

Syosset Council of PTAs - Unit to Unit Reports

February 24, 2020

A.P. Willits: The cold weather hasn't slowed anything down at A.P. Willits. We kicked off the new year with our January movie night, which was held at HBT. Not only did our students have a great time, but selling popcorn and candy made it a great fundraiser for P.T.A. Our Arts and Ed brought in Holly Rock Entertainment's "Brain Challenge" a live game show. This has become a Willits favorite and the kids were so excited to have them back. January concluded with a week of P.A.R.P (Parents as Reading Partners). It was a fun out of this world themed week of reading exploration. Kids got to dress up as martians, do scavenger hunts, and sign contracts to read with their parents. Friday capped off the week of reading fun, with a visit from our very own Willits mascot, the one and only Willy Willits. What better way to end a week of P.A.R.P. then getting a visit from our beloved "book" Willy. February then kicked off with International Week and Night. A week of cultural displays capped off with one of our most popular nights of the year, International Night. International night is a true celebration of our cultural diversity, with parents providing foods from around the world, displays of different countries, cultural dances, and a Parade of Nations. The kids beam as they walk through Willits halls bearing the flags of so many countries. February will end with a visit from author and illustrator Daniel Jude Miller writer of the popular Monsters in Manhattan series. We can't wait!!! We keep the momentum going in March with a fun break-dancing assembly, our Spring book fair, and our highly anticipated Fun Fair. Hooray!!

Baylis: The Baylis PTA has had a very busy end to 2019 and start to 2020! We ended 2019 on a humorous note with an assembly to celebrate the end of the year, with the Funny Magic Show starring Brian Richards. Everyone was wowed by his magic tricks and hysterically laughing from his humor! On January 29th, we brought in Patricia Shih to celebrate Kindness Week. Everyone enjoyed singing along with Patricia as they learned about being kind to ourselves, our friends, and our community. Besides assemblies, we have also been running several fundraising programs. Right before the holidays, we had a Give Back Day with Qdoba. On February 11, we had a Give Back Day with Pizzabar 141. The Baylis families enjoyed taking a night off from cooking dinner, while giving back to the PTA. We also sold reusable shopping bags, in anticipation of New York's March 1st ban on single-use plastic bags. With winter almost behind us, we have a very busy spring planned. Tomorrow, we have the Music Technology Show with Brent Daniels. Based on the feedback we have received from other schools, we are looking forward to an amazing assembly for our children. Thursday night is our Evening Out at The Mansion. Everyone is looking forward to a fun night out complete with dinner, raffles and shopping! It is sure to be a great time! There are lots more in store for the Baylis PTA!

Berry Hill: Berry Hill ended the year with record setting sales at their annual Holiday Boutique. Students were excited about our expanded technology section with wireless headphones, wireless charges and Bluetooth speakers. There were great choices for all members of the family. Community service had a busy few months collecting shoes, winter coats, toys as well as new pajamas for Ronald McDonald House. Our Discount Card fundraiser was new to the school this year and was a great success. The cards were sold at the right time gift to family and friends who shop locally. We needed the year with the students watching a performance of Peter Pan. 2020 kicked off with the next series of "Let's Get Berry Fit" exercise classes. Parents enjoyed a class at the Bar Method in Roslyn and all proceeds from the class sent to the PTA. Perfect for anyone with a New Year's resolution to get healthy and try a new work out. International Night this year had 10 countries representing - China, Korea, Bangladesh, India, Israel, Italy, Greece, Germany, Colombia and more. Students performed traditional dances from their county and were given passports and special questions to be asked for a prize. New this year was the International Night Berry Hill Cookbook. With over 50 traditional family recipes submitted the recipe book was a great keepsake.

February ended with a week of PARP. This year's theme was "Reading Under the Sea - Dive into a Good Book." The event kicked off with Syosset High School's Drama Club visiting and performing "Under the Sea" for all students. It was a great way to promote this year's play at the high school. MacKenzie Cadenhead, an author of graphic superhero novels, visited the school as well to sign books and explain the graphic novel process with her friend Spider-Man. Students enjoyed shopping at the PARP book fair and had to find "Berry the Whale" hidden in the stacks to win a class prize. The week concluded with the LI Nets mascot coming to reveal how many books were collected for the

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Book Fairies book drive. It was a record-breaking year with over 3,250 books donated!! 5th Grade fundraising hosted an event at Bounce! which over 88 students attended! The funds raised go towards the 5th grade party in June. Yearbook ads and dedications were sold for the first time to cover the cost of the Class of 2020 yearbook.

Robbins Lane: November continued to be busy for Robbins Lane. The 5th grade put on a Talent Show to raise money for its activities, the PTA held its fall book fair, and the circus came to town! Always a huge hit, the circus consisted of a school-wide professional show followed by workshops in gym class that were age-appropriate and lots of fun! The week ended with the 5th grade performing its own circus show. December kicked off with a PTA fundraiser at MJ Beanz, where parents received a discount on items purchased and a percentage of sales was donated back to the school. Our PRIDE committee and Cultural Unity committee worked together to enable the school community to benefit from the great ideas of both committees. Our annual Holiday Boutique was a huge success, and students were excited to shop for their families. The 4th grade participated in the Journeys into American Indian Territory program, and spent the day immersed in Native American history and culture. This BOCES program is always a highlight in 4th grade and ties in with the social studies curriculum to bring learning to life!

Kerboom Kids! Visited Robbins Lane in early January. This energetic, fun-filled program was a great way to kick off the new decade! Students learned cool dance moves and participated in a dance-off that left everyone laughing and cheering. 3rd graders had their annual Rec Night at school and enjoyed relay races, tug-of-war and scooter races in the gym on a Friday night. 5th graders also had their Rec Night, but this year they added a special twist for the graduating class. The rec night was also a pajama party and featured movies and other special activities. February ushered in the Robbins Lane Carnival, and students and families were treated to games, face painting, and raffles all while raising money for the school. Before break, the students also enjoyed our annual Book and Author Day. This year Sara Pennypacker, author of books like Clementine and Pax, came to speak to our students. Bingo night will end the month. Always a fun night, students compete for prizes while playing with friends and family.

South Grove: South Grove has its annual holiday boutique and it was a huge success. The fifth grade had a gift-wrapping fundraiser as well. We had our used book sale as well. The PTA organized a Lemon Shark Poke Bowl and a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant fundraiser. Jared Campbell from The Blue Project returned to South Grove on Tuesday, January 7th.

His focus is using the power of music to impact students to be the best that they can be! Jared's assemblies were interactive, high energy and meaningful!! We ran a school wide contest and winners received backstage passes, signed guitars, VIP seating, and a special meet and greet with Jared!! Finally, we had Heritage Night on January 31st and it was a huge success with many cultures represented. Yummy treats and amazing performances were enjoyed by many.

Village: Throughout this winter, Village elementary school has been offering many great events for the students to keep them warm and occupied. We celebrated the Lunar New Year, Year of the Rat, with fun crafts, a nice performance and fortune cookies. The Arts in Ed committee also worked their magic and was able to put up a wonderful Chinese acrobatic show for all the kids. For PARP week, our PARP committee came up with the theme 'The Animal Kingdom of Kindness'. During the week students will read animal stories with Author Ross Burach, dress like an animal, bring stuffed animals to school, and perform kindness to others. For the month of March our blood drive committee in conjunction with the NYBC will host our annual Blood drive. Last but not least, we will be hosting our annual International Night at the end of March. As always, we are anticipating lots of families enjoying fun and food for the night.

Walt Whitman: January and February have been busy months here at Walt Whitman. International Day was a huge success. Our children had lots of fun touring each of the countries that were presented. The children visited China, Italy and Greece, just to name a few. This event could not have been possible without our wonderful parent tour

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guides and parent presenters. In January, we had a visit from the wacky science show. The presenter, Dr. Science, helped students learn about the Scientific Method in a simple and fun way with lots of magic tricks and some comedy. On February 12th, we had an assembly with the Fabulous Chinese Acrobats. It was an exciting, fun and energetic performance for the students and teachers. For Valentine's Day, our students created beautiful crafts during recess. Additionally, the children made cards that we dropped off at local nursing homes. Our PTA has been busy working on some amazing events & activities that will be happening over the next few months. On February 27th, we will be having our first pajama day to support the Pajama Program. The students will bring in new pajamas or a book to donate. We are busy planning for our Sip and Shop Night Out which we hope to be a huge success!! The Scholastic Book Fair, PARP, Fun Fair, Talent Show, and our Family Fun Night are all right around the corner!

HBT: Things at HBT have been moving along smoothly this year. Our annual Gourmet Popcorn & Cookie Dough fundraiser took place in October. After that we had our annual gift card fundraiser which parents like to take advantage of for the holidays. Nov 7th & 8th we had a successful Book Fair that many of the children browsed and bought from. We also put together a last-minute Pie and Bread sale from White Post Farms right before Thanksgiving, that the parents appreciated for its convenience. Our annual Holiday Boutique took place Dec 12th & 13th, and again, lots of students browsed and bought. We've also been busy with our Curriculum Enrichment programs. On Dec 11th we had The Franklin Institute show "Motions & Machines". Arts Horizons presented "Dances Around the World" on Jan 30th. Feb 13th Shades of Truth presented "Martin Luther King Young Years" and on March 9th we will have Poetry Alive "From the Fires". Now we are busy preparing for our Staff Appreciation Dinner. We look forward to having a "Fiesta" with our HBT staff, Board of Ed and Central Administration.

South Woods: South Woods students entertained family and friends during the Winter Concerts in December and January. Through the tireless efforts of our parent volunteers and the support of our membership, our PTSA had very successful Thanksgiving Pie Sale, Holiday Boutique and Raffle Basket Fundraisers. The SW PTSA had the honor of bringing in our 1st guest speaker of the school year, Rohan Murphy. Mr. Murphy spoke to students and teachers about overcoming physical disability. The SW PTSA was also very proud and eager to once again work with SW teachers with providing snacks and beverages for the SW Boomerang Talent Show with proceeds donated to the Australian Red Cross. We are so excited to have four students chosen as Nassau Region finalists in the National PTA Reflections competition! Their entries will be moving on to the NY State level. Congratulations and good luck to each of them!

Syosset HS: We have had a busy few months at Syosset High School! On October 30, we had a Curriculum Meeting on Technology and Computer Science. It was well attended by both middle school and high school parents and was very informative. On November 13, we had another meeting where we discussed our Art and Music programs, including requirements for graduation, creating rigor in students' schedules, career paths, extracurricular activities and honors programs. At our December 11 meeting, we were given an overview of the Science Department. There was a lot of conversation about our research programs. We also went through traditional science classes (earth science, biology, chemistry and physics) as well as the range of fantastic alternatives SHS offers. Our final department meeting was on January 15 and focused on the Social Studies department.

At our very well attended November 7 Guidance Meeting we covered Testing, Extracurriculars, etc. as they relate to the college application process. On February 5 we will discuss Character Education, including Junior Day, Senior Day, PRO, and PAL. The final Guidance Meeting of the year will be on April 1 and will focus on the Student Athlete process. Our November Multicultural Festival was a great success! It was an incredible celebration of our global community. We couldn't have done it without all the wonderful parents who volunteered! We shared with our students and faculty the cuisine and cultural diversity of our Syosset community. In December we had a presentation for our 9th graders by David Flood on the importance of kindness and inclusion. It was a great message for students and adults alike. The holidays were ushered in by our impromptu Thanksgiving White Post pie, bread and cookie sale and our Holiday Spiritwear sale.

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Each year the Syosset High School PTSA, with the support of the Syosset High School Guidance Department, compiles a directory called Campus Connection. Campus Connection provides a school-by-school listing of those college students who would be available to assist current junior and seniors. As part of this program on January 6, we hosted our annual Alumni Day. This event invites recent SHS graduates to share their college experiences with our 12th grade students. It was great to welcome them back and hear about their success at college. This year Syosset High School Theater will be performing "The Little Mermaid". The show will run from March 12 through March 15. The performances are always incredible and a great chance to see the talents of the high school students in our community. A portion of all ticket sales benefits the PTA-STA Scholarship Fund. We are so excited to have three students chosen as Nassau Region finalists in the National PTA Reflections competition! Their entries will be moving on to the NYS PTA level. Congratulations and good luck to each of them!

SEPTA: SEPTA's annual Comedy Night fundraiser is taking place at 7:30 pm on Sunday, March 29 at Governor's in Levittown. Everyone is welcome for what is sure to be a fun night. Tickets are \$20. We will also have amazing raffle baskets which will include tickets to Live with Kelly & Ryan, Late Night with Seth Meyers and a MoMA family membership with amazing benefits for one year just to name a few.

SEPTA's custom Syosset Braves puravida bracelet fundraiser was a terrific success. Only five bracelets are left in our first order. The work-based learning students at Syosset High School helped SEPTA sell the bracelets. These students worked with their teacher to develop an advertising campaign and sell the bracelets to SHS students and staff. Tickets for Comedy Night and the puravida bracelets can be purchased online at <http://syossetsepta.memberhub.store>. Our March & April meetings will feature some terrific speakers. At our March 23 meeting, Atara Simpson and Christiana Krimitsos (District Speech Language Pathologists) will be doing a presentation about how language-based strategies can improve homework habits. Ms. Simpson works at the elementary school level and Ms. Krimitsos works at the high school. Lauren Navarra from LICADD will be back at our April 28 meeting to present on the importance of empathy and resilience. She will provide parents with advice on how to guide their children through stress, interpersonal conflict and adversity.