

# Manhasset Secondary School

SCA NEWSLETTER

Manhasset, NY 11030 Winter 2008

## From the Principal's Desk

As we climb into the days of February, inching closer to spring, I think back when I first began my journey here at Manhasset on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I must say, with excitement, it has been an incredible seven months. Having had the wonderful opportunity to meet many of the parents, I enjoy sharing my enthusiasm of the school and bragging about, for a lack of better words, the wonderful facets of this special school community. With that in mind, I thought to continue this “rant” to all of the readers and spread my beliefs and appreciation.

What makes Manhasset so special? Just walking in and around the building one gets a sense of the maturity of the students and the desire they have to achieve. The students here are truly exceptional. My daily interactions with your children invigorate my day and propel me to want to always give it my best for them, as it does for my colleagues.

Sometime in the late fall, senior Paul Giorgetti came to me with a wonderful idea, first coming in the form of a question: *How can we get a new ping pong table for the SPA?* Having seen the old table, I knew exactly why he asked the question. After a wonderful dialogue, what began as a simple request turned into a school-wide fundraiser and additional tables for the school. With the incredible support of the SCA, coupled with great initiative from Paul, on January 7<sup>th</sup> our first annual ping pong tournament was held, comprised of thirty-two entrants representing both students and staff. A check for \$570 was given to the Manhasset Women’s Coalition Against Breast Cancer and, returning back to the original question presented to me, a brand new ping pong table is now in the SPA, getting used every period of the day. While I had a blast at the event (even though I was a first round exit, compliments of senior ace, Matt Nabavian), the evening truly represented Manhasset, coming together, to rally for a great cause, while engaging in a fun activity. Being a part of this special event, I went home that night in awe of how willing the community was to make this event happen so easily; all from a student with a question and a desire.

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## Manhasset Secondary School Phone Numbers

Main Number	267-7600
Main Office/Principal	267-7605
Health Office	267-7520
Attendance	267-7502
Guidance (7-8)	267-7511
Guidance (9-12)	267-7610

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## From the Principal's Desk (con't)

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Two weeks ago I had the sheer privilege to attend the science symposium, an evening that highlighted all of the Intel submissions from our science research students. The erudition, time and specificity of each of the topics mastered by the students were mind-blowing. Having personally graduated from a science-oriented high school, as well as presenting in multiple science fairs, I thought I had seen excellence. I was wrong. The fourteen presenters who showcased their work at the symposium were astounding. Furthermore, the questions presented to the students after they shared their findings, from the parents, underclassmen and staff truly represented a learned community. The inquisitive minds working together that evening left many, especially myself, enthused and proud. Programs such as this, that encourage students to think outside of the box, stretch and explore, is what establishes a school as truly special.

While our motto is *Excellence*, clearly the two events I described represent not only excellence in many ways, but illustrate the spirit and ethos of our school and community. All schools can be described in similar ways to varying degrees, but it is the experience of the students that truly showcases

the measure of a school. This measure, when analyzed and explored, siphons to the community, specifically to the parents and the teachers. Together, as one, we will march forward and continue to achieve excellence.

On a special note, shortly after this publication goes to print, I will be a first time dad. My wife, Jody, is scheduled to give birth to our daughter on Valentine's Day (I tell everyone, I planned this one). As I conclude my reflections for this article, I can only hope that I am the parent, similar to the many that I have met here, that cares so passionately for their children. I know being a dad will make me an even better, more compassionate principal. I feel blessed to preside over the secondary school and each day, take pride in being a positive role model to your children.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish everyone a wonderful February break.

Dr. Dean Schlanger  
Principal  
Manhasset Secondary School  
dschlanger@manhasset.k12.ny.us

### Middle School Grade Level Chairs

Below and on page 4 are lists of MS and HS grade level chairs. Grade Level Chairs are a critical link in the ongoing communication between our school and parents. Please continue to contact them should you have any feedback or concerns you'd like to share.

#### Middle School SCA Vice President

Caroline Kenlon                      627-4556                      crk7@optonline.net

#### 7th Grade Level Chairs – Class of 2013

Adrienne Comerford	627-2553	didihop@optonline.net
Anne Dorogoff	365-4318	jdandfam@verizon.net
Mollye Fahey	365-3913	mmfahey@aol.com
Lorraine Juliano	869-6477	rraine72@aol.com

#### 8th Grade Level Chairs – Class of 2012

Karen Blando	365-1827	karenblando@mac.com
Deb Capolarello	627-4132	djcapolarello@yahoo.com
Margo Coleman	365-6156	margocoleman@aol.com
Kim Overlander	365-9522	kso34@aol.com

## From your SCA Presidents ... Jeannette Reilly and Kathy McIntee

As your children begin the second half of the 2007-08 academic year, we hope that they are having a positive experience at the secondary school.

The last several months have been eventful and exciting, and on behalf of the SCA, we would like to thank the many hardworking parent volunteers who have chaired events as well as countless others who have contributed their time and talents behind the scenes.

We appreciate the efforts of **SCA Membership** co-chairs Diane Gershkowitz and Kathleen Kosciusko, along with Sharon Kuehn, Sonia Delman-Pugliese, Clare Clarke and Debi Sockett who handled membership at the secondary school open houses. SCA membership is at an all-time high and we thank all families who have participated.

This year's **Middle School Book Fair** was held October 23-25. Our thanks to Lisa Chieco and Seval LaRocca who co-chaired this successful event, which raised increased funds.

The **Homecoming Community Dance**, funded by the SCA, was an enormous social success with 585 students in attendance. Many thanks to Lisa Goring, Mary Pat Mulholland, Diane Roberts, Karen Cox, Mary Thomas, Tricia McGrath, Helen Reddington, Terry Joe, Stephanie Peterson, Lynne Aloia, Semiramis Geiger, Pam Iskyan, Donna Rubertone, Jill Easton, Ann Marie Mazzei and Lois Morelli who volunteered their time to make this a memorable event for our children. The Student Government determined that two thirds of the proceeds from the dance would be donated to a charitable organization. The four Class Presidents, Nicole Sbarra (12th), Christian D'Aversa (11th), Amit Vora (10th), and Harrison DiGia (9th), presented Mr. Robert Donno, the Chairman of the Gift of Life organization, with a check for \$2,800 on behalf of the Manhasset High School students. During this heart-warming presentation, Mr. Donno shared stories of how simple acts of kindness and community service have an enormous impact on the lives of others. The students were visibly touched by his comments and extremely proud of their accomplishments.

The annual SCA-sponsored **Halloween Party** was held on October 31 to rave reviews. Over 450 Middle School students attended this event which featured a new "haunted maze" this year. Many thanks to Tammy Kelly and Elena Schietinger for co-chairing the party. We are also grateful to the subcommittee chairs, Tracey Sprotte, Frank DeLuca, Sharon Kuehn, Marirose Merola, Joanne Russo, Diana Probst, MaryBeth Harris, Karen Blando, Mary Ellen Grimm, Lisa Boukas, and Diana Cotumaccio, in addition to numerous other parent volunteers who helped ensure a safe and fun-filled night.

On November 7, the Class of 2008 and their parents celebrated a wonderful Manhasset tradition, the **Senior Banquet**. Thanks to the many hours of hard work by co-chairs Pat Aitken, Nancy Carey and Zina Kennedy, the senior class was given the opportunity to recap and celebrate their many high school experiences. Gearing up right behind them, we are grateful to Tricia McGrath and Helen Reddington, the 11th Grade Level Chairs, who organized a lovely **parent fundraiser** at Louie's Shore Restaurant as the Class of 2009 begins their climb to graduation.

This year's annual **SCA Luncheon**, held on November 14, was once again an enjoyable and successful event. Many thanks to co-chairs Eileen Koufakis, Maureen Lavin and Diana Stefan, who supported by their committee chairs, led this important fundraiser to a record-breaking level. We appreciate the contributions of Linda Gurino, Nancy Paganucci, Debbie Celebre, Lois Morelli, Beth Miller, Seval LaRocca, Anne Dorogoff, Susan Powers, Maria Brunetti, Karen Blando, Caroline Kenlon, Doris Murray, Peggie Sweeney and Jill McCarney. The luncheon audience was treated to a special performance by a string septet comprised of members of the HS Chamber Orchestra as well as several musical numbers by the talented cast members of our high school production of *Anything Goes!*

Through the SCA **Speaker's Bureau**, Middle School students enjoyed a presentation from moti-

## From your SCA Presidents ... Jeannette Reilly and Kathy McIntee (con't)

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vational speaker Jeff Yalden in November. Thank you to Laura Hull and Marilyn Herschlein for co-chairing this committee.

The SCA was delighted to purchase several new **ping pong** tables for the Secondary School which debuted in January at a successful fundraiser tournament organized by upperclassmen. Middle School students have also had an opportunity to enjoy the new ping pong tables at a tournament held during January's Friday Night Live.

We are very excited about a new SCA committee formed this year, **Planet Manhasset**, an eco-committee dedicated to researching and implementing ways to adopt a greener living philosophy in our schools, homes and community. Planet Manhasset recently spearheaded Manhasset's first-ever Christmas tree recycling day, exceeding expectations with 130-plus trees. We appreciate the efforts of committee chairs Lisa Ferraro and Daniela Picone (MP), Terry MacGown (SR), Victoria Parisi (MS) and Mimi Donohue (HS) for their collective leadership, and we look forward to many exciting earth-friendly initiatives from this

committee going forward.

Our monthly **SCA Joint Parent Council meetings** are an important way for you to stay informed, and we are pleased to report that they have been extremely well attended. Minutes from these meetings and a schedule of upcoming meetings appear on the SCA website. Visit the SCA website – [www.manhassetca.org](http://www.manhassetca.org) – to stay up-to-date on school meetings and functions, subscribe to get weekly updates, and more. You can also sign-up for “E-News” to receive current school information via e-mail. Visit the District's website at [www.manhasset.k12.ny.us](http://www.manhasset.k12.ny.us) and click on the “E-News” link to subscribe.

Please continue to call or e-mail us with any comments or concerns you may have. We welcome your input and encourage you to become involved.

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SCA HS President  
869-5711  
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Kathy McIntee  
SCA MS President  
627-4432  
[mcintee@optonline.net](mailto:mcintee@optonline.net)

### High School Grade Level Chairs

<b>Vice President</b>	Lisa Goring	365-0649	<a href="mailto:LGoring@aol.com">LGoring@aol.com</a>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Mary Pat Mulholland Diane Roberts	365-1729 627-2363	<a href="mailto:MPMulholland24@aol.com">MPMulholland24@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:MRoberts44@optonline.net">MRoberts44@optonline.net</a>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Karen Cox Mary Thomas	627-4205 627-5635	<a href="mailto:Daltz13@aol.com">Daltz13@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:Bestmom759@aol.com">Bestmom759@aol.com</a>
<b>11<sup>TH</sup> Grade</b>	Tricia McGrath Helen Reddington	365-5223 627-5040	<a href="mailto:Surfmom11@aol.com">Surfmom11@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:HReddington@att.net">HReddington@att.net</a>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Terry Joe Stephanie Peterson	627-0645 365-3622	<a href="mailto:Web_navigator1@yahoo.com">Web_navigator1@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:stp412@hotmail.com">stp412@hotmail.com</a>

## ***From Assistant Principal Peter Vercessi (Grades 7-9)***

As we continue through the winter season, I congratulate the recently inducted members of our Middle School's National Junior Honor Society. Each of the inductees maintained a GPA of at least 3.7 (an A- average) throughout seventh grade into the first quarter of their eighth grade year, as well as evidence of involvement in extra curricular activities, community service, and leadership opportunities. I thank Nancy Milana, staff advisor, for her organization of the selection process and coordination of all society activities.

The Middle School has recently updated the honor roll system. The process, modeled similarly to the high school format is based on the following GPA structure:

***Gold Honor Roll: 3.7 GPA***  
***Silver Honor Roll: 3.5 GPA***  
***Bronze Honor Roll: 3.3 GPA***

This new system is felt to benefit students by alleviating some of the confusion previously found in the conversion from letter grades to numerical calculations. As always, the Guidance department will post the honor roll results two weeks after the

conclusion of each marking period.

Incredibly, even though we are only halfway through this school year, preparations are in full swing for the creation of the 2008-2009 master schedule of courses for the Middle and High Schools. Students in grades 8 - 11 have already selected the elective courses (e.g. music, art, business, second language) that they would like to consider for next year. Additionally, the teachers of English, math, science, second language, and social studies have input their course recommendations for eighth graders for their ninth grade year. Seventh graders will be generally placed in academic and elective courses, with the exception of math and science (recommended by the teachers of those courses). If you have any questions about your child's progress in a particular subject, you are encouraged to contact the appropriate counseling center or the teacher of the course for which you have specific interest.

Finally, winter break will soon be upon us. Schools will be closed February 18 - 22, reopening on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Stay warm during this winter season!

## **News from our Athletic Director**

***By Carolyn Pagnano***

The Athletic Department is pleased to announce that for the Fall Sports Season, the following teams maintained a 90% average or better this fall and have been recognized by the New York State Scholar Athlete program.

- Boys Cross Country (7)	92.134	Coach: Don Scott
- Boys Football (12)	93.294	Coach: Bill Cherry
- Girls Cross Country (7)	93.401	Coach: Rich Marks
- Girls Field Hockey (12)	92.453	Coach: Steve Sproul
- Girls Soccer (12)	91.162	Coach: Lauren McGrory
- Girls Swimming (11)	91.347	Coach: Matt McGrane
- Girls Tennis (9)	93.272	Coach: Dave Dorman
- Girls Volleyball (8)	93.528	Coach: Lori Lorusso

## ***From Assistant Principal Mark Sippin (Grades 10-12)***

The second semester is a notable time of year at the high school. At each grade level our students are excited about reaching their respective milestones. Our upper classmen are anxiously looking forward to the junior semi-formal and the senior prom. The juniors have begun to explore the plethora of college options. The seniors are presently finalizing their post secondary plans, at the same time feeling the symptoms of "senioritis." The crowning points to the school year will be the senior awards night and graduation ceremony. This is a special time when staff members are able to join students and their families in celebrating their vast accomplishments.

The kick off to the dance season began last month with the ninth grade Frosh. Freshman class advisors, Ms. Alicia Goldstein and Mr. Chris Miller, assisted the ninth grade student government in providing our freshmen with a very special evening. We then moved onto the "Soph" dance which took place on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the tenth grade student government, under the direction of their class advisor, Mr. Robert Novak, diligently planned this happening. Through their efforts the student cafeteria was transformed into a magical environment which greatly contributed to this exciting evening.

Our junior semi-formal will take place on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at The Village Club in Lake Success. Last July, class advisor, Ms. Donna Schibani and I began our preliminary preparations. We have since put on the finishing touches and look forward to an extraordinary evening. Parents will have the opportunity to accompany their children to our opening activities in the gym; this will allow time for the much desired photographs. The students will be escorted by chaperones and transported via coach buses.

We will ultimately conclude the dance season with our senior prom; it is sure to be an extravaganza. This momentous event will take place at 8:00 PM on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at The Crescent Beach Club in Bayville. The class advisor, Mrs. Angela Ferguson and I will shortly be reviewing the final details. Families will once again be afforded the opportunity to kick-off the event with a gathering in the gym prior to the buses departure. Parents can rest assured that the building administration along with the chaperones will afford their children with a remarkable and meaningful affair.

This year our annual Senior Awards Night will be held on June 5, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The process of planning for this event begins with the formation of the

scholarship selection committee. Over the course of three months they bear many responsibilities, beginning with obtaining confirmations from the presenters of the awards and scholarships. They are also responsible for determining the best candidates for each award based upon the criteria which has been established by the award or scholarship sponsor. I applaud their efforts in achieving this significant undertaking. The high point of such efforts results in the production of the ceremony. This is something I liken to producing the Emmy awards or the Oscars; thankfully I don't have to be concerned with the writers' strike!

Our High School graduation ceremony will take place on June 27, 2008 at 6:00 PM. The behind the scenes preparations have already begun. The graduation committee is comprised of students, parents, staff and building administration. We are responsible for making key decisions which culminate in the graduation ceremony. Our meticulous planning includes creating contingency plans and when necessary ensuring they are smoothly put into place. Our goal is for the commencement to be presented in such a way as to reflect the uniqueness of our senior class. The ceremony will be led by class officers; they will be rehearsing their roles with me. In June, Mrs. Arlene Razukas will begin to lead seniors in rehearsals. The class salutatorian and valedictorian will review and rehearse their speeches with Mr. Patrick O'Reilly, District Coordinator of English. These festivities could not take place without our custodial staff; it is their diligent work that allows us to implement our plans. As the evening concludes and the class of 2008 joins their families, I take a moment to reflect and delight in the event.

I trust that this article has provided you with insight into the activities and events which highlight the second semester at the high school. This is a particularly pleasurable time for me as I am afforded the opportunity to work with many different constituencies providing them with support and guidance. I would be remiss not to acknowledge the contributions and assistance that Ms. Jeannette Reilly, High School SCA President and the grade level chairs provide to our school. In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents; it is through your continued support that we are able to make these events lasting memories for you and your children. I look forward to greeting you at our next event.

# News from the Department of Music, Art and Theatre

By Anthony Ambrogio, Ed.D, Administrator for the Arts and Human Resources

## Music

### *Dates to remember:*

- **March 26 at 8:00 pm** HS Spring Concert Part 1: Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Choir at **Munsey Park**. (Note change in venue.)
- **April 2 at 8:00 pm:** HS Spring Concert Part 2: Women's Chorus, HS Orchestra and Band.
- **April 30 at 8:00 pm:** HS Chamber Concert.

## Contemporary Dance

The Contemporary Dance company, directed by Karen Ferby-Guy and Allyson Weiss-Begley will present their evening of Dance on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 pm. Check the "arts" page on the school district website for up to date information.

## Theatre

### **Rep Night:**

The Repertory Company will present their workshop performance on Wednesday evening, February 13 at 8:00 pm in the Black Box.

### **Save the Dates!**

Rehearsals are underway for the Middle School's production of *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale to the general public on or about February 28, and will be available online at [www.manhasset.k12.ny.us](http://www.manhasset.k12.ny.us). Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, March 14 and 15 at 8:00 pm in the Secondary School auditorium.

## Art

### **All-County Art Exhibit**

The artwork of the following students has been selected for inclusion in the All-County Art Exhibit sponsored by the Art Supervisors Association. The exhibit will be held at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Harley University Center on Sunday, March 9, 2008 from noon – 4 pm. This exhibit honors some of the most talented visual artists in Nassau County. All students will receive award certificates.

**High School:** Natalya Panullo, Art Teacher  
Grade 9 : Elizabeth Bourguet, Clara Lee,  
Georgina Thermos, Katie Yang

**Middle School:** Myrna Schein, Art Teacher  
Grade 8: Kevin Katzmann, Celine Rubio,  
Victoria Wei, Alexandra Wysota

Cheyenne Begley and Jean Cheng, two Middle School art students of Mrs. Myrna Schein, had their work exhibited as part of the 11th annual "Colors of Long Island" Student Art Show at the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook from December 15, 2007 through January 20, 2008. More than 300 students from across Long Island participated in the exhibition.

Congratulations to Jean Cheng, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade art student of Myrna Schein who was selected as a Kidsday art contest winner. She was one of six winners in the age 13 to 16 category. Her artwork was published in Kidsday on Sunday, Dec. 30.

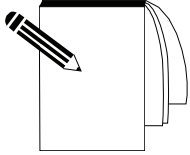
## SCA Summer Studies Awards Program

Now is the time to take advantage of the SCA Summer Studies Awards program! For more than 35 years the SCA has encouraged juniors to expand their horizons during the summer between their junior and senior years. Students may choose any type of program that interests them.

In the past, we have given awards to students who have attended science/engineering programs, sports camps, cultural and language based programs, dramatic art institutions, and art/design academies. Last year, five students received a \$1,000 grant to attend programs in New York City, Stonybrook and Pennsylvania.

Interested juniors must find a program to attend, solicit two teacher recommendations, fill out an application and sit for an interview in front of a 10-person committee comprised of SCA members, district coordinators, teachers, and members of the community. Participating in the awards program will help prepare these students for the college application process.

Teacher recommendations are due by March 26<sup>th</sup> and the applications will be collected on April 1<sup>st</sup>. For additional information, please see the SCA high school website, speak with the guidance department at 267-7610, or call Lucille Gaffney at 627-7627.



## Mid-Year Update from Guidance & Counseling

By Jane Grappone, Director of Guidance

I know it sounds a bit cliché to say that I can't believe we're half-way through the school year, but when a 10<sup>th</sup> grader recently commented on how quickly he thought the year seemed to be going I knew it wasn't just me. So, as we round the corner to begin the second half of the year I'd like to provide an update of our work within each of the grade levels.

As I usually do, I'd like to begin with an update on the **12<sup>th</sup> grade** and, in particular, their college application experience. At the start of each new school year there is always a tremendous amount of angst with regard to the college application process, but over the last few years we have observed a relative degree of calm when it came time for the students to provide the counselors with their application material. Without a doubt, the members of the class of 2008 are to be commended for the very diligent and responsible manner in which they followed through with requests from the Counseling Office to provide us with their material in a timely manner. To date, 97% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders have applied to college and the Counseling Office has processed and submitted 1,715 applications (an increase of 140 from this time last year). While the counselors are responsible for completing significant portions of this material, there is no question that the process runs as smoothly as it does because of the dedication of Aurora Aspalto, Roseanne Miller and Louise Hurlley, our office staff. In addition to the support they provide the counselors, they are also our front line when it comes to helping students and parents when they first enter the office. That support is, as they say in the commercial, *priceless*, and we are fortunate to have such a caring, supportive staff.

In all, one hundred and thirty students took advantage of either the Early Decision (ED) or Early Action (EA) application options and at last count 55% of the class has been admitted to one or more colleges. Continuing a trend witnessed last year, many students received deferral notices, which is due, according to college representatives, to the in-

creasing number of applications they received. As we have always done, the counselors are calling the admissions representatives to advocate on behalf of the students and we are hopeful that many of these decisions will ultimately result in admission offers.

By mid-December the counselors began meeting with the **11<sup>th</sup> graders** to ease them into Phase One the post-secondary planning process. In preparation for working with the Class of 2009, the **Post Secondary Planning Guide**, which was distributed at the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night, was revised to clearly identify each of the three phases of the process and to include goals and recommended activities related to each phase. In essence, we believe the Guide is a valuable tool as it was designed to provide students and parents with important information; if read carefully, it will answer many questions and help students and parents come to appreciate that the process is simply a series of small steps taken one at a time. Recently, a letter was mailed to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade parents inviting them to schedule a College Conference with their counselor. Before appointments will be scheduled, however, each student is **required** to complete and submit the student portion of the Common Application, minus the essay, and a college search. By completing these activities we believe the students will be more engaged in the process and have a better understanding of what is involved in the decisions they will make in the coming months. As colleges begin reaching out to students earlier and earlier it is advisable for students to visit the web sites of schools for which they have an interest, in order to determine if there are any Open House programs scheduled during our winter break. Also, be sure to check our web page for postings we receive throughout the coming months. Even if there are no formal programs, the February break provides an opportunity for students and their parents to begin making campus visits. When visiting, be sure to sign in and identify yourself at the admissions office as these visits are looked upon as "demonstrated an

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Mid-Year Update from Guidance & Counseling (con't)

*(continued from page 8)*

terest", an indicator that many institutions track.

While there are no formal meetings with **10th grade** students and their parents, we have been and will to continue to meet individually with each student to discuss, among other things, their academic progress and current interests. As with the older students, this is an important time to make decisions regarding whether or not they will be taking any standardized exams in May or June, and if parents have any questions regarding this issue they should contact their counselor. On Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night during which we conducted a Mock College Admissions session using the parents as the admissions counselors. This exercise is always an eye opening experience for parents as it offers a glimpse into the actual admissions process. Personal passwords for the Family Connection portal into Naviance will be distributed so that the entire student body will have access to this program. On February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> we worked with the entire class for a two-day Career Awareness program and students were engaged in activities related to work values, learning about personality types and their relationship to career choices, and investigating a career. As tenth graders begin planning ahead it is important that they reflect on these issues as their post-secondary plans will be determined to a large degree by their individual interests.

At this time, the counselors have met with each **9th grader** in an individual as well as a group meeting, the latter of which occurred in November. During the group sessions the counselors reviewed the **9th Grade Orientation Guide**, which includes topics such as graduation and diploma requirements, honor society eligibility, the grading policy and a look at a Manhasset High School transcript. In March an invitation will be sent to each parent to schedule an appointment for a counselor conference. In addition to reviewing the past year, these conferences provide an opportunity to look at the year ahead and some of the decisions that students will have to make in tenth grade.

On January 8<sup>th</sup> the **8th Grade Parent Night** was held to present parents with an overview of the

academic and co-curricular activities included in the ninth grade program. Recently a letter was mailed home to each family inviting the parents to schedule a pre-high school planning conference with their counselor. During these conferences the students and their parents will have an opportunity to discuss issues related to the transition to high school, which include course selection and becoming familiar with many of the opportunities offered at the high school level. I am hoping that all will take advantage of this opportunity.

Of all the classes in the secondary school the **7th grade** is the largest with a current enrollment of approximately 260 students. Meeting in groups and individually with each of these students was the primary focus of the middle school counselors during the first half of the year and, with very few exceptions, all students have had had an opportunity to meet their counselor. As reported by the counselors, the transition to middle school is more challenging for some than others but by now the majority of students appear to be adjusted to their schedules and course requirements. Students who continue to struggle with school-related, or any issue, are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their counselor.

As you are no doubt aware, the scheduling process for the 2008-2009 school year has begun and at this time the counselors have input elective courses for each student, as have the teachers for their core courses. At the beginning of the fourth quarter you will receive a list of those courses with information regarding the Override Policy. Please pay particular attention to the deadline for requesting an override.

Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Ms. Jenny Chen, who recently returned from maternity leave. She and her husband Mike are the proud parents of their son, Rayce. We wish them much happiness as they embark on the wonderful journey of parenthood. I would also like to thank the SCA and all parents for your continued support of the students of the district and of our efforts on their behalf.

Please be sure to visit our web page on the district web site.

## **Manhasset HS Recognized as Top 100 High School Nationwide**

Manhasset High School has been recognized as a gold medal winner by *U.S. News & World Report* for ranking as one of the top 100 public high schools of over 18,000 high schools that were evaluated nationwide.

This new high school ranking methodology utilizes a comprehensive three-step evaluation process. The first two steps ensure that the schools serve all of their students well, as measured by state proficiency standards, and the third step assesses the de-

gree to which the schools prepare students for college-level work. The college readiness index is based on the weighted average of both the AP participation rate as well as how well students did on those AP tests. What is particularly impressive is that many of the other gold medal schools are schools with selective admissions criteria.

Manhasset is one of only four schools on Long Island to receive this honor.

## **Keynote Speaker for CASA Wellness Week: Jacqueline Murekatete, Human Rights Activist and Rwanda Genocide Survivor**

This year's CASA Wellness Week will feature Jacqueline Murekatete, a 22 year old survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, as their keynote speaker. Jacqueline has conducted more than 300 presentations nationwide in schools, churches, and synagogues. Jacqueline speaks to share her inspirational story - one that reflects the endurance of the human spirit, great care for the world and a challenge to people around the world to remember, to fight indifference, and to coexist. The Anti-Bias Club was moved and impressed to hear of Jacqueline's efforts and immediately joined forces with CASA to bring her to Manhasset so that our students and their families could learn from her experiences.

Priyanka Panigrahi, Student Senate Representative, wrote the following of Jacqueline for the Indian Ink, "She will be able to tell her story and explain the adversities faced by her people. We hope that we will realize the extent of the problems that intolerance and bias have created in the world, as well as remind ourselves of the problems that bias and intolerance have caused in the past, so that we can insure that history does not repeat itself."

Ms. Murekatete is internationally recognized for her work as a youth leader and humanitarian, speaking out for victims and survivors of genocide as well as for those in need of protection in places like Darfur. Born in Rwanda in 1984, Jacqueline was not yet ten when she lost her immediate and extended family in the 1994 genocide.

Since then, her journey has taken her from an orphanage in Rwanda to a new home in the United

States. In 2002, Jerry Seinfeld's Foundation offered her a full four-year scholarship to attend New York University. In May 2007, she graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Jacqueline has spoken several times at the United Nations, beginning with the 2003 International Day of Peace event and at the General Assembly as the voice of the survivors for the Day of Reflection for Rwanda on the 10th anniversary of the genocide. Jacqueline's story has also been featured in leading media outlets worldwide including the *New York Times*, the *U.N Chronicle*, the *Washington Times* and *Newsday*.

Jacqueline has volunteered with the non-profit organization Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) since 2003 when she participated in MCW's youth leadership retreat. In April 2007, she founded *Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner*, a private non-profit dedicated to building a community center in Rwanda. Now that she has graduated, Jacqueline has a few personal dreams: first, to develop economic, health, and social programs in Rwanda for survivors and orphans of the genocide; second, to finish writing a book about her experiences with encouragement from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel; and, finally, to study international human rights law at a top American university.

Jacqueline will be presenting on Monday, February 11 at a Middle School student assembly, and at the CASA Community Presentation at 7:30 pm in the Black Box Theater.

## Science Program Looking for a “Boost”

Our K-12 science program has enjoyed tremendous support from the greater Manhasset community. Two recent examples are the SCA’s donation of two telescopes and the Tower Foundation’s gift of a set of laptop computers and probes for conducting experiments.

We would like to form a group, which at this time we are calling the Science Booster Club, which will provide some people-power to strengthen an already successful science program. Much of this group’s effort will be focused on the research program.

The group will include generalists and people with expertise in science and technology (engineers, scientists, physicians, etc.)

One area that the Booster Club will address is providing our research students with opportunities to interact, formally and informally, with people “in the field.” Our students usually work with mentors off-site during their eleventh and twelfth grade research experiences. That experience is often of a limited duration. We are looking for something beyond this scope: the opportunity for the students to interact with knowledgeable individuals who can help them hone their experiences, papers and presentations, and in addition, become better informed about their subjects.

We will have a preliminary meeting in early March. Please call or email Scott McMullen, District Coordinator for Science and Technology, to talk about our new group and/or to indicate your interest to join us at our initial meeting.

Phone: 516-267-7560

Email: [Scott\\_McMullen@manhasset.k12.ny.us](mailto:Scott_McMullen@manhasset.k12.ny.us)

### Senior science research students and their Intel projects this year:

Madeline Byrnes: Comparing Diamondback Terrapin Bite Strength Using Various Prey

**\*\*David Chang:** On the use of Segmented Flow to Enhance the Performance of Micro-Heat Exchangers for Microelectronics

Alex Chen: Clamming Down on QPX: Northern Quahog Defense Factors Against Fatal Quahog Parasite Unknown

Christopher Chin: Estimating the Number of mRNA Localization Elements Existent in Human Genes

James Corines: Development of Specific, High Affinity VEGF Peptides for Antiangiogenic Therapies

Erin D’Agnostino: Light Dependent Subcellular Translocation of a Novel Protein, RP2-36, in the Drosophila Photoreceptor

Lukasz Mosakowski: FSI Analysis of 3D Vulnerable Plaque Reconstructed from IVUS-Generated Patient Images

Yannis Koroneos: The Mechanisms of Sepsis Through the Study of Changes in Intracellular MIF Concentration Due to Bacterial Stimulation

Mark Grbic: The Purification, Crystallization and Characterization of Tau Protein

Esteban Kim: Programmed Cell Death: The Effects of Protein Synthesis Inhibition on the Implication of Immune Cells into Apoptosis

Brian Kim: Cellular Dynamics of Human Dermal Fibroblasts on 3-D Oriented Ply (methyl methacrylate) Nano-Fibrous Scaffolds

William Moon: Estimation of Intracellular Proteins Composition in Peripheral Neutrophils During IN VIVO Tumor Growth

Steven Stavrou: The Possible Role of Melatonin in the Heart of Stressed and Normal Aging Drosophila

**\*\* Intel Semi-Finalist**

## Using Our School Libraries

At the November 30<sup>th</sup> Parent Council meeting, our school librarians, Irene Moody and Ed Vasta, spoke about the online databases and catalogs available to all Manhasset students. Here are a few mentioned:

E-library – students may search over 1600 magazines and 200 newspapers (including *Newsday* and *the New York Times*).

Biography Resource Center – the place to find a biography with full-text information from books and periodicals.

Litfinder – looking for a poem, short story, essay or speech? This is the resource for you!

Encyclopedia Britannica – full text of the encyclopedia along with a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas.

These sources can be accessed from home or school. Here are the steps to follow:

- Log on to: [www.manhasset.k12.ny.us](http://www.manhasset.k12.ny.us)
- Go to: Middle School Library
- Look for: online databases Home Access
- Type in the password

The password and a complete list of the online databases is available at the Circulation Desk.

And as long as you have a Manhasset Public Library card, you can also reserve a book online from there in addition to accessing their databases.

Try to get your children in the habit of using library resources rather than just “googling” for information. Google is not always the best source and they’ll miss out on the vast array of accurate and up to date information.

## Middle School Homework Club

Did you know that a teacher can help with homework at the Middle School library on Wednesday mornings from 7:15 to 8 am. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:20 – 4:05 pm? Students must stay for the entire session.

Questions? Call Irene Moody at 267-7660.

## The College Process: Parent Perspectives

**9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade parents:**

### Do you have any of these questions about the college process?

- How many schools should my child apply to?
- When should we start visiting schools?
- My child does not even want to talk about schools. What should I do?
- Should my child take the SAT or the ACT? What about SAT IIs?

**Please join us for**

### The College Process: Parent Perspectives

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**9:30-11:00am**

**in the Boardroom**

### Parent panel presentation and discussion

A group of Manhasset parents who have gone through the process will tell you their stories and answer questions. Please join us for what will hopefully give you a better perspective and an idea of your role ahead.

Any questions? Call Lynne Aloia  
627-5268



## Going Green With Planet Manhasset

At the beginning of the school year the SCA introduced **Planet Manhasset**, a new eco-committee dedicated to discovering and sharing new ways we can successfully adapt a greener living philosophy in our schools, homes and community. The committee, comprised of Co-Chairs Victoria Parisi, Mimi Donohue, Lisa Ferraro, Terry MacGown, Daniela Picone and a host of enthusiastic members, is delighted to be working with our students, teachers and administrators on initiatives such as:

- creating a paper-less communication system to replace “backpack express”
- recycling of plastic and paper in our classrooms and lunchrooms
- purchasing recycled paper products for our schools

Additionally, we hope to institute “No Idling Zones” to improve air quality around our schools. Vehicle exhaust puts people, especially children, at risk for asthma and other respiratory ailments and allergies and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

Here are a few *Idling Facts*:

- Idling for more than 10 seconds actually uses more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Tests show no more than 30 seconds is needed to circulate engine oil.
- The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it.
- Idling can actually damage engines because it is not operating a peak operating temperatures. It causes incomplete combustion and more harmful pollutants are released into the air. Fuel residues also form and contaminate engine oil and can damage engine parts.

Idling can be a hard habit to break. But remembering to turn off the ignition while waiting in line to drop off/ pick up your child at school is one relatively easy way to contribute to improved air quality and respiratory health in our communities and this healthy habit can save you fuel and money.

Help make our schools a healthier place for our kids and participate in our “No Idling Zone” program.

(Sources: [pscleanair.org](http://pscleanair.org) and [cleannwateraction.org](http://cleannwateraction.org))

### Get the Dirt on Pesticides

The community outreach program, “Get the Dirt on Pesticides”, sponsored by the Manhasset Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer (MWCABC), will be held on Thursday, March 13, 7 pm at the Manhasset Library. Patti Wood, founder and executive director of Grassroots Environmental Education, a Port Washington-based non-profit, will discuss how choosing natural lawn care service is an important step homeowners can take toward protecting their families from toxic pesticides and keeping Long Island’s drinking water safe.

### Town of North Hempstead’s S.T.O.P. Program

The S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program offers residents of North Hempstead the opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste in an environmentally friendly manner. This includes items such as: oil-based paints and lacquers, paint thinners/turpentine, pesticides/fertilizers, antifreeze, furniture polish and floor cleaners, used oil and car batteries.

There will be four S.T.O.P. drop-off dates in 2008: Sat. April 12, Sat. June 7, Sat. September 6, and Sunday, November 9.

Please check the Town of North Hempstead website for further information at [www.northhempstead.com](http://www.northhempstead.com) or call the recycling hotline at (516) 767-4600.

## The SCA Fair

Spring is just around the corner and plans for this year's SCA Fair are well under way. We are looking forward to a wonderful day on Saturday, May 3 that the children, and adults, will always remember!

However, we can't do it without your help. We still need to fill two key chair positions for old favorites such as the Grand Raffle and Sports Raffle. We also are very excited to introduce NEW positions:

- Arts and Crafts Table (under tent)
- Candy Booth
- Pony Ride/Photographer.

Chairing a committee is a great way to meet some wonderful people while helping the community!

To volunteer, please contact:

Lisa Chieco at  
869-6182 / lachieco@optonline.net or

Linda Gurino at  
627-4177 / lbuoni999@aol.com.

## Parent Council Meetings



### *Upcoming Parent Council Meetings:*

**Friday, February 29  
Joint HS/MS Parent Council Meeting  
9:30 am, Board Room**

#### *Guest speakers:*

Carolyn Pagnano  
Director of Health, Physical Education

Steven Rubertone  
Board of Directors, Indians Rock Association

Raymond Scacalossi  
District Math Coordinator

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**Friday, March 28  
Joint HS/MS Parent Council Meeting  
9:30 am, Board Room**

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**Friday, May 9  
Joint HS/MS Parent Council Meeting  
9:30 am, Board Room**

## Community Education Committee

### **The Community Education Committee (CEC) needs you!**

The Community Education Committee (CEC) is looking for new members. The goal of CEC is to educate all members of the community regarding issues pertinent to the educational mission of the school district and to facilitate the creation of a true partnership of all groups in the wider community. To this end, CEC members are involved with welcoming new parents to the school dis-

trict, voter registration efforts, arranging speakers to meet with community organizations, and other outreach efforts. If you are interested in joining this important committee, please contact Committee Chairperson Margaret Minichini at [mminichini@earthlink.net](mailto:mminichini@earthlink.net) or Kajal Kumar, the Middle School CEC Liaison at [akms@optonline.net](mailto:akms@optonline.net).

## UPCOMING CALENDAR

<b>February / March</b>	
* Winter Recess Schools Closed	= 2/18 - 2/22
* Joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting	= Friday, 2/29 9:30am Boardroom
* Junior Semi-Formal	= Saturday, 3/1 6:30/8pm-12 am
* HS Varsity/JV Spring Sports Begin	=Monday, 3/3
* MS Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Dance	=Friday, 3/7 7:30-9:30 pm
* MS Musical <i>Fiddler on the Roof Jr.</i>	=Friday & Saturday, 3/14-3/15 8 pm
* Holiday Recess Schools Closed	=Thursday 3/20- Monday 3/24
* Tower Foundation Dinner Dance	= Saturday, 3/15
* HS Concert, Part I (note change in venue)	=Wednesday 3/26 8 pm at Munsey Park
* Joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting	= Friday, 3/28 9:30 am Boardroom
* MS Spring Sports begin	=Monday, 3/31

<b>April / early May</b>	
* HS Concert Part II	= Wednesday, 4/2 8:00 pm
* CASA Games	=Friday, 4/4 HS Gym
* End 3rd Marketing Period Grades 7-12	= Thursday, 4/10
* Senior Prom	=Saturday, 4/12 6:30 / 8 pm-12 am
* Holiday Recess Schools Closed	= Monday, 4/21- Friday, 4/25
* MS Cinco de Mayo Dance	= Friday, 5/2 7:30 pm—9:30 pm
* HS Advanced Placement Examinations	=Monday 5/5— Friday, 5/16
* Joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting	= Friday, 5/9 9:30 am Boardroom
* Budget Vote	= Tuesday, 5/20

*For the latest from the SCA,  
visit our website at:  
**www.manhassetca.org***

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**FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITORS:**

To keep this newsletter both informative and topical, we need your input. If you would like to submit either articles, calendar events, or other ideas/items for publication in future newsletters, please refer to the below-outlined newsletter deadline and either:

\* Call: Rosemary Mascali - 365-8406  
Marianne Tomei - 869-9439

\* or email it to [rmascali23@aol.com](mailto:rmascali23@aol.com) or [snoopymet@aol.com](mailto:snoopymet@aol.com)

**Remaining Manhasset Secondary School Newsletter Deadline:**

**Spring Issue Deadline: May 2**