

# SECONDARY SCOOP

**APRIL 2012      Volume 8, Issue 3**

*Newsletter of the Massapequa Jr/Sr HS Parent-Teacher-Student Association*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe we are at the end of another school year. Time really does fly! Whether this was your first year at Berner, last year at MHS or somewhere in between, I hope your year was terrific.

Thank you to the Executive Committee Officers and the Executive Board Chairmen for their dedication and support throughout the year. Thank you to Dr. Barbara Williams, Mr. Patrick DiClemente and Mr. Jason Esposito for answering our questions and supporting the PTSA. I would also like to thank the Assistant Principals, secretaries and custodians for always being there when we needed you.

I would like to remind you to vote on the school district budget on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The budget will be adopted on April 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a public session and Budget Hearing on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at MHS. I encourage you to attend these sessions to become an informed voter.

Please join us at our April 23<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting to be held at Ames at 7:30 pm. The agenda includes the election of next year's officers, a Reflections Award Ceremony, and a vote on Council bylaws.

Sign up for email alerts from the school district by going to [www.msd.k12.ny.us](http://www.msd.k12.ny.us). Under Quick Links, select email center, you can select which schools you would like to receive email from. On the website you can access information pertaining to each individual school. There is a wealth of information available to include academics, clubs & activities, and athletics.

My term is up as PTSA president. As my youngest child is graduating, my involvement with the Massapequa PTAs is also over. The experience has been enriching. I've met some wonderful people and good friends through the years. I wish the PTSA many more years in successfully advocating for all our students. The success of the PTSA depends on its membership. Please review the interest sheet included in this newsletter. Perhaps next year you may consider being more involved.

Congratulations to our Class of 2012. I wish you much success in your future endeavors! Enjoy your summer!

Debbie Austin, President Massapequa PTSA

### Massapequa PTSA Executive Officers

<b>President -</b> Debbie Austin 797-0652	<b>V.P. MHS Main Campus -</b> Amy Forzano 799-9551	<b>Recording Secretary—</b> Janet Brown 799-0536
<b>Executive V.P. -</b> Position Available	<b>V.P. MHS Ames Campus -</b> Donna Kirchstetter 798-6447	<b>Corresponding Secretary -</b> Dan Batik 799-0273
<b>V.P. Membership—</b> Denise Weiss 797-5152	<b>V.P. Berner Middle School-</b> Bonnie Goess 541-1714	<b>Treasurer -</b> Valerie Sullivan 795-1839

## Dates to Remember

**PTSA GENERAL MEETING  
 MONDAY  
 APRIL 23, 2012  
 AMES CAFETORIUM**

**MEET THE BOE CANDIDATES NIGHT  
 WEDNESDAY  
 MAY 2, 2012  
 MHS**

**MASSAPEQUA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 BUDGET VOTE  
 TUESDAY  
 MAY 15, 2012**

**MHS MAIN CAMPUS NEWS**

Massapequa High School is heading into the final stretch of the 2011-12 year. All concerts have been completed and enjoyed by all. The Art Supervisor's Association of Nassau County had an exhibit at Adelphi University at which student art work was proudly displayed. The month of March also brought the students' successful production of "Hello Dolly" and Spirit Week. After the spring break, we will be preparing for AP tests, Regents and Graduation. Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

Amy Forzano, Vice President MHS Main Campus

**MHS AMES CAMPUS NEWS**

The winter and spring at Ames has been a very exciting time. During the Holidays, the SADD Club organized a food drive. The students, in conjunction with the YES Community Counseling Center, set up a holiday tree with the theme "Adopt a Family from Massapequa". The snowflake ornaments stated the needs of local children and the students fulfilled their wishes!

In December, Ames had a "Talent Show". All worked hard and their hard work paid off. The evening was a great success! The talent of these children is truly amazing. In February, "Teen Truth Live" performed for the Ames students. The real life stories, told by the teens about their personal struggles and how they lived through them, were informative and cautionary. The springtime will be just as busy and exciting. In April, an assembly on Character Education/Human Diversity will focus on confidence building and leadership skills. A cyber-bullying program will be starting in the classrooms.

Several Ames students from the web design classes have joined the Website Committee of the PTSA and I am excited to say, our website will definitely take on a new look!

SDM has been discussing school spirit. A survey was given to the students during homeroom; all were encouraged to choose what event would be the most interesting to all. In response to the survey, on June 20th, Ames will hold its first annual "Summer Send-off" dance.

As always, please contact me at 798-6447 or [dojeki@optonline](mailto:dojeki@optonline) with any questions or concerns.

Donna Kirchstetter, Vice President MHS Ames Campus

**BERNER NEWS**

This has been an exciting school year, one in which I have seen student participation increase in all events, such as sports, clubs and especially special events. The monthly Thursday recreation program sponsored by MTA and the Friday night dances have been well attended. Several dances entailed the donation of a can of food as part of the admission, and a local food pantry has benefited.

Spirit week was March 19-23, with the daily themes of PJ day, Sports day, Crazy hair/hat/sock day, Mismatch day and Blue and Gold day. Special thanks to our student advisors, Christopher Hadsall and Celeste Moran, for their hard work this year. The culmination of Spirit Week was the Challenger Basketball game against Seaford which truly exemplified school spirit.

ELA and Math state tests will take place on 6 days instead of 4 this year, and Berner will hold classes after the morning tests each day, so as not to lose instructional time.

Music over the intercom, before Homeroom, has been enjoyed and will continue this year!

Berner's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on May 12, (Rain date May 19), with Don Nobile chairing the Committee. The planning is still in process, but we are looking forward to decade decorations in the cafeteria, the TOB Showmobile and speakers, as well as food vendors and the sale of red and white apparel to commemorate the occasion.

Thank you to Mr. Esposito, Mr. Kemnitzer, Ms. Rann and the entire staff of Berner Middle School, for a happy, exciting, productive school year. There are many "unsung heroes," such as custodians, secretarial staff, monitors, librarians, nurses, who contribute to making our school the efficient and welcoming atmosphere we all enjoy. THANK YOU especially to them!

Bonnie Goess, Vice President Berner Middle School

## Join PTSA Executive Board for 2012/2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name/s - Grade in Sept \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the committees in which you are interested. Next to the committee name please indicate whether you would like to *Chair* the committee or be an active *Member* of the committee:

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts In Education _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws & Procedures _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Health, Wellness & Safety _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Publicity _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Membership _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting & Family Life _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Prom Fashion Show _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Reflections _____ <input type="checkbox"/> School Board Rep/Budget _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ways and Means _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Website _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Helping Hands (as needed) _____
--	--

Chairmen are part of the Executive Board which meets once a month. We have three General Meetings per year and run several programs throughout the year. All Executive Board members are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible.

**Please return this form to any of the secondary building General Offices or mail to:**

***Debbie Austin, 209 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Massapequa Park, NY 11762***

If you have any questions, please call Debbie @ 797-0652

or e-mail: [tirami209@optonline.net](mailto:tirami209@optonline.net)

Thanks to all who helped to make this year's Prom Fashion Show a success. The proceeds from this year's event will enable Massapequa PTSA to grant Senior Awards in the amount of \$300 each to 10 MHS Seniors who are also PTSA members.

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2012!***



## EXPLORING CAREERS THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

By Denise DeLury, MHS School-to-Career Coordinator

Is your son or daughter looking for a meaningful experience over the summer? They might want to consider a summer internship. Through MHS's Career Exploration Internship Program (CEIP), students have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in a career field of their interest and earn high school credit at the same time.

### What is an Internship?

An internship is a hands-on work experience that is directly related to a student's career interest. Students work on-site at a business or organization under the guidance of a mentor. Internships through the CEIP program are non-paid and they involve a commitment of 54-108 on-site hours. They can be completed during the school year or over the summer. Upon successful completion of their internship requirements, students can earn ½ Regents credit for 54 on-site hours or 1 Regents credit for 108 on-site hours. In addition to their on-site hours, students are also required to complete several activities that will allow them to reflect upon their experience and prepare them to become successful members of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace.

### What are the benefits of completing an internship?

While internships are common in college, and are often required to meet degree requirements, there are many advantages for participating in an internship during a student's high school years. This is the best time for students to start to explore their future career options while they are looking at colleges and choosing their college majors. There are many benefits to completing an internship while in high school. They are:

- Hands-on learning experience that can often not be taught in the classroom. Internships help to connect classroom learning to the real world, making learning relevant.
- The opportunity to explore a career field and determine if it is an area they are truly interested in.
- Students have the opportunity to network or associate and develop beneficial relations with professions in a chosen career field.
- Students develop important 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace skills that employers look for in their potential workforce, and refine other skills.
- Allows students an opportunity to boost their resume and improve their college and scholarship opportunities.

Some of the sites where interns have been placed in the past include Massapequa Pet Vet, MyLITV, Northrop Grumman, and Nassau Suffolk Orthopedics. Students interested in a career in teaching can also intern at our district's elementary summer school through the Summer STARS Internship Program and should listen for announcements in early May. If an internship is not available in your child's career interest area, the School-to-Career Coordinator will work with your son/daughter to find an appropriate placement site while considering factors such as transportation and availability. Each internship placement has different requirements and students must apply for and be accepted into an internship by the business/organization. Students may not intern in any of the New York State or Federally prohibited occupations. Although internships are non-paid, students must hold working papers and New York State Labor Laws must be adhered to. Students interested in a summer internship should stop by the Career Explorations Office (located next to the guidance office) by the middle of May. This will give ample time to secure a placement site before the start of summer vacation. For additional information, please contact Mrs. DeLury, School-to-Career Coordinator, at

[ddelury@msd.k12.ny.us](mailto:ddelury@msd.k12.ny.us) or (516) 308-5961.

## A SARAS Summer in Stony Brook



There is an excellent program available to students interested in learning more about a wide spectrum of medical professions and careers. One Massapequa High School student attended last year, and found the program extremely valuable in setting a course for a possible career destination in the field of Physical Therapy.

The program is titled the Science and Research Awareness Series (SARAS). The program is being run for a three week period this year, from July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In the words of the organizers of the program:

This lecture and workshop series is designed to bring awareness to enthusiastic students on different aspects of basic, clinical and translational sciences and associated specialties of the biomedical field. Scientists, physicians, allied health professionals, health administrators and other experts will be involved in educating the students about different topics, specialties, and also laboratory and clinical techniques. The interaction between these experts and the students will enhance the participant's educational experience and gives the students an insight into different fields and careers of biomedical sciences.

The program was initiated by Associate Professor Dr. Srinivas Pentylas in 2004, and has grown steadily over the past few years. Last year, more than one hundred students from all over Long Island (and beyond) participated in the program. The program is held at Stony Brook University Medical Center in Stony Brook, NY. The medical center is directly adjacent to the Stony Brook University campus, allowing students easy access via a convenient underpass. Campus housing is available for students who choose to get a taste of college dorm life.

The program is designed for high school students that have an interest in learning more about a career as a medical professional, and is ideal for those that have completed their sophomore or junior year. Students attend lectures presented by hospital volunteers covering a wide range of medical professions ranging from medical research, nursing, genetic engineering, pathology, to name a few. The complete program schedule is available at their web site. Students also receive training on lab procedures, leading to a certification to work in a research lab. The program also includes a few SAT /ACT prep classes. The cost of the program is affordable (see web site for details), however parents should consider how to manage transportation, as public transportation options are limited. More information about the program is available at the SARAS web site at: <http://anes.anesthes.sunysb.edu/teaching/aboutus.html>. Parents with questions about the program are also free to contact to the PTSA Curriculum Committee chairperson, Michael Lizzio, at [MichaelLizzio@aol.com](mailto:MichaelLizzio@aol.com).

### Help Fund PTSA Programs in 2012/2013 School Year

Massapequa JR/SR PTSA has joined TD Bank's **Affinity Membership Program**. TD Bank will make an annual contribution to the PTSA based on the average balance of all member accounts that have specified the Massapequa JR/SR PTSA membership program. If you currently are banking at TD, on your next trip to the bank, please go and speak to a representative to register your accounts to be linked to the Massapequa JR/SR PTSA. It's simple to do and if you are thinking of switching banks, TD would love to assist you. The Affinity Membership Program introduces you to a bank that is dedicated to providing superior Customer Service and the most affordable, convenient banking services around. The Affinity Program is a great way for us to raise money and there is no cost to you. It is totally transparent and confidential to us as well.

Please visit the nearest TD office and they will be happy to assist you in linking your account to the program. Any questions, please Call Valerie Sullivan, PTSA Treasurer at 516-795-1839.

**SaveAround Coupon books** are still available for purchase. The proceeds will help to fund the PTSA budget. It's a great way to support PTSA, and as a supporter you will receive discounts for local merchants, including Massapequa Bowl and United Skates, and national merchants like Panera Bread, T.G.I. Fridays, Burger King, Friendly's and Buffalo Wild Wings. There is something for everyone to save money on, from fine dining, fast foods, services and retail, recreational and entertainment establishments. The coupon book can be checked out online at [www.SaveAround.com/site/coupon-book.aspx](http://www.SaveAround.com/site/coupon-book.aspx). Simply fill in your zip code and take a look at the book for your area.

Purchase your coupon book by April 30th by emailing [mlivings@optonline.net](mailto:mlivings@optonline.net).

## NEWS FROM THE YES COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER

By Jamie Bogenschutz, LCSW Executive Director

With summer just around the corner, some parents may sigh with relief, in need of a break from the hectic routine their children carry throughout the school year while other parents may be concerned about how they will keep their children busy and safe during these less structured months. Here are some tips to consider in preparation for the summer months ahead:

- Have a conversation with your child about what your expectations are for days at home when activities are not planned. How much time spent with video games, television, or other electronics is allowed? Are there daily chores you will expect of your child?
- Try to have some ideas on hand that help your child use their creativity at home. Arts and crafts and building projects can help a child of any age feel productive.
- Talk to parents of your children's friends or classmates to see what their plans are for ideas and to learn ways you can work together.
- Check out your local library, parks, museums and beaches in advance for free or affordable programs and activities that may be available.
- For children who are too young to work, consider volunteer opportunities in your community that can help build your child's character while offering some structure. This may include offering to help out an elderly neighbor or new mother.

For parents of older children, while your son or daughter may have fewer responsibilities during the summer, keep in mind that supervision and close monitoring is just as critical to prevent the likelihood of risky behaviors from taking place. Always know where your teen is and check in frequently to confirm that they are where they say they are and are doing what you have permitted. Be aware of what may be accessible to your teen based on where they are and if there are other adults around. For example, if your child is at a park, is he in an area where he is likely to be playing a sport or spending idle time where there is accessibility to cigarettes or other substances? Some warning signs that your teen may be engaging in alcohol, drug abuse, or other at risk behaviors may include:

- Loss of interest in family activities
- Disrespect for family rules
- Withdrawal from responsibilities
- Change of friends
- Unexplainable mood swings and behavior such as negative, argumentative, paranoid, confused, destructive, anxious, depressed, or aggressive tendencies
- Overly tired or hyperactive
- Drastic weight loss or gain/change in appetite
- Always needs money/disappearance of valuables or money, or has excessive amounts of money
- Sloppiness in appearance
- Not coming home on time
- Not telling you where they are going
- Lying about activities
- Finding the following: cigarette rolling papers, pipes, roach clips, small glass vials, plastic baggies, remnants of drugs (pills, seeds, etc.)



YES Community Counseling Center offers free and supervised leisure activities for teens at Marjorie Post Park on Monday and Wednesday evenings in partnership with The 7th Precinct, The Massapequa School District and The Town of Oyster Bay. For more information about this resource please call the School Social Worker in your child's school or call YES Community Counseling Center at 799-3203.

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Over the past year, there has been much media attention related to drugs. Discussions about heroin and prescription drug abuse are part of weekly news reports. However, we cannot forget that Alcohol is the most abused drug and most easily accessed for our youth.

According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, "more than 23 million people over the age of 12 are addicted to alcohol and other drugs affecting millions more people...parents, family members, friends and neighbors. 11% of the alcohol consumed in the United States are by youth aged 12 -20 years. Each year approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking. These include deaths from motor vehicle accidents, homicides, suicide and from injuries sustained from falls, burns and drownings. Approximately 600,000 college students are unintentionally injured while under the influence of alcohol.

Approximately 700,000 students are assaulted by other students who have been drinking and about 100,000 students are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or "date rape." As spring approaches, parties, proms, summer barbeques are in our thoughts and more opportunities for kids to drink increases. Parents need to be proactive in talking with youth/teens/young adults about the risks. Young people who drink have lowered inhibitions that can lead to behavior they may not usually engage in when sober. These include, unsafe/unprotected sex, committing crimes, failing in school, and experience verbal, physical or sexual violence. Youth are also at high risk for alcohol poisoning due to binge drinking. If they are at a party and they "pass out", friends might assume the drinker may need to sleep off the night, but in reality, the child may be unconscious and not breathing and in need of medical attention in a hospital emergency room.

Parents in our school district have a coalition called COPE (Communities Organized for Prevention Efforts). This is a subcommittee of the Massapequa Takes Action Coalition. COPE meets monthly at YES Community Counseling Center. If you want to get involved in COPE, all the information is on the school calendar or you can contact YES Community Counseling Center at: 799-3203. Susanne Smoller, Legislation Chairperson

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate  
of officers for the 2012-2013  
Executive Committee of the  
Massapequa Jr/Sr PTSA.

President	Lucille Vitale
Executive Vice President	Susanne Smoller
Vice President - Membership	Dan Batik
Vice President - MHS Main Campus	Sheryl Cowan
Vice President - MHS Ames Campus	Donna Kirchstetter
Vice President - Berner Middle School	Mark David
Recording Secretary	Mary Alibrandi
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Altamura
Treasurer	Valerie Sullivan

Beautiful bouquets of a dozen roses will be available for purchase at the graduation ceremony on June 25th. The bouquets are available in a variety of colors. Each bouquet is complete with roses and baby's breath and tied with a brightly colored ribbon for the price of \$25.00.



**PTSA  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**MONDAY  
APRIL 23, 2012  
7:30 PM  
AMES CAFETORIUM**

Please join us at our General Meeting . The agenda includes the election of next year's officers, a Reflections Award Ceremony, and voting on Council bylaws. **REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

**Massapequa Junior/Senior PTSA**  
Massapequa High School  
Merrick Road  
Massapequa, New York 11758

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Massapequa  
Park, NY  
Permit #9