

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Peter Barone

Number 11  
April 1, 2006

- A heartfelt thank you goes out to Maria Minton, a cafeteria aide at the Arleth School, who noticed a first-grade student having difficulty swallowing his lunch. It turned out that the student was choking. Thanks to the quick thinking of Maria, she administered the Heimlich maneuver and successfully dislodged the chicken pattie. The District is proud to have employees such as Maria that are quick to respond to our children's needs.
- Congratulations to the students and staff of Arleth School who collected 1,051 items for their canned food drive. These donations will be given to M.C.F.O.O.D.S. (Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services). The food will be distributed to needy Middlesex County residents. This is just another way the Arleth School shows it cares!
- A little bit of Ireland came to Truman School. St Patrick's Day "came alive" for the students of Truman School with local bagpipers from the Middlesex County Pipes and Drum and Irish dancers from the Kelly School of Irish Dancing who performed for the students. A great time was had by all.
- On Thursday, March 30, 2006, the students of the Samsel Upper Elementary School's Team 4-6 sponsored a program honoring all men and women who protect and guard our freedoms. Members of the Sayreville V.F.W. Post 4699 and the American Legion Lenape Post opened the program by posting the colors. The veterans introduced themselves mentioning what branch they served and what war they served in. There were two guest speakers, Lance Corporal Matthew Lawrence, a Purple Heart recipient and Boot Corporal Carlos Santos, who recently completed tours of duty in Iraq. The Marines narrated as the students viewed a PowerPoint presentation and movie which highlighted the Marines' tours in Iraq. The Marines were given phone cards, which were collected from the entire student body during the month of March, to be given to members of their unit who are still serving in Iraq.

Michael Gawron, custodian at the SUES, brought his father, Al Gawron, a decorated veteran of WWII to the program. Mr. Gawron surprised the students by arriving in a refurbished jeep used in WWII which was enjoyed by all, including the two Marines!

Dr. Alfano summed it up best when he spoke and told the students that the greatest movie celebrities, the most popular sports figures or the trendiest rock stars are nothing when compared to the men sitting in the front row. He emphasized that the brave deeds of the veterans are the ones that have earned us all freedom and equality; the very foundations upon which our country is built.

- Kudos to Doreen Cosenza, District Character Education Coordinator, who applied for a 2006 NJ School of Character Award. She recently received notification that our District will be honored by the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Center for Character Education and the Character Education Partnership at the statewide Character Education Conference on May 25, 2006. At that award ceremony, Sayreville Public Schools will be awarded a "Certificate of Honorable Mention" for our Character Education Initiative efforts. The award letter noted that, "The Sayreville Public Schools have made a significant, long-range commitment to developing character education as a central organizing factor in school life. The leadership structure includes all buildings and the assignment of a specific character education assessment function to a staff member is particularly impressive."

The Character Education Coordinators, Administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members should be proud of our CE Initiative! We look forward to continued success!

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