

## **SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting**

**Friday, April 9, 2021 Via Zoom**

### **Markella Maliagros, MS SCA Pres., Janet Diaso, HS SCA Pres.**

A moment of silence to honor the two women in our schools who passed away this week: Diane Bollen, a French teacher at the High School and Coleen Girardi, a Nurse at Munsey Park.

The SCA spring plant fundraiser is still underway, orders are due today. The Class of 2024 fundraiser is also underway. Parents can purchase t shirts and sweatshirts by April 19. The Class 2023 merchandise sale was a big success and there is still time to donate to this fundraiser. Our Staff appreciation lunch will be on May 19.

### **Superintendent's Update: Dr. Vincent Butera**

A second budget hearing is scheduled for April 20 and the vote is May 18. This year's budget does not exceed the tax levy cap and includes a lot of facility upgrades. The Capital projects include a broadcast journalism suite for the program as well as redesigns including traffic flow and water main. This work will be done over the summer. A second playground for Munsey will also be done as well as some work at Shelter Rock. The traffic pattern redesign allows for the student who walk to have a path that runs after the car traffic instead of in between the traffic which makes the cars stop and traffic build up.

Re-entry of the classes has gone slowly, and we continue to track the Covid 19 cases. Five cases were reported yesterday but we anticipate the numbers will go down. We are not seeing a large number of kids having to quarantine and we have not seen a spike in the number of cases. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> graders have been back, we have had 14 new cases and had to quarantine 6 students.

We are getting ready for the next wave of student who will re-enter. Any student that is remote has until May 3 to decide if they want to return, students can also change their mind and return to remote.

We are going to restart the full in person music program and are meeting with Dr. Hale to accomplish this in accordance with the guidelines. Dr. Hale will be sending out more information soon.

Students involved in high-risk sports have to test every Sunday and we receive the results in 24 hours.

A parent asked: If you are deemed a close contact in sports would that person still need to quarantine since they are being tested every week? Alison Rushforth answered saying that the

school is required to go through contact tracing protocols and the decision re quarantine requirements is made on a case-by-case basis. We work with DOH to determine whether it is a true close contact.

The Covid 19 report card keeps track of all the cases reported by Nassau County and the District through the testing labs. There were 249 cases reported for the District based on residents which includes a total of 183 students and 47 teachers. In the middle school 23 student on and off site tested positive since September which is 4.5%.

### **Principal's Report: Dr. Schlanger**

Information regarding ELA and Math State tests will be going out soon. There will be a 2-hour delay for both high schoolers and middle schoolers opting out. Any student not taking the test will arrive at school at 10:08 am. The 7<sup>th</sup> tests will be at the middle school gym; the 8<sup>th</sup> grade tests will be in classrooms by the student's last name. End of quarter 3 is April 23. Teachers have the ability to change the recommendation based on grades. The honors override launches soon and ends May 7.

For the beginning of school, the target drop off time for cars is 7:35. We are also opening up the entrance at the arches for after 7:45. There will be a security guard in the back entrance as well. After April 19, we are officially no longer hybrid, and we will return to the traditional odd/even schedule as opposed to the hybrid odd/odd -even/even schedule.

We have obtained 150 student desks in the middle school gym and more desks are coming around April 26 to infuse into the classroom.

A decision on final exams and the Regents will be coming shortly. Our petition for a New York State waiver was rejected so we will have the four Regents' exams-- Algebra, English, Living Environment and Earth Science. The Regents will be optional, students can decide not to take the test, and this will not impact the ability to graduate. There is no option for those exams to be administered remotely. Not taking the test does not affect a student's grade and does not mean they will not get a Regents' diploma. It will just say exempt on the transcript.

The APs this year will be fully legitimized, i.e., they will be full in person tests and will take place at Leonard's Palazzo.

### **Guidance Report: Dr. Joy-Anne D'Anca**

Our school suffered a double loss and I want to thank the wellness team for their amazing work. We were able to provide in all three buildings the supports necessary to address the passing of Diane Bollen and Nurse Coleen. Social workers at the high and middle school checked in on

Diane Bollen's students as well as the students who had her previously. If your child needs anything to help them deal with this loss, please reach out to the wellness team.

Our counselors have met with all grade 10 students to plan for the next year and we are continuing the grade 9 and 11 meetings. The college application processes this year was stressful. We continue to learn a great deal more about all the changes so that we can provide the best advice.

We are gathering information as far as college decisions are concerned. There is a lot of waitlist activity this year so answers will come in later. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be college shirt day; we are celebrating the many achievements the students have made.

April monthly reminders are coming out and we will have a number of advertisements for summer programs as well as opportunities for college open houses – college fairs are going to be virtual for the time being.

The Nassau College Expo with 200 participating colleges is on a great virtual platform with college reps. Some open houses are starting to loosen up a little –urge you to take advantage of these and check the counseling website for more information.

Grade 8 conferences are underway, counselors are meeting with students and parents to transition to high school; a modified orientation will occur, but it will be nicer than last year.

While there will be less accepted students' days at colleges, and smaller tours, the "set" list of Manhasset kids willing to talk to our students about their colleges is available.

### **CASA Report-: Connie Bruno, Project Director**

On April 15 at 7:30 pm we have an athlete coming to present the program "Beyond the Huddle" to the students. A student who graduated from Riverhead who had received a scholarship from a Division 1 school lost it after one post on the Internet. Students need to understand the impact of words and actions and be more socially responsible. On April 21 we are showing a documentary called "If They Had Known"—about a boy who passed away from mixing alcohol with his prescription medicines.

May 25, Bringing Up Boys discussion. About how to develop boys into men of character. In June we will have a program that discusses raising confident and healthy girls.

**BOE Report: Christine Monterossa, Board Member**

Budget vote coming up and it is important that everyone votes. If your child is 18, he/she can vote as well. The budget is below the levy permitted. Tuesday April 20th – will be the final BOE budget meeting; free to come and ask any question.

Next parent council meeting is Friday, May 7 at 10am.