Ossining in the coming decade?"

**Q. How will the committee, in concert with consultants and other stakeholders, determine recommendations for providing effective learning spaces for school children in the coming decade?**

**A.** The committee has studied and will continue to study the current facility needs in the Ossining School District, specifically working with consultants Dr. Vin Beni, Dr. Charles Fowler and district architect Mr. Joseph Fuller. The district will continue to seek ways to best utilize space to support its educational programs.

The research that the committee has completed includes listening to presentations from administrators, conducting site visits, analyzing enrollment projections, considering the district's five-year plan and reviewing the educational specifications provided by Ossining adminis-



trators. This information will be studied and reviewed in order to determine the best possible options for the district. It is also critically important to consider the economic impact that any facilities recommendation may have on the district. The committee will also be carefully considering debt service to leverage existing debt and to minimize any tax impact the recommendations may have on Ossining residents.

**Q. The committee conducted a survey on existing facilities. What will be done with the responses?**

**A.** The survey was completed in an effort to gather information from all possible stakeholders. The committee has worked to analyze responses in an effort to determine common themes that individuals may want considered when final recommendations are determined.

**Q. Are there any other committees involved in facilities improvement planning?**

**A.** The Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee provided the Board of Education with recommendations mid-year regarding the reorganization of the Ossining elementary schools from First Steps through grade 5. Since the Board adopted the recommendations, it has now formed the Reorganization Committee, which is looking to support the proposed recommendations. The Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee has been provided with updates

relative to the reorganization and will continue to monitor the impact that enrollment will have on such recommendations.

**Q. What are the next steps for the Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee this summer and in the 2009-2010 school year?**

**A.** The Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee is working alongside the aforementioned consultants to determine the specifications for the district. It is examining the educational programs across the district and the needs that the programs have relative to space, particularly focusing on cultural arts and athletics in the middle and high schools. Once the specifications are analyzed, they will be prioritized and provided to the district's architect in order to formulate potential proposals to be considered. The cost of the proposals will be analyzed in an effort to provide recommendations to the Board of Education in the upcoming school year. ■

### Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee Members

- Raymond Sanchez, *Co-Chair*
- Linda Carpenter, *Co-Chair*
- Sarah Arbitrio
- Einelza Beleno-Santiago
- Thomas Breglia
- Joyce Brooks
- Linda Cabral-Marrero
- Regina M. Cellio
- Rocco Circosta
- Ann Dealy
- Rhonda Harrell
- Elizabeth Hoffman
- Adam John
- Jonah Joselow
- Matthew Lenaghan
- Kate Mathews
- Robert Perrone
- Barbara Rink
- Christine Rupp
- Joanne Tall



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- Produced by P/NW BOCES, Chris Heath, *Editor*

**POSTAL PATRON**

**Are You Moving?**  
 Changing your phone number? Please be sure to provide the district with any updated information such as changes in your address, phone numbers, emergency contact information, etc., if any changes take place over the summer and you have students in the school district.

**Elementary Grade Reconfiguration**

We are in the midst of exciting times as the district and school administrators work on the many logistical issues involved in the important and complex transition and grade reconfiguration in the elementary schools.

In preparation for our new grade and school reconfiguration, our administrative teams for the 2009-2010 year are:

- Park School: First Steps, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten**  
 Ms. Zoila Tazi, Principal  
 Mr. Corey Reynolds, Assistant Principal
- Brookside School: Grades 1 and 2**  
 Ms. Ann Dealy, Principal  
 Ms. Ferzeen Bhana, Assistant Principal
- Claremont School: Grades 3 and 4**  
 Mr. Felix Flores, Principal  
 Ms. Francine Jacobson, Assistant Principal
- Roosevelt School: Grade 5**  
 Ms. Elizabeth Wallinger, Principal ■

**Busing Changes for Fall 2009**

At the end of May, parents and guardians of elementary students received a letter regarding changes to busing for the 2009-2010 school year.

Currently, any student in prekindergarten, kindergarten and grade 1 can only be assigned to one bus stop every day of the week. Also, these same students must be met by an authorized adult when getting off the bus at the end of the day. **Beginning in September 2009, both of these practices will extend to students in grade 2.** Please be aware that bus drivers can and should ask for an adult's identification if he or she is not the usual person receiving a student from the school bus.

With the reconfiguration of elementary grades in September, there will be significant changes affecting the bus routing process. With this in mind, parents and guardians were asked to submit any request for changes in pick up and/or drop off locations to the District Transportation Department by June 30. Any requests for changes received after this date may be delayed in processing. The District will make every effort to accommodate requests made prior to the beginning of the school year but cannot guarantee that late requests will be processed by opening day.

*Please contact the Transportation Department at 941-7700 ext. 336 with any questions. ■*

**Notice/Aviso**

Any readers who would like a Spanish translation of information in the *Ossining School Bell* should refer to the following: Los lectores que deseen una traducción al español de la información proporcionada en el *Ossining School Bell* pueden llamar a:

Ms. Maria Zuluaga, 941-7700, ext. 381