



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Peter J. Dion, Superintendent Office 631.968.1115 Fax 631.968.4131 www.bayshoreschools.org Volume 3 November 2011

Dear Bay Shore/Brightwaters Resident,

The school year has certainly been moving along quickly as we are now well into the winter holiday season. All throughout our schools, the November/December school calendars fill up quickly with festive and enjoyable programs. Whether they are winter concerts, the Annual Winter Festival on Main Street, or athletic events, I hope you are able to attend some of these programs demonstrating the outstanding talent your children display. Attendance at any of these activities shows your support for your child's hard work and the caring efforts of our staff.

As we enter this holiday season, I need to mention the spirit of giving and caring I've recently witnessed put forth by many individuals and groups within the Bay Shore/Brightwaters community. Everyday I hear and see various acts of kindness and love towards those less fortunate. The High School Service Honor Society recently helped senior citizens with fall cleanup around their homes. Food and holiday drives are being conducted throughout our schools, clubs, local churches and civic organizations such as the Lions Club and Rotary.

Community partnerships, such as the one led by YMCA Director, Mr. Bob Petterson, also exemplifies the community's spirit of giving. Bob created a partnership with the YMCA, Bay Shore Schools, and Capital One Bank. This partnership, provides one child from each elementary school, a full annual scholarship to attend the YMCA's After School Child Care Program. Bob says, "This act is for the working parents who are in need of child care during the challenging afterschool time period until they get home from work. Children participate in homework assistance, recreational activities, and enjoy all that the YMCA has to offer." This is yet another example of a caring effort by a not-for-profit organization, a corporation, and the Bay Shore Schools to benefit children and families in need. These simple acts of kindness go on everywhere in our community...many unnoticed or recognized. Activities and efforts such as these make our Bay Shore/Brightwaters school community a special place to live.

The holiday season can be a very busy and stressful time as we juggle our daily jobs with shopping, holiday parties, and family commitments. It is also a time to reflect on the many things we have to be grateful for in our lives. My hope for you in the coming weeks is to get off the "fast track," slow down, and spend time with family, friends, and loved ones. Together, may you all share memories of the past, enjoy today's moments, and plan for a bright future together.

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools

Track and Field/Tennis Signs

Bay Shore Schools is fortunate to have many fine facilities for student and community use. Our high school track, turf fields, and tennis courts are utilized by our teachers for instructional purposes during the school day. In order to provide a safe learning environment for students and teachers, we are limiting the use of these facilities "for school use only" during the instructional day, athletic practices, and student events beginning January 3, 2012. Shortly, signs will be posted at entrances indicating our new use rule. We understand community members use our facilities; therefore, we want to give the public ample time to find alternative places to walk and exercise during the times indicated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2002 requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in English Language Arts and Mathematics be measured in grades 3—8 in the State of New York. Each school in the district is assigned an annual yearly progress target that must be achieved for that individual school and eight individual student subgroups. If one subgroup does not meet the predetermined Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) target for two consecutive years, the school is identified as a school in "need of improvement." We were recently informed by the State Education Department that Gardiner Manor Elementary and Bay Shore Middle School have been designated as schools in Need of Improvement (Year 1) as a result of not reaching our progress target with the "students with disabilities" subgroup. We are not alone, 106 schools on Long Island were listed as needing improvement, an increase of 78 schools from last year. Statewide, factors contributing to the increase in schools not making AYP include: (1) the sunset of a statistical adjustment for students with disabilities subgroup making it more difficult for this group to achieve AYP, (2) a change in testing dates, (3) a change in assessments, and finally (4) a change in the methodology for equating assessments.

The success of our students in Bay Shore remains our main mission. We will continue, with our dedicated staff, to strengthen our curriculum and instructional practices and focus on using the most effective teaching techniques possible to ensure students success. Each school will assemble their School Quality Review Team to identify areas of need, programs, and activities to help increase student achievement. We believe that when we meet the needs of individual students, their collective achievement will reflect the high standards that we set for them all. Feel free to contact the building principal in regards to this issue. We will continue to communicate with you regularly on our school improvement efforts and encourage you to join us as we work toward achieving our goals.

Board Action

The Board of Education took action on the following significant items at their October 19, 2011.

- Approved the minutes of the Public and Work Session meetings of September 21, 2011.
- Approved the appointment of Miriam Bisceglia, Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of Maureen Dutcher-Virsinger.
- Approved the following items in the Human Resources Department: unpaid leave of professional staff, professional staff appointments, professional staff special appointments, professional staff tenure appointment, civil service request for leave, civil service staff resignations and terminations, civil service appointment, special yearly appointments, substitute appointments of teachers, paraprofessionals, food service workers, and home tutors for the 2011-12 school year, professional staff salary changes. (Call for details.)
- Approved the Extra Curricular Physical Education November 2011 payment.
- Approved the financial reports as rendered by the District Treasurer.
- Approved the BOCES Shared Services contract for the 2011-12 school year.
- Approved the Statement of Audit for the 2010-2011 school year to be accepted and placed on file.
- Endorsed the actions of the Bay Shore Committee on Special Education pertaining to students being considered for Special Education Services as noted in the minutes of May, June, July, August, September, and October, as well as, Annual Review meetings for March, May, and June.
- Approved parent members as listed for the Committee on Special Education through August 2012.
- Approved the Individualized Home Instruction plans for students listed for the 2011-12 school year.
- Approved the adjustment to the average daily attendance due to the religious holidays as listed.

Public Notification — The Bay Shore School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex, race color, national origin, or handicap. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to Title IX Coordinator and/or Section 504 Coordinator, 75 W. Perkal Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706

Board Action (cont.)

- Approved the actions of the Committee on Preschool Special Education pertaining to students being considered for Preschool Special Education Services as noted in the minutes of September and October for the 2011-12 school year.

Board of Ed. Work Session 7:15 P.M. Jerry Berka Building Superintendent's Conf. Room	Board of Ed. Public Session 8:00 P.M. HS Little Theater
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January 11, 2012

***February 8, 2012**

***March 14, 2012**

***April 4, 2012**

May 7, 2012

June 6, 2012

***budget sessions**

November 30, 2011

December 14, 2011

***January 25, 2012**

***February 29, 2012**

***March 28, 2012**

April 18, 2012

May 23, 2012

June 20, 2012

There is also a Work Session prior to every Public Session which begins at 7:15 P.M. in the Superintendent's Conference Room

Flags Lowered to Half Staff

Recently, I was asked, "Why are the school flags sometimes flown at half-mast?" New York Governor Cuomo sends a message to all public schools in the state ordering the flag to be flown at half-mast to honor a New York Armed Services man or woman killed in the war. Only the President of the United States, the Governor, or by special event as approved by policy of the Board of Education can order a U.S. flag be flown at half-mast.

Suggestions are welcomed...

To: Peter J. Dion, Superintendent
 Bay Shore Union Free School District
 75 W. Perkal Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706
 E-mail: pdion@bayshoreschools.org

From: _____

My suggestion, comment, concern about the District is:

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ECRLOT

Superintendent's Newsletter

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Bay Shore Union Free School District
 75 W. Perkal Street
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