

**GRAND AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL
BELLMORE, NEW YORK**

Office of the Principal
Lewis J. Serra

LEARN WELL, STAY SAFE, GRADUATE, PARTICIPATE

REMEMBER: Respect, Impulse Control, Compassion, Equity

MISSION STATEMENT: In pursuit of excellence, Grand Avenue Middle School strives to create an academically challenging, socially equitable, and developmentally appropriate learning environment which will equip each student to thrive in our school and the global community. Within Grand Avenue's culture of Respect, Impulse Control, Compassion, and Equity, we encourage every student to learn well, stay safe, graduate, and participate, empowering all to become productive citizens.

December, 2009

Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that 2009 is drawing to a close. Listed below are some recent and upcoming events and activities of interest here at Grand Avenue.

SADD "RED RIBBON WEEK"

An annual event which takes place in October is our SADD "Red Ribbon Week." Under the leadership of Ms. Santodonato, health teacher and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) advisor, this year's Red Ribbon Week was filled with enjoyable and worthwhile activities aimed at educating our students about good decision making and substance abuse. These included a poster contest – *My Life, My Choice, Drug Free*, and an assembly program.

Our SADD chapter also raised \$5,000.00 for the American Cancer Society by participating in the five mile Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach and the three mile walk for the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) at Jones Beach as well as various other local walks. The SADD Chapter also raised \$300.00 for the Association for Children with Down Syndrome and \$500.00 for Hope House Ministries through bake sales and other activities. We are very proud of all of our students who participated in these events. Congratulations to all involved! SADD is in the process of collecting unwanted mugs for their *Mugs of Love* Valentine's Day project for the Interfaith Nutrition Network and is gearing to start knitting again for SADD's Blankets for premature babies for Winthrop University Hospital's Neonatal Unit.

YORKER CLUB FOOD DRIVE - A HUGE SUCCESS

The Grand Avenue Middle School Yorker Club, with advisors Mr. Dominik Bargiel and Mr. Dan Rummenie, sponsored their annual canned food drive this November. During a two-week span more than 1000 cans of food and over \$1400 dollars was raised by the generous students of Grand. The Home and Career classes also lent a helping hand by baking bread for the families in the Bellmore community during this holiday period. Our supportive PTSA provided turkeys along with many perishable items to supplement our collection of staple food. With the help of our school nurse, Ms. Unger, school social worker, Mr. Rose, and our hard working members of the Yorker Club, the food was distributed to the neediest families to help make their Thanksgiving a special one. Congratulations and a special THANK YOU to all of our Grand Community who participated in this truly worthwhile community service project.

BUILDERS CLUB

During the month of January, the Builders Club will be hosting a "Sock It to the Homeless" Challenge in order to bring warmth and awareness to the homeless. All socks collected will be donated to The INN located in Hempstead, NY. The first period that donates the most pairs of socks will win a pizza party!

YOUR PTSA - THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your PTSA Co-Presidents, Kathy Avanzato and Evelyn Wilken would like to express their appreciation to you for the fine support you gave to their recent gift wrap fund raising program. You can still become a member of the PTSA by sending an envelope with the \$10.00 dues to the main office. Our PTSA is a wonderful organization that always puts kids first. I personally enjoy working with them and urge each of you to support them through your membership.

GUIDANCE EVENTS - STUDENT SCHEDULING

Our Guidance Counselors are in the process of preparing for the 2009-2010 school year through the preparation of student course selections. Seventh grade planning for eighth grade should be completed by the end of January. We have begun to schedule our present eighth graders into their ninth grade courses in December. Please make sure to review these course selections to ensure that your child is scheduled into the proper classes for next year. If you have any questions regarding this, do not hesitate to call your child's guidance counselor at 992-1120.

SCHOOL BUSES

All students who are eligible for bus transportation have been furnished with a bus pass from Grand Avenue so that they may ride on the bus. In the event that a student forgets or has lost his/her bus pass, he/she will be ineligible to ride the bus until a replacement is obtained from Mrs. Klebenoff in room 100. On morning trips, pupils without passes may ride the bus to school unless there is overcrowding. These students must report to Mrs. Klebenoff to obtain an afternoon pass if eligible. Ineligible students may not ride busses to and from school. However, they may ride the late bus in the afternoon.

SCHOOL SITE-BASED COMMITTEE

Eleven years ago, as required by Section 100.11 of the Commissioner of Education's Regulations, a building Site-Based "Shared-Decision Making" team was established. The make-up of the team as well as their responsibilities have been outlined in a District Plan developed by a District-wide planning committee and approved by our Board of Education. The team discusses a variety of topics, such as student achievement, extra-curricular activities and community service efforts. The building budget will be presented to our committee at our December meeting. For your information, the following members represent the make-up of our building committee:

Administrators (2):

Lewis Serra

James Mollica

Parents (5):

Kathy Avanzato

Lauren Foley

Laurie Gregory

Denise Hoffman

Evelyn Wilken

Teachers (5):

Donald Campbell

Carolyn Condenzio

Rosa Crocitto

Jody Tsangaris

Meghan Zambori

Students (4):

Lindsey Fowler

Dean Ostrofsky

Nicolette Sepe

Clerical (1):
Custodial/Cafeteria (1):
Paraprofessional (1):

Juliann Snyder
Mary Ann Collica
Charles Pennington
Rita Calzetta

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

On November 2nd and 3rd we held our annual Emergency Preparedness drills. I must commend all Grand Avenue students. Their behavior was exemplary. Approximately 1100 students were sheltered in total silence. Their conduct was RICE in action. They helped us keep all safe. Respect, Impulse Control, Compassion and Equity will continue to be the qualities of good character that Grand Avenue expects of all in our building. I know that you have the same expectations in your home. Thank you for your continued support.

GRAND AVENUE WEBSITE

We invite you to log-on to the Grand Avenue Website, which has been created by technology teacher Mr. Ng. The website contains a great deal of useful school information, including: club descriptions, team schedules, our monthly activities calendar, our lunch menu, academic departments and more. Please log-on through our District Home Page at: www.bmchsd.k12.ny.us.

YEARBOOK SALES

A reminder that all yearbook sales are being done directly with Josten's, our yearbook publisher. Separate mailings have been sent home with ordering package instructions. If there are any questions, please contact Mrs. Johnson at 992-1126.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our After School Program is operating four days per week, providing our students with a safe environment after school. Encourage your child to take advantage of this program, which is held Monday through Thursday after school during two sessions: 3:00 pm - 4:10 pm and 4:15 pm - 5:10 pm. Students may attend the first or both sessions.

IDLING VEHICLES

As you may have noticed, all busses waiting to pick up students must keep their engines turned off. Some parents have brought to my attention that many parents waiting for their children after school keep their motors running. It has been suggested that the rule for busses also apply to all idling cars on school property. I respectfully suggest that all of us be conscious of our environment and help the children of Grand learn well from our example. Thank you.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about some "Grand happenings." I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Grand Avenue Community a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lewis J. Serra
Principal