

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that it is already January! We've had some exciting events this year. The long awaited Cyber Cafe opened and is absolutely beautiful! You would never think you were in a high school cafeteria. Students are using it both in the morning to get some breakfast and during their lunch or free periods. It is very comforting to know that our students do not have to brave the unpleasant weather to get some lunch. In addition, the Parent Portal is up and running at Ames. Berner and the Main Campus are to follow shortly.

The PTSA has been extremely busy in trying to raise funds to continue to enhance our students' academic experience. Our next fundraiser is an "Oldies Concert" on February 20th. Your support of our fundraising efforts is very much appreciated. We receive additional funds with the purchase of each membership. There is a misconception that you are obligated "to do something" when you purchase a membership. We realize that time is precious and are thankful for the support received with the membership dues. As a reminder, all of our meetings are open to the entire membership.

We have a wonderful program lined up for our January 11th meeting. Once again the PTSA will host the popular career-oriented program to included Barry Tech, LI School for the Arts, Claps Career & Tech Center and MHS Academy Program. Learn about the educational options available to the students. In February students will speak about the Chief's Challenge at MHS Main Campus. We are partnering with YES Community, Massapequa Takes Action and MTRACT to host Parent University. Our Prom Fashion Show will take place in March. In April we will honor students at our Reflections Reception. Details are inside regarding the events.

Please feel free to contact me or any officers with any questions or concerns.

Debbie Austin

2010 PTSA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

This Year's reflections program "Together We Can " was a complete success. We received 35 entries, 15 of which went on to the finals. We would like to take this time to congratulate all of our entrants.

Dance: Alexa Castaldo**—First Place

Music: Matthew Green—First Place

Film: Mackenzie Buckley**—First Place
 Nicholas Castaldo—Second Place

Photography: Jenna Schlefman—First & Second Place
 Mark Alter—Third Place

**Nassau Region Finalist

Visual Arts: Nick Anto—First Place
 Jessica Stolfi—Second Place
 Nicole Furka—Third Place

Literature: Bradly Florio—First Place
 Thomas Stolfi—Second Place
 Jessica Stolfi—Third Place

Special Education:
 Photography: Celine Logen—First Place
 Visual Arts: Eric Scheel—First Place

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the mid-point of the 2010-2011 school year! December is a busy month, most notably with the Drama Club's presentation of Dracula and the holiday concerts performed by our Music Department. Once we are back from the Holiday Recess, we will begin preparations for mid-term examinations, which will take place at the end of January. Parents will receive information regarding mid-term examinations in the mail. The schedule will also be posted on the website, in our "correspondence" section. In early January, guidance counselors will begin the process of selecting and scheduling classes with your students for the 2011-2012 school year. Important information regarding deadlines for course selections will be coming your way shortly.

Of course, the most exciting thing that has happened recently at MHS has been the grand opening of our newly redesigned cafeteria. We are very pleased that many students are taking advantage of these new accommodations to eat in, socialize, or perhaps do some work in our Cyber Café.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions, concerns or ideas.

Respectfully,

Dr. Barbara Williams
Principal, Massapequa High School

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!!!***PARENT PORTAL***

If you are the parent of a student at Ames 9th grade center, you probably have already seen and used the Parent Portal available online NOW. Each student has a password that is provided to the family by the school, and if you do not have one, please contact your child's guidance counselor. Through the Parent Portal, you are able to access your student's test results, midquarter and report card grades, as well as absence and tardy information. One of the best features, is that now you do not have to wait for the mid-quarter report to know if you student needs extra help, because information is available to you continuously.

Berner Middle School will have the Parent Portal available shortly after the third marking period report card and Massapequa High School will follow, hopefully by the end of the school year. Please take the opportunity to utilize this important opportunity provided by the District, and please let PTSA know your feedback on this service as well as any other concerns you may have.

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Parents are invited to attend this interactive program sponsored by MTA, PTA and MTRACT. The focus of this program is keeping our children safe and healthy. Please mark your calendars...meeting will be held on Saturday, 2/12/11 at McKenna Elementary School from 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m. More information will follow.

HOST A GERMAN STUDENTS

This summer, a group of MHS German students will experience life abroad in a way that few others can: as exchange students. The three-week school visit in Germany's famous Black Forest includes housing with German families. This unique program will allow MHS students to further develop their German skills while providing them with first-hand experience in Germany's renowned educational system. Daily lessons with MHS German teacher Dean Guarnaschelli will help students make important connections as they submerge themselves in German society. The experience that our district's students will be able to share with others is unparalleled. The contact to Germans that MHS will make is a major component in their becoming part of the globalized world. In order to provide others with a similar experience in the near future, a stateside program for students in Germany to visit Massapequa is being planned. Any district family interested in hosting a German student is greatly appreciated. This opportunity is as rewarding as it is educational for all involved. Please contact Dean Guarnaschelli in MHS for further details.

PROM FASHION SHOW

The Prom fashion show committee has started to get everything in place for our annual junior senior prom fashion show in early March (exact date expected shortly). Its a fun night to preview all the latest prom fashions for girls and boys along with beautiful baskets that will be raffled off. Proceeds from the evening go to the PTSA scholarship fund.

Model sign up days will be announced shortly after the break and we will need junior and senior boys and girls to model for the night. If anyone would like to help on the committee or model, Please contact Terry Yard Healy or Valerie Sullivan at 795-1839.

SENIOR AWARDS

The PTSA distributes monetary Senior Awards each year to the senior class. The only requirement is for a student to purchase a membership to the Massapequa PTSA. The winners are selected by lottery. The number of awards that are distributed is determined by the funds raised at the Prom Fashion Show. Attend the Fashion Show for a fun filled evening watching the students model and perhaps win a raffle prize. In doing so you help us increase the number of awards available. Memberships can still be purchased and student memberships are only \$5.00.

Are you looking to enhance your educational opportunities?

Come join **Massapequa Jr/Sr HS PTSA®**

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Location

7:30pm at  **Arts Campus Cafeteria**
198 Baltimore Avenue, Massapequa NY



Students and Parents are invited to attend this informative presentation about adding a career-oriented educational program to a student's high school experience.

Invited speakers include: Administrators & Students from:
LI High School for the Arts (LISA) of Syosset
Barry Tech Career & Technical School of Westbury
Gerald R. Claps Career & Technical Center of Levittown
Massapequa High School Career Academy Program

Massapequa HS Guidance will provide an overview of the application process, enrollment and scheduling process.

Come join us for an informative and interesting evening.

For more information or directions contact:
Valerie Sullivan (516) 795-1839

Antibacterial Soap Use Updates

AIDS, Health and Wellness Committee

(Lisa Corradi- Chair; Susanne Smoller, Mark Koenigsmann- Committee Members)

Although the EPA has approved its use for 140 consumer products, the EPA and the ODR (Office of Research and Development) have performed studies on thyroid and estrogen effects of triclosan on humans. It has indications that triclosan weakens the immune system, causes birth defects, promotes uncontrolled cell growth and reproductive toxicity, and carcinogenicity. Research has shown triclosan in bodies of water that we drink, and is appearing in breast milk, filtering its way into our bodies. Therefore, the AMA (American Medical Association) now recommends against using triclosan in the home. All agencies involved in triclosan's uses continue to do more research to determine if there is a need to revise its regulations. Open this website to view a list of products containing triclosan: <http://drbenkim.com/articles/triclosan-products.htm>.

To be effective, antibacterial soap must contain 60% or more of alcohol such as ethanol or isopropanol. It does not have to contain triclosan. A gel or cream emollient will counteract the drying effects of the alcohol. Triclosan will kill bacteria, but it does not clean grime, blood, feces, bodily fluids, or food borne E. Coli. To avoid exposure to triclosan,

- forgo bacterial soap whenever soap and water are readily available, and change the towel daily beware of not only triclosan but its "cousin" triclocarbon which is in many personal care products such as toothpaste, antibacterial soaps, toothbrushes, toys (made with Micro ban plastics), cutting boards, adhesives, vinyl, plastics, polyurethane, floor wax, clothing, caulking, sealants, carpeting, latex paints, etc.

- Avoid any item that says, "odor fighting," "antibacterial," "fights germs," "protects against mold," "keeps food fresher longer," as items labeled in this way have likely been treated with triclosan

- Wash all surfaces that come in contact with soap and water, never any antibacterial substance
- Create your own antibacterial solution using tea tree oil, grapefruit seed extract, or pine oil.

Going Digital: Massapequa PTSA has been asked like all other PTA's state wide to join 'Just Between Friends' (JBF). JBF is the National PTA's answer to saving paper, printing and mailing costs. Joining JBF is free for our PTSA and for our users. To join JBF go to: www.justbetweenfriends.com scroll down and enter the token : parents11762 or parents11758. All we need you to enter is your name and email address. You do not need to enter any other information that you do not want to.

Massapequa JR/SR PTSA Membership

Dear parents, students, faculty & staff;

We are in full swing of our JR/SR PTSA membership drive; it is not too late to add your support. Our goal is to have 100% teacher support as well as parents and students. By supporting the PTSA, we can provide many programs for our students such as the Reflections program, Arts & Ed program and safety programs we initiate for the secondary schools.

We also provide a senior scholarship award; any senior wanting to be nominated must be a paid member. Please fill in the attached and send to the General Office PTSA mailbox with the appropriate amount: \$8 adult & \$5 student. Another option is send to my address with a self addressed stamped envelope so I can return your PTSA card back to you.



Thank you for you support

(516) 797-5152
 brandimatt2003@gmail.com
 Denise Weiss
 VP of Membership
 82 East Shore Drive
 Massapequa, NY 11758

Member name _____ M/F
 Member name _____ M/F
 Member name _____ M/F Grade _____
 Member name _____ M/F Grade _____
 Member name _____ M/F Grade _____ Check # _____

Teacher _____ Student _____ Other _____

BERNER NEWS

Everything is progressing well at Berner! First Quarter report cards were mailed home; the Guidance Department workshop for 8th grade parents entitled, "Preparing for High School and Beyond" that was scheduled for December 7th will be rescheduled in March or April 2011. The Berner Buddies Club, Berner's newest club, is meeting monthly, and the monthly Thursday rec. program is a huge success, thanks to the sponsorship of MTA (Massapequa Takes Action).

The beautiful flags outside Berner were sponsored by school and community members through the Kiwanis Club, and continue to be a wonderful reminder to all of the sacrifices our veterans have made for us.

Berner now has a Sports Network link on the district website, which is also sponsored by MTA, and there is a video of the boy's 8th grade football team! Check in occasionally to see any updates!

The winter concerts will take place on January 5, 19 and 26, so please check the date for your chorus, band or orchestra student's performance, or attend all three!

If you have any news, questions or concerns applicable to Berner, please contact me anytime, and thank you to everyone at Berner who supported our PTSA Pie Fundraiser!

Bonnie Goess, VP Berner
 541-1714, BonJen97@aol.com

MASSAPEQUA JR/SR HS PTSA & FRIEND ENTERTAINMENT of NY

PRESENT

FEBRUARY 20, 2011 at 3:00 PM

KENNY VANCE

AND "FRIENDS"

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In the past few years there has been a lot of attention given to adolescents and binge drinking. There are many myths that parents and adolescents believe to be the truth. Parents should know these truths and have frequent conversations with their children about them. Check out this website for important information about topics endemic to adolescents. <http://www.checkyourself.com>.

Presently, in our district, Kimberly Hession, (Ames social Worker) and Joanne Waters, (MHS social worker) have instituted a program that addresses the dangers of binge drinking. The "Red Watch Band" was developed by Stony Brook University after a faculty member tragically lost her son to an alcohol poisoning/alcohol overdose, just before completing his freshman year of college. The mission is to "provide students with the knowledge, awareness and skills to prevent toxic drinking deaths and to promote a student culture of kindness, responsibility, compassion and respect". "The effectiveness of this training is based on interactive engagement and continuous verbal exchange with the participants." All students who *volunteer* to join RED WATCH BAND participate in two sections. The first is a 2 hour alcohol education class, taught by Kimberly Hession and Joanne Waters, which identifies the warning signs of intoxication and possible overdose. The second section is CPR/AED training. All students are trained by a certified CPR instructor, Ames nurse Kathy Perednia. The training is 3 hours in length and all volunteers become certified in CPR/AED.

Last year, in its pilot year, *fourteen students* were trained and certified. This year *sixty four* students will be trained and certified. The feedback has been very positive and hopefully the program will continue to grow each year.

Remember that education is the key to success in life. Parents and children/adolescents should know the truth about alcohol/substances so that informed decisions can be made on both parts and a life can be saved.

Submitted by:
Joanne Waters, LCSW
MHS Social Worker

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