Beginning the 2016-2017 Budget Process

This year Sayville School District is beginning its budget process on a positive note. While we are still faced with the fiscal challenges imposed by New York State’s 2% property tax levy cap, the GEA, and insufficient State Aid, Sayville continues to offer its students educational opportunities through prudent fiscal management. However, what can be found in Draft I of the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget, presented to the public at the February 4th Board of Education Meeting, is HOW we are doing this. (See details at Business Office on Website: Click on 2016-17 Budget Presentations.)

SAVINGS:

• The results of our long-term prudent fiscal planning and budgetary savings from our Energy Performance Contract have paid off. We are seeing a reduction in our utility costs totaling $249,600;
• Passing the $19.2M Bond last May will allow the district to make necessary facilities upgrades with a reduction in the Debt Service. As the old Debt Service expires and the new one begins, the District will have a savings of $333,632 in the 2016-2017 school year;
• Changes in BOCES billing methods for students enrolled in vocational programs, along with in-district retirements, will save the district a combined total of $450,000;
• In addition to other fiscal-management initiatives within Sayville, the annual rates for the ERS and TRS are finally decreasing, with a budgetary saving of approximately $472,000, significantly easing the District’s burden of these legacy costs mandated by state legislation.

WILL SAYVILLE RECEIVE STATE AID?

• State Aid shows an increase of $959,978.
• This increase, as provided in the Governor’s 2016-17 Executive Budget, did not restore 100% of the GEA Adjustment as originally promised. Only 30%, or $537,719, of the $1,755,915 GEA was restored. At this juncture, Sayville is still owed $1,218,196.

Although Draft I of the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget shows a proposed budget increase of 0.8%, it has 0% tax rate. Still, over the next several months, the District and the Board of Education will continue to examine and discuss ways to reduce costs and repurpose or re-appropriate existing resources.

WHAT’S THE CAP?

For purposes of calculating the 2016-17 Property Tax Levy Cap, the December 2015 CPI was ‘0.12%’:

• Based on the current financial data in place, and coupled with the 2016-17 projected tax levy, the calculated Tax Levy Limit is minus .70%. Therefore, the District must bring the Tax Levy down to ~70% from the current school year;
• This will require either additional revenues of $407,690, or a reduction in budgetary appropriations – or a combination of the two.

Challenges lie ahead, but Sayville is looking forward to enhancing educational opportunities for students, controlling costs, and proposing to provide the community with a property TAX REDUCTION for the 2016-2017 school year.

Attention all Residents:
The School Budget VOTE will be held On May 17, 2016 in the OLD JUNIOR HIGH GYM. Use the Greeley Avenue entrance both for convenient parking and handicapped parking located near the gym doors.
R.I.S.E. (Research in Science & Engineering) students recognized for their amazing contributions in scientific research:

• Jared Bergen, Meghan Caraher, Sean Caraher, Michael Earvolino, Nicole Farese, Caitlin Gormley, Christine Guinessey, Sierra Graygor, Christopher Hichborn, Zachary Leahy, Gena Mizzi, Jack Novak, Christopher Palmeri, Jahan Rahman, Emily Sneddon, Sean Velazquez, Amanda Wessels, Daria Zeman.
DECEMBER 10, 2015 BOE MEETING  

**MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY GOLD SERVICE AWARDS FOR 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

(below left) **SIXTH GRADE**  
Hannah Blaskiewicz, Emma Clark, Christopher Knappe, Emily Martin, Jordan Milo, Michaela Re, Mallory Teplitz, Grace Urmaza, Lindsay Walke, Morgan Zane, Christopher Zender, Katherine Zender, Matthew Zender.

(below right) **SEVENTH GRADE**  
Isabelle Byrne, Steven Devary Jr., Taylor Gilligan, Jaclyn Kanaley, Jeremiah Ramsundar, Mary Vermilyea.

(below right) **EIGHTH GRADE**  
Rylie Allen, Jillene Barrett, Sierrra Boyce, Nicholas Cameron, Mary Jo Chan, Ross Charlack, Cayleigh Dillon, Meghan Dooley, Autumn Dushnick, Maxwell Gallo, Paige Hall, Timothy Kanaley, Nicole Leigh-Manuell, Thomas Kleppan, Parker Mayo, Deanna McNally, Hannah Rose Niggeemeier, Cassandra Rosado, Donald Schweikert, Lillian Schweikert, Amy Tomko, Alexander Urmaza, Nadia Yajadda.

**GIRLS VARSITY SWIMMING & DIVING** - SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONS RECEIVED SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM SENATOR TOM CROCI (2nd from right)  
Alexandra Alliegro, Shannon Bourgeois, Meghan Caraher, Rachel Cody, Mackenzie Damon, Olivia Davidson, Kristen Donnelly, Megan Donnelly, Sarah Donnelly, Katie Feeley, Grace Fish, Katelyn Fitzgerald, Katherine Gennosa, Leighann Gensch, Emily Hollmann, Julia Horan, Melissa Hunter, Samantha Kahlke, Lia Magiola, Madison May, Julia Miglino, Keira Mizzi, Kathryn Murphy, Melina Piervencenti, Megan Romano, Serena Russo, Patricia Shiebler, Mackenzie Thomas, Calista Tomasetti, Nadia Yajadda.

**VARSITY FOOTBALL** - DIVISION III LONG ISLAND CHAMPIONS; SUFFOLK COUNTY DIVISION III CHAMPIONS RECEIVED SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM SENATOR TOM CROCI (far right)  
This fall, the Sayville Players presented their fall, the Sayville Players presented Little Shop of Horrors. With Audrey II and Friends.

The complexity of Howard Ashman’s dense lyrics and Alan Menken’s intricate music in Little Shop of Horrors is not for the faint-hearted; neither is the premise of a man-eating plant from outer space enjoying suppertime with the major protagonists. Yet, the four ensemble casts of Sayville Players showed courage and aptitude in rendering an entertaining production of the campy musical tragi-comedy.

Before each show, Mr. Hailey explained why the Fall presentation was being called a “Bare Bones” production: “We have nothing to hide!” he said. Audiences would be seeing the stage dressing that usually occurs behind-the-scenes. However, what audiences also saw—and heard—were remarkably “fleshed out” performances, filled with dynamic acting, powerful singing, energetic puppeteering, and great comic timing. Casting a wider net to pull in talent from a prolific pool of Sayville students for the different ensembles created a different and definitely entertaining show each time.

This year’s Homecoming committee suggested each class sponsor a worthy charity to incorporate into their themes, with the skits utilizing a Disney movie that would relate to the charity.

The Freshmen did their best, with help from the FINDING NEMO gang, to Save the Great South Bay, a charity launched by Marshall Brown, a former Sayville graduate. Brown provided the students with t-shirts, stickers, and informational material and thanked them for their support; while the Sophomores supported the ASPCA with their 101 Dalmatians characters taking a stand against the inhumane Cruella Deville. For their charity, the Wounded Warriors Project, the Juniors brought the TOY STORY soldiers to life with Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Jessie, aliens, and Bo Beep helping out; The Seniors picked The Make A Wish Foundation for their charity and borrowed characters from Disney’s ALADDIN for their skit.

Members from the Sayville Rotary judged the floats and skits, and when all the points were tallied from Spirit Week, the Freshmen Class had earned the highest marks—a real upset in the traditional Homecoming rankings. The Seniors came in second place, Sophomores were third, and Juniors came in fourth, but each charity was a winner that day.

For years, the Sayville Players workshops or theatre labs have been special opportunities to challenge each Player to refine the craft of acting without the benefit of a fully dressed stage. The focus has always been on “the character” and the actor’s technique to connect with audiences.

So again this year, within the intimate setting of the Back Stage Theatre where the Actors Workshop production of An Evening with William Inge was performed, the stage was set with the barest essentials to support the scene—sometimes with no props at all—as the actors took the spotlight. Six of the Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright’s early works tested the thespian troupe in scenarios about suspicion, celebrity, love and loss, and while some roles had two casts over the four-day spread, each of the Sayville Players accepted the challenge with convincing portrayals and well-executed characterizations. (See TIDINGS Online for story, & more.)
It was unanimous. Audiences loved *Grease*, this year’s Middle School musical production, and there is little wonder why. Breakout performances by the eighth-, seventh-, and sixth-graders in lead roles, supported by a fine ensemble cast, delivered outstanding singing, amazing dancing, impressive acting, and entertaining comedy.

The musical *Grease* depicts teens in transition from the traditional values and ethics of the simpler 50s to the revolutionary 60s. New girl at Rydell High Sandy Dumbrowski must find her niche in society, somewhere between the tricky cliques of Pink Ladies Marty, Frenchy, Jan, and Rizzo, and the awkward swagger of the T-Birds Kenieke, Sonny, Roger, Doody, and especially Danny. However, everyone, even the less-than-cool-kids, must adjust to the changes as American pop culture is about to be turned upside down.

Sayville Middle School students performed with enthusiasm. Each favorite musical number delighted by either pulling at heartstrings or tickling funny bones. Congratulations to the cast members for their remarkable contributions on stage and kudos to Director/Choreographer Kim Dufrenoy for her tremendous efforts in marshaling the student talent for this entertaining production, along with Musical Director Fred Diekmann, Producer Ari Kramer, Set Construction-Design-Stage Crew Director Ken Van Essendelft, Sound Director Andy Giammalvo, Lighting Director Steven Hailey, Lighting Technician J.D. Verbeck, and the entire Production Staff, stage crew, high school volunteers for helping the students, tickets, refreshments, and flowers.

The lyrics in the finale song *We Go Together* characterizes the teams involved in producing the amazing Middle School musical, and at least in Sayville, “That’s the way it should be, oh yeah.”

![Gabby Luthy](image1) Gabby Luthy gave audiences a Patty who was delightfully annoying as the overconfident and overbearing cheerleader with a serious crush on Danny; Michelle Buono (Dance Captain of the ensemble) as Cha Cha danced her way into everyone’s hearts with her amazing performance in *Born to Hand Jive*; Impressive Olivia Reiss entertained audiences as Miss Lynch, the prim Head Mistress who lets loose at the High School Hop.

![Shaun Gibbons](image2) Shaun Gibbons, playing ‘wannabe’ ladies’ man and tough-guy Sonny, maximized his comic talents throughout the show but his dynamic performance as Teen Angel in *Beauty School Drop Out* was unforgettable!

![Alex Maksimiak](image3) Alex Maksimiak delivered a convincing Kenieke, the second-in-command of the T-Birds, with bragging and singing rights for his amazing Greased Lightning; Hunter Caiazzo offered a stirring Roger who crooned to swoon Jan, especially in his delightful performance of *Mooning*; Chris Quartuccio was amusing as the bemused T-Bird Doody who learned not only the chords to the song *Those Magic Changes*, but the appealing power that music plays in every generation of teen; Evan Powers made a favorable impression with audiences as Eugene, the nerd who couldn’t impress the girls.

The ensemble cast, comprised of nearly sixty students, offered an energetic and supportive backdrip to the lead players and boosted the vibrancy of the whole production, while the musicians playing on a raised platform at the back of the stage enhanced the entertainment.
For consistently demonstrating exemplary character with positive conduct, twenty-three High School students, nominated by Sayville High School teachers and staff, received recognition at the Fall 2015 Breakfast of Champions.

Within Sayville High School, “these students can be identified by their smiles, by their respectfulness, by their humility, and most importantly, their empathy for others,” said Assistant Principal Jillian Makris in her opening remarks to welcome the honorees, their families, and staff who nominated them.

Sharing a brief anecdote, Mrs. Makris explained that she had wanted all the students gathered in her office before she notified them of the honor. As the students began to arrive, they remained very quiet. “You could hear a pin drop. I said, ‘Guys, relax! Don’t worry. Talk. Everybody will be here soon.’ No one said a word. And then when I finally said, ‘You’ve all been nominated to be a Breakfast of Champion,’ there was a collective sigh of relief. So, it just goes to show how unassuming they are, and that’s humility.”

During the ceremony, District faculty and staff members called upon each recipient one-by-one and shared their appreciation with personalized messages. Students shook hands with Principal Ron Hoffer and received a Breakfast of Champions certificate along with a special plaque created with their portrait on a Wheaties Box background.

After, everyone enjoyed a satisfying breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, bagels, and pancakes, along with assorted beverages, donated by Lovin’Oven, which perfectly completed the heartwarming ceremony.

Special thanks go to Assistant Principal Jillian Makris who organized and hosted the morning ceremony, the technology department for making the plaques, and Mr. Ari Kramer and his chamber students who provided the soothing musical ambiance.


Kindergarten Students Practice “Heart” Surgery on Words

To be a successful surgeon requires a wide knowledge of anatomy and the fine motor skills for delicate operations.

To be successfully literate requires the skills for forming words from alphabetic symbols. Generally speaking, vowels are the heart of words.

Studying about the importance of vowels, Mrs. Jeannette Georges’ Cherry Avenue Kindergarten students had been learning the basic anatomy of English words, practicing on consonant-vowel-consonant words as they prepared for a special activity—the Vowel Hospital.

On the day of the Vowel Hospital activity, Room 102 was transformed into an Operating Theatre. The eager students were dressed as surgeons with masks, hats, lab coats, and gloves, and ready to perform ‘heart’ transplants by finding the missing vowels for words in the patients’ charts. Work tables were set up with stainless steel surgical trays that contained cardboard squares of the vowels needed during surgery. Also, as a centerpiece on each work table was a specific ‘patient’ complete with red-colored ‘blood’ packs marked as positive and negative types A, B, O. Projected on the SmartBoard at the front of the classroom were the common vowels, A, E, I, O, U for the ‘surgeons’ to use as a reference.

To make things more exciting, the surgeons used tweezers to pick up the vowel and place it in the c-v-c word on the patient’s chart. “We didn’t want to get any vowel blood on us,” Mrs. Georges explained. “Each kinder-doctor matched the vowel by using their tapping out strategies and picture clues to help identify the missing vowels and fixed the word. Later, they wrote their findings on their Patient Chart!”

Like many operating rooms, the surgeons conferred with their colleagues amid a buzz of ‘professional’ chatter, while the Head of Surgery, ‘Dr.’ Georges, offered encouragement and reminders. During the procedures, invited guests Principal Dr. Lisa Ihne and Mrs. Geraldine Batterberry observed.

While the good news is that all the patients survived the day in surgery, the best news is that all the kinder-docs were tremendously entertained by the activity, thanks to the energizing enthusiasm and creativity of their teacher Mrs. Georges, as assisted by SRP Mrs. Roseann Delaney. Most importantly, it was a lesson these Kindergarteners will not soon forget. Who knows? It may have inspired future surgeons too!
At the Third Annual All-Elementary Duathlon, excitement was as sharp as the crisp October air. Bringing bikes of all shapes and sizes, wearing hats and thermal outerwear, and sporting colorful helmets, all 418 elementary school student-athletes geared up at 7:30 a.m. for the Saturday-morning start of two events—the Fun Run and the Duathlon.

“These events are not races,” the Sayville Elementary School Duathlon organizers emphasized during opening remarks. “There are two simple goals—to finish and to have fun doing it!”

Congratulations go to all the participants who made history. This year’s Third Annual All-Elementary Duathlon was bigger than in the previous years, boasting a new record of 418 participants, compared to 288 last year and 255 the first year!

At the Sixth Annual S.T.E.M. Symposium, nearly 200 third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders, along with their parents, entered the doors of scientific exploration at Lincoln Avenue School.

Each student was allowed to participate in three of the twelve workshops offered that evening. Some students and parents played with Little Bits electronic building blocks, some were amazed by the magic tricks and circus skills that demonstrated the wonders of chemistry, others learned how to put together a display board to enhance their projects, and learned to appreciate physical activities that promote good health, sportsmanship, and team play while also collaboratively working with their peers. Congratulations to Sayville’s Travis Brown.

The award is given annually by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance to one male and one female student athlete from each school district in Suffolk County. The students were selected for this award based on the following areas of exceptional achievement: physical performance, scholastic ability, and leadership, as well as community service.

Sayville’s 2015 Suffolk Zone Award Recipients

TRAVIS BROWN

Travis is a hardworking and dedicated student who has distinguished himself in the classroom. Physical Education has taught him to appreciate physical activities that promote good health, sportsmanship and team play while also collaboratively working with his peers. Congratulations to Sayville’s Travis Brown.

NICHOLE FARESE

Nicolle has excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field. This young woman’s compassion, enthusiasm and commitment have led to her academic and athletic success. Physical education has taught her how to be a leader on and off the field of competition. Next fall, Nicole plans to attend Gettysburg College where she intends to play softball and pursue a major in communications. Congratulations to Sayville’s Nichole Farese.

Sayville Athletic Fall Season (continued)

VARSITY BOYS VOLLEYBALL

• Suffolk County Finalist
• Overall Record 9-7

TEAM MEMBERS

David Slager Academic All-County, All-Division, All-Tournament
Michael Steck All-County, All-Tournament
Daniel Perun All-Division, All-Tournament
Logan Henke All-Tournament
Tyler Villez All-Division Honoruable Mention
Vincent Mullen All-Division Honoruable Mention
Dylan Nicholson All-Division Honoruable Mention

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

• 2nd Place Finish in League VI
• Overall Record 12-5
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team

TEAM MEMBERS

Victoria Keghlian League VI Player of the Year, All-County Tournament Team, All-Classification
Madison Mergl All-League, All-County Tournament Team
Caroline Ross All-League
Caroline Rupp All-League
Megan Havranek All-League

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

THIS REQUEST MUST BE FILED FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR BY APRIL 1ST

Requests for transportation to private and parochial schools and childcare locations (i.e., LEAP, New Life, In-Home) must be filed by April 1st and forwarded to:

SAYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782

Forms can be found on the Sayville Public School website www.sayvilleschools.org under Transportation. Transportation is provided to in-district and out-of-district students to a maximum of 15 miles. State statutes and a referendum of Sayville voters have set this limitation.

Forms must be filed each school year by the end of the school year. Request for transportation changes must be filed within thirty (30) days of a change in residence. Transportation is not provided for students who reside within the 15 mile radius of the school district. Appointments for transportation services are available during regular business hours. Parents are encouraged to contact the Transportation Office at (631) 582-3733 or email transportation@sayvilleschools.org for further information.

Forms for transportation services are available during regular office hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and other designated school days. Forms for transportation services can also be obtained online at www.sayvilleschools.org under Transportation. Parents are encouraged to contact the Transportation Office at (631) 582-3733 or email transportation@sayvilleschools.org for further information.

For additional information, please visit the Transportation Office located at the Sayville Public Schools Transportation Office, 99 Greeley Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782.
Sayville Athletic Program’s AMAZIN’ FALL SEASON
For a SIXTH consecutive year, all our varsity teams participated in postseason play. Most of our varsity programs were SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS.

VARSITY FOOTBALL
• Long Island Division III Champions
• Suffolk County Division III Champions
• Overall Record 12-0
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
TEAM MEMBERS
Jack Coan 1st Team All-Long Island, All-County, Division III MVP, Boomer Award Winner, LI Championship Offensive MVP
Liam Bailey 1st Team All-Long Island, All-County, Academic All-Division, National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete, Colloitta Award Winner, LI Championship Defensive MVP
Mike Leach All-County, Suffolk County Championship MVP

Nick Casazza All-County
James Lyons All-County
Jake Kolar All-Division 1st Team

ASHTON BRADLEY All-Division 1st Team
JOHN LISKIEWICZ All-Division 1st Team
JACK MARSHALL All-Division 2nd Team
KEVIN KOLAR All-Division 2nd Team
JOE GALANTE All-Division 2nd Team, Academic All-Division

Rob Hoss • Long Island Coach of the Year • Division III Coach of the Year

VARSITY GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING
• Suffolk County Champions • Overall Record 6-1-1
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
TEAM MEMBERS
Megan Donnelly All-State-200M Medley Relay, All-County
Meghan Caraher All-State-200M Medley Relay, All-County
Leighann Gensch All-County-400M Freestyle Relay
Megan Romano All-League-Diving
Calista Tomasetti All-League-Diving

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER
• 2nd Place Finish in League V • Overall Record 10-2-1
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
TEAM MEMBERS
Kaitlyn Ross All-County Academic-League V MVP
Kelly Marra All-County
Kiara Grimes All-County
Kim Monitto All-Conference
Juliana Giovann All-Division

VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY
• Overall Record 4-11 • NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
TEAM MEMBERS
Isabella Giovan All-Conference
Emily Sneddon All-Division

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS
• 2nd Place Finish in League III • Overall Record 12-6
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
TEAM MEMBERS
Hannah Niggemeier All-County
Paige Liskiewicz All-County
Ciella Pappalardo All-County
Taylor Corwin All-League
Taylor Kobel All-League
Mary Madigan All-League
Rayana Webster Sportsmanship Award

VARSITY BOYS GOLF
• 1st-Place Finish in League V
• League V Tournament Champions Overall Record 12-0
• NYS Scholar-Athlete Team
TEAM MEMBERS
Phillip Gunther NYS State Qualifier, Suffolk County Class B 4th Place Finish, All-County
Eric Bartlett Academic All-County

Team Member Awards To Be Determined in the Spring

TIDINGS FROM THE SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Linda A. Mittiga, Sayville School District Newsletter & District Website Editor

DR. WALTER F. SCHARTNER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
99 Greeley Avenue
Sayville, New York 11782

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Tax Code 566

****ECRWSS****
Postal Customer