

DALY NEWS

AN HSA PUBLICATION FOR JOHN J. DALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JUNE, 2009



DALY FIELD DAY & PROJECT ACES



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Letter from the Principal...

Dear Parents,

The last issue of the Daly News for 2008-2009 is ready to go to press. As I ask every year, "Where has the year gone"? It has been a full year of exciting learning and wonderful activities. Our theme of "The Golden Rule" incorporated into "See Everybody Learn" had a great impact on the students and the staff.

I need to thank many people for the success of this past year. Parents are the back bone of a truly fine school. When parents work with teachers and staff, a wonderful climate is created for students to learn, laugh and feel that they are safe and secure in a stable environment.



Thank you to:

Co-Presidents Lori Spier and Beth Lipset who led a strong support team of parents. The fundraisers have helped us bring stronger cultural experiences and high performing shows and events to the students. What the district does not provide in the budget, this group finds a way to get the extras that so often make a difference to our learning environment. Thank you to all the committees in the HSA organization.

A special thanks to all parents who took part in Multicultural Night at Daly. The amount of time and energy that went into this night was amazing. But the results speak for how wonderful this night was and the celebrating of the diversity of this school.

To the Compact Committee, thank you for the hours spent talking about academic achievement show important it is that every child succeeds at Daly School. Thank you for raising the bar of success for each child. So many people from the community have approached me to talk about our organic garden. This project has raised the bar in helping our children understand that they must learn how to work with the environment and how it will affect them now and in the future.

Game Day is an integral part of our winter season. Children look forward to having a recess time where they can play games and interact socially with friends from other classes. My hat is off to all the volunteers who heard the call for help from Felice Schwartz and came to play with the students.

Michelle Alagna was our knitting teacher again this year. Every Wednesday and sometimes on extra days our students learned to de-stress by learning how to knit.

To all the parents who got their children to school on time every day, I salute you. I know it can be difficult, but it is important that our students know that school is an important place to be every school day.

If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me.

I wish each and every family a wonderful fun filled and healthy summer.

Elaine Ajello

A Note from the HSA Co-Presidents...

Dear Daly Families,

It is hard to believe that another school year is over! Summer is just around the corner, and with it another 5th grade class will be moving on to Weber and a new crop of Kindergartners will be arriving in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped support the Social on April 30th. We had record breaking attendance by both the staff at Daly and the parents. There was fierce bidding on the class treasures as well teacher and staff donations. After all, who wouldn't want a bedtime story read by Mrs. Ajello! We would like to thank Diane Livingston, Donna Meth, Nancy Haberman and Stefanie Hiller, our Social Chairs, for doing an outstanding job. Through their hard work and incredible dedication, we were able to pull off a wonderful fundraiser. A big thank you to Jane Stevens and Kiran Saraon for putting together a very successful Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 8th. The sale not only raised money for Daly, it also allowed us to plant annuals around the

school to help beautify it.

Our last fundraiser of the year is coming up, which is the Daly Carnival. Carnival is a wonderful way to end the year with fun blow-ups that the kids can bounce on, climb on or slide down. Stay and have dinner as we will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers as well as ice cream. We hope that you will be able to join us on Thursday, June 18th at 5:00pm on the field. It should prove to be a good time for kids of all ages.

At our last H.S.A. meeting, in April, the 2009-2010 Daly H.S.A. Executive Board was voted in. They are: Beth Lipset and Denise DePalma – Co-Presidents; Lori Spier – Past President; Lilie Charno – Vice President; Talia Senders – Treasurer; Sydna Blumberg and Lauren Rotko – Class Parent Vice Presidents; Brynn Klein – Recording Secretary; Helene Glassman – Corresponding Secretary; Nancy Haberman, Stefanie Hiller, Sue Jarman and Melissa Vissicchio – Fundraising Vice Presidents; Hillary Fox and Lori Rothberg – 5th Grade Representatives.

You should have received a committee/event volunteer form for the

2009-2010 school year. There are many events and committees that the Daly H.S.A. sponsors. We hope that you will have an opportunity to join one of them next year. If you are interested in chairing an event, volunteering or have an idea for a new committee, please contact Daly H.S.A. Vice President, Lilie Charno via email at lcharno@optonline.net. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have about any of the committees and events.

We would like to especially thank all of you, the Daly families, for supporting all of the H.S.A. events and fundraisers throughout the year. Despite the difficult economic conditions, and because of your generosity, we have been able to provide so much to the children of Daly.

We wish our 5th graders good luck at Weber. Congratulations to you and your families. Your Daly Family will miss you all. Please have a safe and relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Lori Spier & Beth Lipset
Co-Presidents Daly H.S.A.

Some Pictures from the Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 8th



Daly Elementary School Holds its Second Annual Science Fair

On the evening of May 14, 2008, approximately 50 students at Daly Elementary School exhibited their science fair projects at the second annual Daly Science Fair. The event, which was organized and hosted by Daly's Compact Committee, was attended by hundreds of Daly students and their families who were given demonstrations, explanations and, in some case, samples, by Daly's junior scientists.

The theme of this year's event was "Green" – students in third through fifth grades were invited to dream up inventions, projects or programs that create a healthier world, healthier environment, or healthier life-style. The student exhibitors, some working alone and others in pairs or groups of three or four, conceived of and built models of inventions which recycled waste, conserved or renewed energy sources, made new uses of solar energy, or encouraged healthier living, such as a ride your bike to school program, and creative new recipes using organic fruits and vegetables. Many of the inventions were made with household items and old toys, including Legos, K'nex, recycled materials, and other found items. As for the organic "inventions" – one student who made and offered samples of Kale Brownies, Kale Lemonade, Kale Pasta Salad, and Kale soup, collected over 50 e-mail addresses of people who wanted the recipes!

In addition to displaying their inventions, all participating students created and displayed a tri-fold science fair display board showing concepts, sketches, ideas, and how the inventions were created, and why the inventions were important for our world. Daly's Principal, Elaine Ajello, also a member of the Compact Committee, was delighted to see how hard the students worked, and how excited they are about science. "The creativity of

the students concerning how to green our planet gives me hope for the future of our Earth" commented Ajello.

Daly's Compact Committee is thrilled with the success of its second Science Fair and has already begun discussions as to next year's theme.



Cultural Arts at Daly

The cultural arts committee at Daly had a busy year, planning an eclectic series of performances. Students were entertained during the year by the following programs:

In February, The New York Chinese Cultural Center presented China Patterns. This dance program was performed in full traditional Chinese costumes. They introduced students to Chinese culture through language lessons, historical background, onstage demonstrations and audience interaction. The dance and narration illustrated and explained traits, customs and patterns of Chinese life. Students were given the tools to interpret the dance movements as expressions of what people do, see and feel. Our students were mesmerized!

Saxophone player Hayes Greenfield and his trio came to Daly in March to uncover the “inner jazz musician” in every audience member in this interactive jazz celebration. Through scat singing, call and response, rhythmic explorations and dancing, students discovered some of the basic tenets of jazz music and creative rewards of improvisation. The group called Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz entertained students and teachers alike with their unique sound.

Beth and Scott Bierko are a dynamic duo who use humor and stories to engage young students in the topics of sharing, non-bullying, respect, responsibility, and self-esteem. In conjunction with Daly’s theme for the year “Social Emotional Learning” the show entitled The Golden Rule, reinforced a desire to promote a peaceful and cooperative environment for grades K-2. Paired with their exciting new program, Do The Right Thing, for grades 3-5, everyone learned about cooperation through the power of song.

As we write this, we are anticipating a visit from author Laura Seeger Vaccaro in early June. Mrs. Pinto has a wonderful day of workshops planned with this popular children’s author.

Thanks to all our terrific cultural arts volunteers who helped throughout the year. Also, many thanks to the Daly teachers and other staff members who helped to keep everything run so smoothly. In particular, Lou Calabrese. Thank you!

We will see you again next year. Have a wonderful summer!
Michele Posner Goldman and Kiran Saraon



Compact Committee members and event organizers:
Lisa Epstein, Suresh Sani & Beth Horn

From the Daly PEP Room

by Dr. Irene Virgilio

School Wide Enrichment

The school-wide enrichment program at Daly School was filled with exciting units this year. I worked with all classes at some point during the school year. Topics included “Solids, Liquids, and Gases”, “Observing Our World – Up Close”, “Math Olympiads Problem Solving Strategies”, “Logic and Critical Thinking”, “Multiple Intelligences and the Brain”, and the “Mystery Festival”, a crime scene investigation for primary children. It is a wonderful opportunity to work closely with my colleagues and get to know all of the children in Daly School.

Kindergarten children completed a six week observation unit. We read books by Tana Hoban, which inspired us to look at things much more closely! Students were able to use magnifying glasses and microscopes to complete a variety of observations. They also had the opportunity to use our new “digital microscope” called a

Pro Scope and see the SMART Board in action. Kindergarten students did a great job in their PEP sessions! They were unbelievable scientists!

First grade classes completed an exciting science unit on Solids, Liquids, and Gases. They investigated this topic by completing a wide variety of activities in the PEP room and their own classroom as well. From videos to hands on activities, students were able to gain a better understanding of many new concepts and have fun while learning! They were also able to use the SMART board, by participating in interactive lessons. It was a great experience for all of our first graders!

Second graders just completed a six week crime scene investigation entitled, Who Borrowed Mr. Bear? With my guidance, as the PEP Forensic Lab director, students gathered evidence to solve the crime that had taken place. Students first observed and took notes at the “crime scene”. Students then

completed a variety of experiments and hands-on tasks to gather and analyze the evidence found at the crime scene. Tasks involved using observation skills, fingerprinting, note taking, analyzing evidence, group discussions, and the writing of their own crime investigation report. This has proved to be one of the favorite units for primary students!

Third graders visited the PEP room for several weeks and completed a wide variety of critical thinking tasks. From Silly Milly which tapped their visual and verbal skills, Pico Fermi Bagel which boggled the mind, Transformations which allowed students to use their originality and flexible thinking skills, to visual activities which focused on visual and perceptual skills.....the third grade had a great time with this enrichment unit! Each week introduced a different “thinking” type of activity!

Fourth graders developed strong math problem solving skills during a six week unit introducing the “Math Olympiads” program. I worked with each fourth grade class, once a week, on a variety of math activities and previous issues of the Math Olympiads contests. Math strategies were examined and students were encouraged to share their critical thinking skills in group discussions. It was great to see students gain a better understanding of math and develop self confidence in this content area. Many interested students continued to tackle the 2008-09 Math Olympiads monthly contests during the school year. This offered them a great opportunity to prepare for the contests that they will be doing in fifth grade! The five students with the highest scores participated in the Nassau County Math Olympiads Tournament at SUNY Old Westbury!

All fifth grade students partici-

On Friday May 1, 2009 five teams from the Port Washington elementary schools participated in **The Nassau County Olympiad Math Tournament** which was held at SUNY Old Westbury. A total of 43 schools across the island participated with teams comprised of 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Each of our elementary schools sent a team of the five top scoring 4th or 5th grade students from their respective buildings. Elementary PEP teachers served as chaperones and facilitators for the tournament.

The Nassau Olympiad Math Tournament consisted of both an individual event and a team event. During the individual event, every student was given ten problems to solve in thirty minutes. During the team event, students were able to work collaboratively to solve ten additional problems in a twenty minute time period. Our team worked collaboratively to accomplish their goals and were exemplar representatives of Daly School. Congratulations to the students (pictured above) who participated this year: Carolyn Blumberg, Bari Cohen, Jeremy Ettlinger, Matthew Kam, and Heidi Yeh.



pated in a unit called "Multiple Intelligences and the Brain". This is a very interesting unit of study, filled with a number of great activities. Students were able to better understand their unique qualities and learn more about their classmates, as well. As part of our study, students learned about Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. They include: logical/mathematical, verbal/linguistic, visual/spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalistic, musical/rhythmic, and existential. Students completed surveys to learn more about their strengths and interests and made their own Multiple Intelligence "artwork" (on an outline of the brain) highlighting their strengths. In the computer lab, students used the results from their individual survey to develop a "circle graph" showing the percent of each of the intelligences.

After studying Multiple Intelligences, we studied the human brain. Students completed a number of activities to better understand the parts and

functions of the brain. They watched a video which reinforced many of the concepts and also learned about their right and left hemispheres. The students were given the opportunity to read and explore the Kids Discover ~ Brain magazine, complete several hand-on activities, and discuss how to keep our brains healthy. The fifth graders really enjoyed this new unit of study!

Ms. Bresnick – Students in Ms. Bresnick's class completed a unit on Rocks and Minerals. This was a multi-disciplinary unit which included activities in math, language, science, and social studies. Students completed a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. They were able to view video segments and do virtual computer lab activities. Needless to say, it was a great unit!

Challenge Workshops

One hundred thirty students in grades 3 and 4 signed up for Challenge Workshops this year. Each workshop

lasted for six weeks and took place at lunch/recess time.

A wide variety of topics were explored this year, including Games Galore, Act Out, Computer Cartooning, Mystery Science, Buy it Now, Micro Mania, The Thrill of 3D, and Digital Photography! Students love coming to the PEP room for these workshops!

The Daly PEP room is definitely a busy and exciting place for our students to visit and learn! I love working with the Daly students and look forward to another wonderful school year in September! Please encourage your child to visit the Daly Web Site from home. It offers many educational sites for students and also allows them to look back on some of the curriculum they learned this year. I will leave all web pages online throughout the summer months . . . until we begin the new school year!

Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and happy summer!

Dr. Virgilio

What's Cooking?

Here's your update from Daly's Nutrition Committee

Greetings Daly Parents:

June is here and another year at Daly has flown by! It was a wonderful year for the Nutrition Committee. Nutrition Week was both informative and fun for all. The monthly tastings provided our children a chance to see how some menu items may be different from what they are used to and could still be delicious! We are grateful to all of the parents that have helped in various ways throughout the year, thanks to all of you!

Our Snack Wrap program was a huge success and we believe at every grade level, it gave the children an understanding of how they could help someone like themselves, who may need our generosity. Making those deliveries to our local food

bank was quite rewarding for us as well. Thank you for staying on top of your kids and remembering to send in those extra snacks!

As a finale to the Snack Wrap program, Daly students will be treated to an assembly on June 12th by Mr. Syd Mandelbaum, the creator of the Rock and Wrap It Up Program, (www.rockandwrapitup.org), of which the Snack Wrap is an offshoot. From what we hear, his assemblies are thought provoking, informative, and help to remind our children how fortunate they are and how important it is to spread that around. We look forward to meeting Mr. Mandelbaum and listening to what he has to say.

Please contact Lilie Charno at lcharno@optonline.net if you are in-



terested in becoming more involved with the Nutrition Committee next year.

We hope everyone has a healthy, happy and fun-filled summer!

Shelley Maddaloni
Lilie Charno
Daly Nutrition Committee

A Note from Sandy...

Dear Daly Families,

Another school year is coming to an end. For some of you, this is your final year here at Daly School and I will miss you. Good luck next year in Jr. High. Come back for a visit, I'd love to hear how you are doing. For the rest of you returning students and parents, I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and I'll look forward to seeing you in September.

I'd like to thank Principal Ajello and the HSA for assisting me in my duties as crossing guard. Keeping you all safe is the most important thing to me, and with the help of the aids, parents and the children, next year will go smoothly.

Thanks again and have a safe and happy summer!

—Sandy G.



The Spring Concert at Daly May 27, 2009

