

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Everyone,

I would like to thank everyone who has joined PTSA and supported our Flip Flop fundraiser last fall. However, I would also like to encourage everyone who hasn't joined to do so. Our membership numbers are down from last year and it's never too late to join. A note to all seniors; in order to be eligible for PTSA's awards in the spring; you must be a member of PTSA. Please be sure to join. With our low membership and plenty of flip-flops to still sell, our budget has not yet been met. We will be announcing a spring fundraiser in a few months and we need your support. Please watch for the flyers.

Over the last few months, PTSA has been working diligently with all Administrators on communication between the school, PTSA, and parents. In light of the recent events like the lockdown at Berner and the issue that came up at Ames, we have had even more conversations with the Administrators. A few things have come out of these conversations that I would like to share.

It is extremely important that everyone subscribe to the e-mail alerts from the district. If you haven't already done so, please go on the website at msd.k12.ny.us and under Quick Links is a link to the E-Mail Center. Just fill in your e-mail address and check off the appropriate school. By signing up for this mail, you will find yourself well informed of all events at your child's school. You can sign up for multiple buildings.

Also, two other issues have come to our attention. When Parent Link phone calls were made to advise of the lockdown at Berner, the police department reported that an overwhelming amount of phone calls were made directly to them from parents wanting to know what was going on. This tied up the police department's phones and they really couldn't answer the questions immediately anyway. In situations like this one, I believe that we must trust that the building principals and district administrators take every emergency situation seriously and follow specific protocol when these times arise. Their first priority is to ensure that the students are safe and then share whatever information they can with the parents. As president of the PTSA, I do receive calls regularly from the Principals when information needs to be shared. Please feel free to contact me if have questions.

And lastly, details of some events this year have been escalated out of proportion due to students text messaging inaccurate information to their parents and other students. I think as responsible parents, we must remind our students that there are policies regarding cell phone use during school hours. It's important that we work with, not against, the schools in this area. Please remind your students about the school's policy on cell phones.

As we started this school year, one of my goals was to strengthen the Home-School partnership. More conversations will take place over the next few months to continue to work on communication as well as other topics. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to e-mail me at sherylcowanpta@aol.com so that they will be added to our next agenda or come to any of our PTSA meetings to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Cowan
President

LETTERS FROM THE PRINCIPALS

MHS MAIN CAMPUS—Dr. James J. Grossane, Principal

It's hard to believe, but we are almost half-way through this school year. We have had a very productive fall, with our students achieving outstanding honors in academics. On the academic front, we received notice from the College Board regarding Advanced Placement Awards. Eighty-nine (89) students were designated AP Scholars, meaning they achieved a score of 3 or higher when completing three or more AP exams. This is an increase of 37 students over last year. Forty-two (42) students were designated AP Scholars with Honors for achieving a score of 3.25 or higher on all AP exams taken and had grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. This is an increase of 16 students over last year. Thirty-five (35) students were recognized as AP Scholars with Distinction for earning an average grade of 3.5 or higher on all AP exams taken and having grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. This is an increase of 15 students over last year.

Finally, the most prestigious award of AP National Scholar was achieved by 10 students. These ten students earned an average at least 4 on all AP exams taken and grade of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Prior to this year, the greatest number of students at MHS to achieve this honor was four. All in all, 176 students from Massapequa High School were honored by the College Board. Congratulations to all of them and to our fine teaching staff for preparing them so well for these prestigious and extremely difficult national examinations.

I look forward to meeting with all our parents of seniors at our annual Mandatory Prom Meetings. They are scheduled for January 29th and February 4th. More information regarding meeting times and registration will be coming home shortly in a mailing to parents. **Let me also remind everyone that our Graduation date has changed to Monday, June 29, 2009 at 6pm.** The ceremony will be held at the Henry Mack Basketball Arena at Hofstra University in **air conditioned** comfort. More information will also come home in a mailing soon.

I look forward to a rewarding and productive second semester. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MHS AMES CAMPUS-Dr. Barbara Williams, Principal

It is hard to believe that the Class of 2012 is almost at the mid-year point of their year in ninth grade! Just after the holiday break, we will begin preparations for mid-term examinations in full-year courses. Parents should have already received a mid-term examination schedule in the mid-December mailing. The schedule is also posted on the website, in the Ames Campus "correspondence" section.

Mark your calendars: Once again, Massapequa Takes Action and the Ames Character Team are proud to sponsor our annual performance of *Bang, Bang You're Dead*, a play by William Mastrosimone. The messages from this play will help to continue our yearlong discussion of major themes from our Character Education Committee: tolerance, responsibility and violence prevention. Ms. Alarcon will be directing this year's performance, and an informational meeting will take place prior to the holiday recess. There will be an evening performance for parents on Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 pm and there will be two presentations for students during the day on Friday, February 13.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions, concerns or ideas regarding our ninth graders.

LETTERS FROM THE PRINCIPALS

BERNER MIDDLE SCHOOL—Stephen R. Scarallo, Principal

As we find ourselves at the end of another busy holiday season, I would like to remind parents of the generosity of our pupils. Berner students collected 1,575 pounds of food that was donated to Island Harvest. That's almost 500 pounds over what was collected last year! As you may know, Island Harvest is Long Island's largest hunger relief organization. It serves as the bridge between those who have surplus food and those who need it. Their volunteers and staff "rescue," or collect, good surplus food from over 600 local restaurants, caterers, farms, and other food-related businesses; and distribute it to a network of close to 500 soup kitchens, food pantries, and other places where those in need can access it. We're so very proud of our students' contribution to the less fortunate.

As part of our character education program, our 7th grade class recently attended a 40-minute multi-media experience on the topic of trust. The premise of the program stems from the fact that today, many claim to be trustworthy, but too often it's all talk and no action. The assembly program asked students to consider how they are living their lives. The high-energy program encouraged our students to realize that actions speak louder than words. We also hope that it will motivate them to become honest with themselves, responsible for their own actions, and to be straightforward and honest with those around them in a positive, respectful manner, to become a person everyone can trust.

The 8th grade class just returned from a trip to Broadway to see the play 13. 13 is a musical that deals with the ups and downs of adolescence. The show featured thirteen adolescents with no adults in the cast. The play is the story of Evan Goldman who lives in Manhattan and is about to turn 13. When his parents separate, his mother and he move to a small town in Indiana (where there are relatives). In the play, he realizes that "becoming a man" is not an easy task and that sometimes making the right choice means taking a chance. After the show, the cast returned to the stage for a questions and answer session with the Berner students.

During the past months, our Chorus, Band and Orchestra students had been busy getting ready for the Holiday Concerts. We hope everyone was able to attend these wonderful concerts performed by our talented student vocalists and musicians!

As always, we thank you for your support of our educational programs and wish you a great new year!

Massapequa Jr/Sr HS PTSA® General Meeting

Monday January 12, 2009

7:30pm at Ames 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:

Nassau BOCES Cultural Arts Center of Syosset

Barry Tech Career & Technical School of Westbury

Gerald R. Claps Career & Technical Center of Levittown

Mr. Lou Sabatini, 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:

Debbie Austin (516) 797 – 0652

REFLECTIONS WINNERS

GRADES 7-8

PHOTOGRAPHY

-First- Kelly Anne Boylan

-Second- Thomas Sarant

-Third- Mark Alter

Honorable Mention– Michael Imbrogno

Visual Arts

-First- Christian Wolfe

-Second- Nicholas Castaldo, Luciana Tangari

-Third- Sarah Jackson

Honorable Mention – Tom Morse,
Gabby Ibrahim

LITERARY

-First- Ryan Shulte

-Second- Michael Novet

-Third- Johanna Erdman

Honorable Mention – Sarabella Adler

MUSIC

-First- Mark Alter

-Second- Mark Alter

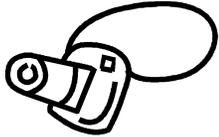
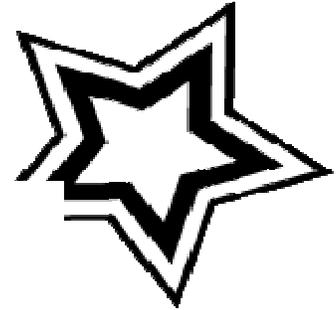
DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

-First- Ashley Magaddino

-Second- Rebecca Fatscher

VIDEO PRODUCTION

-First- Nicholas Castaldo



REFLECTIONS WINNERS

GRADES 9-12

PHOTOGRAPHY

- First- Elizabeth Henry
- Second- Jenna Schlefman
- Third- Thomas Stolfi

Honorable Mention- Randy Lukas and Tom Livingston

Visual Arts

- First- Nicholas Forgione
- Second- Elizabeth Sarant
- Third- Alexa Castaldo

Honorable Mention—Michelle Misciagno

LITERARY

- First- Erin Brussell
- Second- Tara Hepler
- Third- Denise Liguori

Honorable Mention—Melissa Erdman

MUSIC

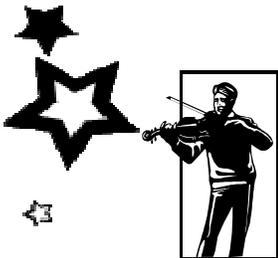
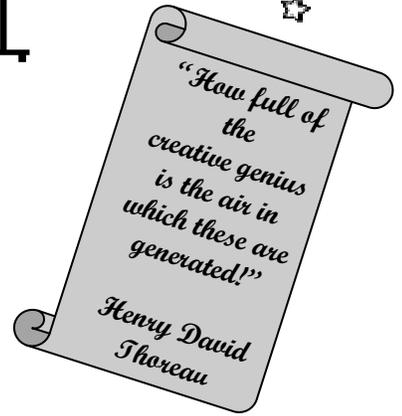
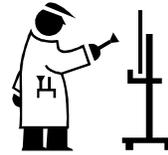
- First- Jamie DeFilippis
- Second- Denise Liguori
- Third- Jamie DeFilippis

Honorable Mention - John Misciagno

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

- First- Kerri Dutton
- Second- Teddy Fatscher

Our winners will be honored at the
March 9th General Meeting.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



Parenting and Family Life

By: Mary Ward, Nassau Region PTA
Parenting and Family Life Chairman
Communication Tips for Parents

Be Available for your children

-Notice times when your kids are most likely to talk-for example, bedtime, before dinner, in the car and be available.

-Start the conversation: it lets your kids know you care about what's happening in their lives.

-Find time each week for a one-on-one activity with each child and avoid scheduling other activities during that time.

-Learn about your children's interests, for example, favorite music and activities and show interest in them.

-Initiate conversations by sharing what you have been thinking about rather than beginning a conversation with a question.

Let your kids know you're listening

-When your children are talking about concerns, stop whatever you are doing and listen.

-Express interest in what they are saying without being intrusive.

-Listen to their point of view, even if it's difficult to hear.

-Let them complete their point before you respond.

-Repeat what you heard them say to

ensure that you understand them correctly.

Respond in a way your children will hear

-Soften strong reactions; kids will tune you out if you appear angry or defensive.

-Express your opinion without putting down theirs; acknowledge that it's okay to disagree.

-Resist arguing about who is right. Instead say, 'I know you disagree with me, but this is what I think.'

-Focus on your child's feelings rather than your own during your conversation.

Remember...

-Ask your children what they may want or need from you in a conversation, such as advice, simply listening, help in dealing with feelings or help solving a problem.

-Kids learn by imitating. Most often, they will follow your lead in how they deal with anger, solve problems and work through difficult feelings.

-Talk to your children-don't lecture, criticize, threaten or say hurtful things.

-Kids learn from their own choices. As long as the consequences are not dangerous, don't feel you have to step in.

-Realize your children may test you by telling you small part of what is bothering them. Listen carefully to what they say, encourage them to talk, and they may share the rest of the story.

Parenting is hard work

-Listening and talking is the key to a healthy connection between you and your children.

*American Psychological Association
www.helping.apa. 1-800-268-0078*

Parenting and Family Life Websites:

www.pta.org National PTA website, register for the PTA Parent newsletter

www.pirc-info.net Parent information and resource center
www.tnpc.com National Parenting center

www.wholeheartedparents.com Resource for Parents

www.staysafeonline.org - online safety for children

www.ny.thinkbright.org/index.asp - Lifelong learning, interactive site for family and children

www.epicforchildren.org - Parenting resource

www.symantec.com/norton/familyresources/index.jsp Family Resources for internet safety and cyber bullying.

Massapequa Jr/Sr PTSA Officers

Sheryl Cowan, President - 795-7148

Debbie Austin, Executive V.P. - 797-0652

Valerie Sullivan, V.P. Membership - 795-1839

Gloria Parlatore, V.P. MHS Main - 797-1230

Maureen Cohen, V.P. MHS Ames - 797-2024

Lydia Magaddino, V.P. Berner M.S. - 798-4667

Mary Alibrandi, Recording Secretary - 798-2166

Terry Yard-Healy, Corresponding Secretary - 797-3427

Dianne Sheffield, Treasurer - 795-9127

Maureen Geier, Past President - 798-3483

MASSAPEQUA SEPTA NEWS

- ◆ Our November meeting, which included a presentation on ADHD, was well attended and a huge success. Thank you, Mrs. Dorothy Ahl and Dr. Kerry Arale for helping to make this such an informative and interesting meeting.
- ◆ Our next SEPTA meeting will be on January 13th, 2009 at 7:30pm at the McKenna Senior Center. This is an executive board meeting and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served.
- ◆ The Massapequa SEPTA car magnets are in. These sturdy magnets with the Massapequa SEPTA logo are available at \$5 each. Pick one up at our next meeting or if you would like to order one, e-mail Cathy James at mcjjj@verizon.net.

Massapequa Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) is a support organization serving every family who receives special education services in Massapequa, New York.

Secondary Scoop
Volume 5, Issue 2
January 2009

Editor
Ronnie Lalo
SecondaryScoop@yahoo.com

The Secondary Scoop is published by the Massapequa PTSA.

PTSA Senior Awards Reminder

In order to be eligible for the end of year senior awards, students must be members of the PTSA. If your child is a Massapequa High School senior please make sure that he or she becomes a member of the PTSA. If you wish to make a contribution specifically for the PTSA Senior Award, please send your contribution to the PTSA in care of Sheryl Cowan, President.

JOIN MASSAPEQUA JR/SR PTSA

MASSAPEQUA JR/SR PTSA MEMBERSHIP



Adult Member	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>					
Adult Member	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>					
Address:		Zip Code:				
Email Address		Card #	Phone #:			
Student Member:	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 th <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th <input type="checkbox"/> 10 th <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th <input type="checkbox"/> 12 th				M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	
Student Member:	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 th <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th <input type="checkbox"/> 9 th <input type="checkbox"/> 10 th <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th <input type="checkbox"/> 12 th				M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	
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Total No. of Parents		Individual Parent Cost	Total Parent Cost	Total No. of Students	Individual Student Cost	Total Student Cost
		\$8.00			\$5.00	
Amount Enclosed				Check No.		

Please return to box in secondary school offices or mail to Valerie Sullivan,
 68 Division Avenue, Massapequa NY 11758.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

January 13—SEPTA Exec Mtg Mck Sr Ctr 7:30 PM
January 14—Ames Winter Concert @MHS 7:30PM
January 19—Martin Luther King Jr. Day SCHOOLS CLOSED
January 20-23 NYS ELA Grades 6,7,8
January 22—BOE Public Session 8PM Board Room
January 24—SAT/SAT Subject Tests
January 26—Gr 9-12 Midterm exams begin
January 27-30 Regents Testing Days
January 29—Mandatory Senior Prom Mtg A-L 7PM MHS
January 30 —Second Marking Period Ends, Gr 7-12
January 30 —Grade 10 PLAN Test 10AM-1PM

FEBRUARY

February 2—PTA Council Exec Board Mtg. 7:30PM MHS
February 3—School Closed, Superintendent's
Conference Day
February 4—Mandatory Senior Prom Mtg M-Z 7PM MHS
February 5—BOE Mtg. Budget Session I 8:00PM Bd Rm

FEBRUARY

February 9—Jr/Sr PTSA Executive Mtg. 7:30PM MHS
February 10—SEPTA Gen/Exec Mtg Mck Sr Ctr 7:30 PM
February 11—MHS Band Concert
February 12—Jr/Sr PTSA Executive Mtg. 7:30PMHS
February 15—SEPTA General Mtg. 7:45PM McKenna
Senior Center
February 16-20 School Closed, Winter Recess

MARCH

March 2—PTA Council Exec Board Mtg. 7:30PM MHS
March 3— Ames Incoming Gr 9 Parent Meeting 7:30PM
March 5—BOE Budget Session II 8PM Board Room
March 6—Third Mid-Quarter Appraisals, Gr 7-12
March 9—Jr/Sr PTSA General Mtg. 7:30PM MHS
March 9-13 NYS Math Assessments
March 10—SEPTA Exec Mtg Mck Sr Ctr 7:30PM
March 10—MHS Chorus concert 7:30PM
March 14—SAT

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

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