

**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.**

January, 2010

Dear Parents:

The school year is moving by at a rapid pace as we find ourselves well into the second quarter already. Report cards will be issued to students and mailed to you the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>. I would like to remind you that if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please feel free to call your child's teacher or guidance counselor to discuss them.

Listed below are some recent and upcoming items of interest here at Grand Avenue.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

An important aspect of our Character Education initiatives is the encouragement of community service among our students. By engaging in community service, youngsters learn the important lesson that being a part of a community involves helping others. Through various clubs and organizations, such as Student Council, Yorker Club, Builders' Club and SADD, our students have donated hundred of hours of service for a variety of projects and charities. We are very proud of their efforts! Grand Avenue recognizes and rewards service activities through an awards program for community service. In order to be eligible for a community service award, students will have to complete the service log (mailed home earlier in the school year), and attach all completed community service cards, which can be obtained from our main office. Seventh graders must submit them to Mr. Fields and eighth graders must submit them to Mr. Abbott by April 15, 2010. More detailed information about the criteria for receiving a certificate or medal can be found on page 11 of your child's planner.

#### LOCKERS

New lockers were installed four years ago. We take great pride in the appearance of our building and encourage all to be respectful of everyone's property. Therefore, in an effort to keep these new lockers in good condition and remain that way for some time, we must continue the following procedures:

1. No lockers may be decorated for birthdays. The tape either remains on the lockers or peels paint from them. When students or custodians try to remove tape from locker doors, they invariably scratch the surface.

2. Students will be asked to refrain from attaching stickers to the inside of their lockers. They are expected to be respectful of school property and not write on or deface in any way the inside of lockers. If damage is done to a locker, students will be held accountable for the damage caused.

## TESTING SCHEDULE

### Home & Careers 8 Exam

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 & Wednesday, January 20, 2010

### BUILDERS CLUB

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

### GRAND AVENUE'S ANNUAL MUSICAL PRODUCTION

This year our Theater Club will be presenting the musical "Once on This Island." The production will take place on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., in our auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door and we hope that you will be able to attend this enjoyable show. **I remind parents that any student attending the production must be accompanied by an adult.**

### SAFETY

At the beginning and end of each day, there are nineteen busses and hundreds of parents dropping students off at Grand Avenue. To make these drop-offs as safe as possible, I would ask that you please drive carefully and obey the posted speed limits in the area surrounding Grand Avenue and utilize extreme caution in the parking lots of the school. Recently, we have had several near head-on collisions in the front parking lot. This is due to drivers turning left as they enter the lot. Please adhere to the rules of safety and follow the arrows. You must turn right to enter the lot no matter the proximity of an available parking spot on the left. I ask this with the conviction that each of us is committed to Grand's shared purpose of learning well, staying safe, graduating, and participating.

### EVENING PARENT WORKSHOPS

A series of workshops for parents, entitled "Navigating Through the Middle School Years" will be offered on six evenings starting February 25<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. These workshops will be led by guidance counselor, Janet Johnson. Please see the detailed information enclosed and call Mrs. Johnson at 992-1126 to register for this informative series of workshops.

I extend my heartfelt good wishes to you and your families for a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

Lewis J. Serra  
Principal