



**P2 / MASTHEAD**

\*Letter from the editor  
\*A message from Superintendent James Nolan  
\*Key district dates

**P3 / SACHEM IN THE KNOW**

A listing of key events and news going on in the Sachem Central School District over the next month.

**P5 / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A look at announcements from community organizations. Have something you want to submit? SachemPR@Sachem.edu.

# THE SCENE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2012, NEW VOL. 3

## Historic Season

Sachem East's Steven Casali won the Hansen, Cipp, Collatta, Burnet and Division I MVP awards this year.



This year, Sachem East star Steven Casali collected more individual honors than any player in the history of the Suffolk County Football Coaches Association awards dinner

Aside from being named the 63rd annual winner of the Hansen Award, presented to the top football player in the county, Casali was also named the Collotta Award winner as the top linebacker, the Cipp Jr.

Award winner as the top running back, the Burnett Long Island Defensive Player of the Year, the Suffolk County Division I MVP and collected his plaque as co-MVP of the Suffolk County Division I championship. Casali also learned he was one of 10 Suffolk County players to be named First Team All-Long Island. Casali became the first athlete to win the Hansen, while playing

for a former Hansen Award winning coach. Mark Wojciechowski won it in 1985 at Sachem as one of the few linemen to grab the honor. Casali will play college ball at the University of Massachusetts. Then you could take a look at the score sheet and see the real story. He rushed for 1,915 yards and 20 touchdowns, and made 104 tackles this year, all single-season records at Sachem East.

## Letter from the editor

Please take time to enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends. Due to the recent tragic events that took place in Connecticut, I think we can all agree that time spent with our families is precious and we should never take it for granted.

From a communications standpoint, we launched the "Sachem News Hour" radio show on WSHR in late November and we're eager to grow the information sharing on that platform. Tune in for live broadcasts on Thursdays from 8-9 p.m.

If you're not already following us on Twitter, you can find us @SachemSchools, and likewise with Facebook.com/SachemSchools. Each month we'll expand this publication, offering more and more interesting stories and tidbits you can't get anywhere else. If you have any news or information you'd like us to share across our multiple digital platforms, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. You can email me at CVaccaro@Sachem.edu.

Happy New Year, Happy Holidays and #GoArrows!

-Chris R. Vaccaro



## From Superintendent Nolan's desk



It is truly with great sadness that I ask each of you to remember in your thoughts and prayers the members of the Sandy Hook Elementary School Family. As parents and educators we know there is no greater tragedy to a school community. We have contacted the good people of their district to offer the prayers and support of the Sachem Family.

Please know that Sachem continues to hold the safety of our students and staff members as our highest priority and we will continue to seek advice on means to enhance our current procedures.

I have been asked by several families and the Suffolk County Police Department to share with you that there have been several burglaries and thefts from homes and cars throughout our community. Please communicate with your neighbors, so that together you can protect and monitor your neighborhood.

To the parents and students who may be experiencing challenges with our new Pierson math curriculum, please know that we have scheduled many sessions to offer assistance. Each of our elementary schools and middle schools have the dates, times, location and information you will need to take advantage of this opportunity. The first session will be held this Tuesday evening, Dec. 18 at all four of our middle schools at 7 p.m. Parents and students are encouraged to attend.

We are looking to expand the list of worksites for our children with special needs to gain practical work experiences, which will provide them with the skills and opportunities for employment after their days at Sachem. If anyone knows of any places of employment that would help us in supporting our students please contact our Office of Student Services.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Sachem Family, I wish you and your family the peace and love of this special time of year. Whether you celebrate Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanza, other traditions and holidays, or simply share time with family and friends, may you enjoy good health and happiness now and always.

## Key Sachem District Calendar Items

### January

- \*Jan. 2: Board of Education work session, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- \*Jan. 3: Curriculum Night, Sachem HS North, 7:00 p.m.
- \*Jan. 7: Curriculum Night, Sachem HS East, 7:00 p.m.
- \*Jan. 16: Board of Education regular meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.

### February

- \*Feb. 6: Board of Education work session, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- \*Feb. 11: SEPTA Meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- \*Feb. 27: Board of Education regular meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.

### March

- \*March 6: Board of Education work session, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- \*March 13: PTA Council Meeting, Sachem HS East, 7:30 p.m.
- \*March 20: Board of Education regular meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.

## Sachem Central School District

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 #GoArrows / #WeAreSachem

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Thanks to Carol Burns, a secretary in Sachem Superintendent's James Nolan's office, we're in possession of dozens of old copies of "Sachem News," a publication formerly published by Sachem's Board of Education. The first issue was printed in Nov. 1957 and many issues after that chronicle the early stages of development in the Sachem Central School District. Through the coming months, we'll be dissecting every page and chronicling important data.

## Reviewing old documents from Sachem's archives



## Gatelot students create 'highly effective' murals

This year, Gatelot Avenue Elementary School welcomes the new addition of student-created murals. These beautiful, thought-provoking murals were created through the hard work and creativity of all of Gatelot's students. Hung in the cafeteria, the paintings serve as a daily testament to kindness, teamwork, good deeds, and filling buckets. Students at Gatelot have learned what it means to be a "bucket filler" through the book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids" by Carol McCloud. This inspiring story provides various insightful examples of how their kindness, appreciation and helpfulness can be personally rewarding to themselves, as well as emotionally satisfying towards others. The students collaborated on a very large mural depicting buckets being filled by other buckets, representing the ability of people to receive love and kindness from others.

At Gatelot, administration, staff and students would agree they are a family of "bucket fillers" and are very proud of the important character traits portrayed through the many murals they created. Art teacher Deborah Coyne

and visiting artist John Diniro provided guidance and direction throughout the project.

During the week-long mural painting project, the students combined their creative efforts to create several more murals as well. Inspired by the teachings of Stephen Covey, the students created another mural depicting "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People", a teaching philosophy implemented across all disciplines.

Other messages displayed in the murals include "Gatelot shines with kindness" and "Together we can do anything," with according works of modern art designed and created by the students hanging above.

These murals will hang in the school indefinitely, serving as a reminder of the power of teamwork, visible to students every day. They will remind them that together, they can do anything.



## SACHEM IN THE KNOW...

### DONATE ITEMS TO LOCAL SOUP KITCHEN

A local soup kitchen in Patchogue, N.Y. is collecting NEW adult socks, scarves, gloves, hats and blankets to be given for a holiday breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 22. The items are needed no later than Thursday, Dec. 20. They could also use toiletries, canned goods, deli's who could donate cold cuts/cheese, bakeries/rolls/bread/baked goods, bagel stores/bagels and any businesses that would like to sponsor a breakfast one weekend because these efforts are ongoing throughout the year. Items can be dropped off at 171 Jayne Ave. in Patchogue, N.Y. or at Saxton Middle School at 121 Saxton Ave., Patchogue, N.Y. 11772, care of Jackie Nolan. If you have any other questions about the volunteer efforts call (631) 831-9832.

### CLASSES IN SESSION DURING REGENTS WEEK

Due to Super Storm Sandy and the loss of class time, all Sachem classes will be in session during the January Regents testing week which begins Tuesday, Jan. 23 through Friday, Jan. 25, according to Sachem Assistant Superintendent Paul Manzo. Students who are scheduled to take regents exams will be excused from class time in order to take their regents examinations as scheduled by NYS Dept of Education. Please contact your students' respective high school for additional information is needed.

### SEND US SACHEM ALUMNI NEWS

Know of an alumnus doing something unique? Let us know! Email the information to SachemPR@Sachem.edu.

### SUBMIT NEWS UPDATES

Please send all news and info updates for The SCENE and any Sachem platforms to SachemPR@Sachem.edu and they will appear.

### CONNECT WITH SACHEM SCHOOLS

- \*TWITTER: FOLLOW @SACHEMSCHOOLS
- \*FACEBOOK.COM/SACHEMSCHOOLS
- \*WEB: WWW.SACHEM.EDU
- \*BE PROUD: #GOARROWS / #WEARESACHEM

## Sachem's CPR training program helps school district in north Texas

A Texas middle school student's brush with death inspired a new program to teach students CPR in the school district. Brent Reese, the athletic coordinator in the Frisco Independent School District, located just north of Dallas, reached out to Sachem's Lori Hewlett for help with starting a CPR training program.

Hewlett, Sachem's Chairperson for Health Education, sent Reese Sachem's curriculum information, breaking down the basic se-

quence of how to implement and teach CPR properly to students. According to a story on WFAA.com, the news site for a television station in Dallas-Forth Worth, every sixth grader is receiving CPR training this year. Furthermore, Seventh and eighth grade physical education students are also getting trained. "A million times, thank you!" Reese wrote Hewlett in an email.



## Seneca, Second Chance Toys team up during holiday season

In an effort to make a meaningful difference emotionally and environmentally, Second Chance Toys, a charitable organization, and Seneca's Community Club teamed up this holiday season to distribute gently used plastic toys to children in need.

Multiple research studies confirm that toys inspire play which is critical to the healthy development of children. Yet, many plastic toys are disposed of when they could be enjoyed by a growing number of children who go without. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, nearly 12.5 million children under the age of six in the United States live in low-income families; nearly a quarter of these chil-



dren live in families with annual incomes below the federal poverty level. Given the nature of plastic, these toys show little signs of wear and are still in good working condition. When these perfectly useable toys are thrown out instead of given to those who could benefit, they become waste in a landfill, take up a lot of space and do not biodegrade.

Second Chance Toys provides a waste-need solution to these problems. Unwanted plastic toys, that are still useable, are rescued and recycled. Seneca's Community Club and Second Chance Toys hope to bring some happiness to children in need, while making a contribution to the environment.

## East donates to Little Flower

With the help of all faculty and students, Sachem East's Junior Class was able to hold Holiday Operation again this year.

More than 200 shoeboxes were collected and donated to Little Flower in Riverhead. With the disastrous effects from Hurricane Sandy, contributions to the children at Little Flower at this time of the year are sparse.

Little Flower expressed its gratitude for this great contribution that will now allow all children at the Little Flower cottages to have a gift to open at the holidays.

Junior Class advisors Mrs. Boles and Ms. Carpenter would like to thank everyone for this generous contributions. Junior Class officers are Ishrak Alam, Anmol Gupta, Young Jin Sohn, Nicole Lunger and James Zeitler.



## HS students teach history at Tecumseh

Sachem East's National History Club stopped by Tecumseh Elementary School to teach three classes about courage and civil rights to fourth grade students.

East students helped define terms associated with civil rights and discussed specific examples of civil rights in America, including the topics of segregation, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Using the story "Yertle the Turtle," they explained how Yertle stood up for himself and was courageous fighting for his rights.

As part of the lesson plan, fourth graders created an acrostic poem. "The program yesterday went really well," said Tecumseh Principal Laura Amato. "It was great to see the interaction of the HS students and our fourth graders. The poems they created were very thoughtful and creative."





Connect with Sachem



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#GoArrows / #OnToVictory / #WeAreSachem



Place announcement in "The Scene"

For more information, email Chris R. Vaccaro directly at cvaccaro@sachem.edu.



# SACHEM YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE



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## REGISTRATION FOR THE SPRING 2013 SEASON

For children born from Aug 1, 2003 through July 31st, 2009

See our website [WWW.SYSL.ORG](http://WWW.SYSL.ORG) for Online Registration

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EXCITING NEWS: SYSL IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH **RED BULLS ACADEMY & CHALLENGER SPORTS** TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TO OUR PLAYERS

### Intramural Registration Spring 2013

#### **Intramurals Program - \$60 (spring only)**

For players born between 8/1/03 - 7/31/08

#### **U4 Program - \$60 (spring only)**

For players born between 8/1/08 - 7/31/09

Uniform purchased separately from Olympic Den (471-3521) (Includes full, durable uniform (shirt, shorts, socks) Required for all new registrants.

### THE SYSL PROUDLY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING :

- The finest youth soccer complex on Long Island - maintained, irrigated and continuously improved to provide for safe, quality play.
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- Professional training of all players and coaches by recognized leaders in professional soccer education and player development.
- New professional trained weekly pre-travel programs for U8 & U9 players
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# Sachem youth

# lacrosse

## Winter Lacrosse clinic

For all skill levels

\*\*\*at KK Athletics ON TURF\*\*\*

\*we provide helmets and shoulder pads\*

### --Grades pre k thru 1<sup>st</sup>--

+ON THURSDAY'S 6:30PM-7:30PM Starting December 6<sup>th</sup> +Learning basic skills (passing, catching, cradling, scooping, offense/defense, teamwork, sportsmanship, and pride. Cost \$100

### --Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>--

Will play winter season of 8 games (each grade has its own team) at long island sport plex in Sayville. Plus once a week practice @ kk athletics Wednesday nights 7pm-8pm cost is \$125

For info go to [WWW.SYAG.COM](http://WWW.SYAG.COM) or email [SYAGLACROSSE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SYAGLACROSSE@GMAIL.COM)



**SACHEM YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP**

**BASEBALL-SOFTBALL PROGRAM**

**Let the Games Begin... Spring, 2013!**

VISIT US AT [WWW.SYAG.COM](http://WWW.SYAG.COM)

DIVISION	GAME DAYS	FEE
<b>BASEBALL</b>		
4-5	Monday / Friday	\$ 60.00
6	Tuesday / Friday	\$ 60.00
7	Monday / Thursday	\$ 75.00
8	Monday / Saturday	\$ 75.00
9	Wednesday / Saturday	\$ 90.00
10	Tuesday / Saturday	\$ 90.00
11	Tuesday / Saturday	\$ 90.00
12	Monday /Friday or Saturday	\$ 90.00
13-14	Tuesday / Saturday	\$ 155.00
15-18	Wednesday / Saturday	\$ 155.00
<b>SOFTBALL</b>		
4-6	Wednesday / Saturday	\$ 60.00
7-8	Thursday / Saturday	\$ 60.00
9-10	Wednesday / Saturday	\$ 70.00
11-12	Monday / Thursday	\$ 75.00
13-17	Tuesday / Thursday	\$ 85.00

REGISTRATION DATES	
REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH 3-18-13 **REVISED REGISTRATION DATES**	
January 24	Merrimac Elementary
January 25	Merrimac Elementary 7:00pm -8:30 pm
Or REGISTER ONLINE <a href="http://WWW.SYAG.COM">WWW.SYAG.COM</a>	
<b>GAME DAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE</b>	
WEEKDAY START TIMES: • 5:30 - APRIL GAMES DIVISIONS 7 AND UP and ALL MEDFORD GAMES ALL SEASON • 6:00 - MAY / JUNE GAMES DIVISIONS 7 AND UP (EXCEPT GAMES AT MEDFORD) • 6:00 - ALL GAMES in the 4,5,AND 6 YEAR OLD DIVISIONS ALL SEASON SATURDAY GAME TIMES WILL BE POSTED ON WEBSITE	

### SPECIAL EVENTS: OPENING DAY PARADE, ALL STAR DAY,

**Fee Includes:**  
Insurance  
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Trophy

(50% Discount off lowest fee for families registering 3 or more players)

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# kidsTennis Camp



**During Winter Break!**

**December 29th & 30th (Saturday and Sunday)**

Expose your child to the great sport of tennis without the high cost of clubs

## Coach Lindsay's Introduction to Tennis

Holtsville resident, Scott Lindsay is a teacher at Rocky Point Middle School where he also coaches tennis, basketball and lacrosse. His tennis camps are known for their fun and energetic drills and creative game play. His summer sessions have tripled in attendance over the last two years. For the first time, Coach Lindsay is offering camps during the school winter breaks, indoors at Give It Your All Sports in Ronkonkoma, NY.

Tennis instruction can be very costly. Coach Lindsay has a true passion for the sport of tennis and his camps were created to offer an introduction to the world of tennis without the high costs of academies and clubs.

Tennis camp will help improve hand eye coordination, footwork, speed and agility. Our clinic covers all aspects of the game such as grip, forehand, backhand, volley, and serve.



Coach Lindsay is the father of two girls in the Sachem school district.

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!  
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Suite 5, Ronkonkoma, New York 11779  
[www.giveityourallsports.com](http://www.giveityourallsports.com)

**December 29th & 30th (Saturday and Sunday)**

**Session 1:** (Ages 4 - 7) 9:00 am to 11:00 am

**Session 2:** (Ages 8 - 12) 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Fee: \$60

Please join us in this *ZUMBATHON*® for the Schnell Family

Daniel Joseph Schnell was born July 19, 2012. Due to seizures he has suffered, Baby Daniel has neurological and developmental issues. This Event was created to help alleviate some of the Family's financial stresses, enabling them to concentrate on Daniel's much needed care. Let's DANCE for DANIEL!

## "Dancing for Daniel"



**Friday, January 18, 2013**

**Tamarac Elementary School**

**50 Spence Avenue, Holtsville**

**Registration at 7:00pm and Raffle tickets for sale!**

**Zumba® Class 7:30pm-9:00pm!!!**

**\$10 Donation**



*Cosmetics will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds for "Dancing for Daniel"*

For more information please contact Vicky Moreno @ [vivazumba41@gmail.com](mailto:vivazumba41@gmail.com) or call 631-332-2516