

DALY NEWS

AN HSA PUBLICATION FOR JOHN J. DALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JUNE, 2010



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A Letter from the Principal...

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the last issue of the Daly News for 2009/2010. The word "last" is becoming a very familiar word to me as we get closer to the end of the school year.

It was another year of exciting learning and wonderful activities. Our school theme "Daly Goes Global" took us in many different directions.

- *The video conferencing equipment donated by the HSA brought the world to our doorstep. We have been to Italy, Australia, Costa Rica, England, NASA and classrooms across the United States.*

- *Our music program this year emphasized the variety of languages spoken around the world.*

- *Specials Week Night had different classrooms equipped with games people play around the world.*

- *Our Cultural Arts Committee scoured the country to bring us cultural experiences and arts to entertain our students.*



I need to thank many people for the success of this past year. Parents are the backbone 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:

HSA Co-Presidents Beth Lipset and Denise DePalma who led a strong support team of parents. The fundraisers they organized helped bring stronger cultural experiences and high performing shows and events to the students. Thank you to all the committee members in the HSA organization. Through your hard work and dedication, you have enriched the learning experience for all Daly students.

To the Compact Committee, thank you for the hours spent talking about academic achievement and how important it is that every child succeeds at Daly School. Thank you for raising the bar of success for each child and your successes of Family Reading Night and our Green Organizations in Port night. I am excited about the school theme for next year "Daly Takes Responsibility". There are so many possibilities related to that theme!!

Thank you to our Game Day volunteers. Every Wednesday from November through March, several parents give up two hours during the middle of the day to supervise indoor games in the All-Purpose Room during lunch time. The students look forward to these Wednesdays as a change of pace from the usual indoor activities during the cold months. A special thank you to Felice Schwartz who will be leaving Daly this year as her son moves to the Middle School. She has chaired this group from its inception. Her time and dedication made this an extremely successful program.

Once again, our school has looked beautiful this year. The art work displayed in the halls reminded one person of a museum. It is a gallery of superlative art work by our creative Daly Students. This display could not have happened without the dedication and hard work of our art teacher, Lisa Heath, and our Friends of the Arts parents.

Last but not least, my gratitude to the parents who got their children to school on time every day of the year. A heartfelt thank you for modeling to your child that Daly is an important place to be every school day.

This is my last Daly News parent letter. My seven years here as principal have been a happy, rewarding, fulfilling highlight of my life. I have always felt the support of parents and am grateful for all your best wishes as I begin another chapter of my life.

*Sincerely,
Elaine Ajello*

A Note from the HSA Co-Presidents...

Dear Daly Families,

It seems as though we were just welcoming everyone back from summer vacation and now, it is almost time again to say good bye to another school year. We are excited to see the Fifth Grade classes move on and are equally excited to welcome all the new kindergartners who will arrive in September. It will be a great time of change for both these groups as well as for all of us at Daly, as we prepare to say goodbye to Mrs. Ajello and welcome a new principal to Daly. But before we do that, it is time once again to thank all the parent volunteers who made the events of the last few months happen!

This year's theme of **Daly Goes Global** was celebrated during Specials Week in April. A big thank you goes to Sheryl Spring who put together a program that included international children's games that incorporated different cultures and traditions. She also invited an improvisational group (pictured, right) to show the children that communication takes many forms, across many cultures.

We got into the spirit of Earth Day with our **Daly Diggers Spring Plant Sale** on April 22. The day was beautiful as were the flowers, herbs and plants that were sold. Thanks to Trish Class and Mary Thompson and their team of volunteers for coordinating this annual fundraiser.

The Daly Social, held on April 30th, brought out many moms, dads and faculty to bid on class treasures and silent auction items as well as some fabulous raffles. It was a summer-like night at the Port Yacht Club and a great time was had by all! Many thanks to our dedicated and talented fundraising team, Nancy Haberman, Stefanie Hiller, Sue Jarman and Melissa Vissicchio, for pouring their hearts and souls into Daly's biggest fundraiser of the year!

May was an equally busy month at Daly, but we were still able to fit in many traditional events. **Project ACES**, which is held the first Wednesday of May, was once again a beautiful day for All Children Exercising Simultaneously.

The next day was the well-attended **Staff Appreciation Luncheon**. April Furst and Susan Edelblum along with their guest chefs and volunteers put together a wonderful menu and showed the Daly Staff how much they are loved. Thank you April and Susan for putting together a wonderful event year after year!

The Compact Committee **Go-Green Expo** on May 13th showed all of Port Washington how committed Daly is to the environment. Thank you to all the Compact Committee Members for such a wonderful event. **Visitors' Day** has become a tradition with parents, grandparents, and neighbors having a peek into our children's day at Daly. Thank you to Caron Genzano and Maria Kangadis for



coordinating such a wonderful morning.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to help support the budget. Whether you helped pass out flyers, spoke to neighbors about the importance of voting for the budget or just voted, we want to thank you for helping make a difference in our children's continued educational growth.

At the May HSA Meeting, we voted in the 2010-2011 **Executive Board**. They are: Denise DePalma and Lilie Charno – Co-Presidents; Melissa Vissicchio – Vice President; Beth Lipset – Past President; Talia Senders – Treasurer; Lauren Rotko and Randi Schor – Class Parent Vice Presidents; Brynn Klein – Recording Secretary; Helene Glassman – Corresponding Secretary; Stefanie Hiller, Sue Jarman, AnnMarie Bullaro and Katie

Weinstein – Fundraising Vice Presidents; Hillary Fox and JoAnn Sica – Fifth Grade Representatives.

June started off with another Cultural Arts event, the **Darrah Carr Dance Group** and finished the year with the performance **Bing! Bang! Boom!** by the Ethos Percussion Group. Thank-you to our Cultural Arts Chairs: Michele Posner, Kiran Saraon, and Leslie Granger along with their committee, for their year-long efforts in bringing wonderfully diverse cultural arts events to the students at Daly.

Daly's own talented performers charmed audiences during both the **Beginners Concert** (June 3) and the **Spring Concert** (June 10). I know you all share in our gratitude to Dr. Addeo,

Mrs. Field and Mr. Prindle for teaching our children the gift of music! Music continued to be an unofficial theme for June when the Fifth Graders took a trip to NYC as part of their moving-up celebration to see *The Lion King* on June 16th. A great time was had by all and we would like to thank Fifth Grade Representatives Hillary Fox and Lori Rothberg for all their efforts which will culminate with the **Moving Up Ceremony and Graduation Party** on June 23rd.

Port Washington Community spirit was evident at the **Long Island Ducks** June 13th baseball game, where all the elementary schools purchased a block of tickets and helped root for the home team.

A summer night at Daly is never complete without the annual **Carnival**, held on June 17th. This fun-filled evening could not have happened without Lori Currier and Nichole Guzello and their team of volunteers! Thank you for helping make this annual event something to look forward to.

The Compact Committee brought us another unique event in the form of a **Pow-Wow** held on June 18th, celebrating both the harvest of our **Organic Garden** and the diversity of the Long Island Native American population.

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Thank you to all the dedicated Chairs and their teams of volunteers that work throughout the year to make Daly the special place it is: With over 50 committees, the list of thank you's could easily fill each and every page of this issue of the Daly News. In the tradition of this year's theme of going global, we would like to issue a "global" thank you to each of you. We may not be listing you individually by name here but we recognize and applaud your individual efforts in creating a family spirit at Daly.

This letter would not be complete without a "formal" goodbye to Mrs.

Ajello. It is impossible to condense into this last paragraph how deeply we will all miss her smiling face welcoming us back to Daly in September. How can we express how grateful we are to her, for selflessly giving her time and talents to the children and parents of Daly, for the last seven years? She has always had great expectations of our children. And in doing so, they have risen to the occasion. She has led Daly into new avenues of learning, whether it was through her embrace of technology or her commitment to the environment. She is leaving Daly School poised to reach new heights and we join her in welcoming the new principal, Drew Graves, to do just that.

We wish for her a retirement filled with new experiences and a peace that we hope can be found in her memories of Daly.

On a last note, 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. Through your generosity we have been able to give so much more to the children of Daly.

We wish you a safe, happy summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Beth Lipset and Denise DePalma
Daly HSA-Co-Presidents

We will miss you, Mrs. Ajello! Thank you for all you've done!



STOP Riding Without A Helmet!

It was a beautiful sunny day at Daly Elementary School. Fourth and Fifth grade classes were ushered one at a time by Principal Elaine Ajello to the upper black top basketball court for a first ever bike safety and skill building workshop during school hours ran by Officer Tony Guzzello of the Port Washington Police Department with the assistance of Jon Pappas from PW Cyclery and parent volunteers.

Officer Tony started by asking the students to raise their hand if they ride without a helmet? Teachers and parent volunteers were shocked to see half the class raise their hands! Officer Tony seized the opportunity to instill a critical safety message stating, "I receive the calls when a child falls off their bike with a helmet and I receive the calls when a child falls off their bike without a helmet...It is the kids without the helmet that we have to turn on the flashing lights and race to the hospital as we deal with life threatening head injuries." To further his point, Officer Tony strapped his \$300 blackberry into a bike safety helmet and proceeded to throw it to the ground. "Not a scratch," he stated. "Please promise me that you will strap your brains in the same way."

The safety workshop covered bike safety rules including: ride with traffic, following traffic signs and proper footwear (no flip flops!). Once students reviewed these rules they each strapped on their helmet and rode through a course designed to perfect turning, breaking and balance. Principal Elaine Ajello explained, "there is a growing population of students and families expressing interest and enthusiasm about bike riding, both for pleasure and a means of transportation. Bike riding is very sensitive to the environment and has tremendous health benefits, giving youngsters a sense of confidence, independence and responsibility. At Daly, we want to nurture this emerging trend, while ensuring that we instill life-long safety habits."

Three motivating factors led Daly Elementary School to focus on bike safety this year. First, Daly wanted to show support and gratitude to Dr. Geoffrey Gordon, The Port Washington School

Board, resident Bob Weitzner and the Town of North Hempstead for working together on the Safe Routes To School grant that will create safer routes for biking and walking for all of our elementary and upper school children. Second, a fourth grade Daly student, Spencer Bleifeld created a booth at the Daly Science Fair challenging Daly to a, "Ride Your Bike To School Day," showing the benefits to the environment and personal health. Finally, when Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington was granted the Nassau County Pilot for creating a more Vibrant Downtown Port Washington, bike routes were introduced as part of that process. Principal Ajello stated, "part of the challenge these students face is the engineering, we desperately need to provide these children with safer conditions for walking and cycling - clearly there is demand."

Officer Tony added, "in past years we have organized bike rodeos over the weekend and we realized that we were not reaching enough children. By providing the bikes, helmets and instruction during school hours we connected with every fourth and fifth grade student. Some knew how to ride a bike and some did not. With the help of Jon Pappas from PW Cyclery, were able to help each child through the course regardless of their ability. What made me so proud was that the students cheered every student on - and the cheers were all encouraging and motivating. There was no laughing or jeering. We are raising citizens."

As part of this bike safety awareness effort, Daly and the Green Committee's of Salem, Sousa and Manorhaven are selling bike safety helmets at a very reduced cost to make them accessible to all. The helmets are Viking Blue and have



Pictured clockwise from top left: Mr. Stravinos demonstrating the bike course for his class, Officer Tony testing a student's helmet, Mrs. Effman's class says "STOP" riding without a helmet

a logo that says "Port Rides." This program was made possible by local resident Bobby Oppenheim, of Triple8, creator of the "BrainSaver Helmet."

While it won't happen this year, the Daly Green Committee and Ride Your Bike To School Committee will keep working with elected officials and the Port Washington Police Department with the goal of creating a staging area in 2011 for interested Daly students to safely ride their bikes to school.

So the next time a child or parent questions the value of a science project, think of Spencer Bleifeld. All it takes is a good idea and a community willing to make it happen.

Be Bright, Eat Right! Eating Smart at Daly!

As the 2009-2010 school year comes to a close, the nutrition committee must pay special thanks to all the students. Their participation was nothing less than enthusiastic during **Nutrition Week** and monthly **Sample Days**. These new non-menu food items gave the students the opportunity to taste new recipes and give the committee their valuable feedback. As a result, we were able to create new menu items which were healthy and delicious and add new choice selections to the menu that the students want to eat. One of our most popular samples was the Penne Pasta Salad. This cold salad was served during Nutrition Week and was a "Thumbs Up" favorite. Students asked for extra tastings and were interested in how to make it. The Pasta Salad can be served as an entrée or a compliment to any meal.... It is even great at summer BBQs. We have included the recipe for you try at home. Also, a special thanks to our parent volunteers who helped serve. Your support has helped make this year a success.

DISTRICT NEWS.....

COMING SOON!!!! The District is working with an online service to bring a secure prepayment system to the school lunch program. Parents can say goodbye to sending cash and checks to the school cafeteria. By creating a secure online account, parents can manage their student's lunch money easily and conveniently. Here are some of features: Parents can....

- view a 7 day history of student purchases.
- receive email notification when their student's account balance is low.
- receive email notification prior to credit card expiration.
- select "meals only" and/or "ala carte" meals for their students.
- set daily and weekly spending limits for their students.
- fund multiple students at the same time.

In addition, there is also a new service called "Smart Pay". Smart Pay allows parents to set their account to automatically replenish when the balance gets low. It is EZPASS for the school lunch program! We hope you find this service a convenience. The District will be sending additional details later this summer.

We would like to wish you a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!

The Nutrition Committee,
Danielle Lieblein and Ann Marie Bullaro

TIP OF THE MONTH

Drink water. It is always important that you get enough water in your diet. Water helps to make all of your bodily functions work properly. It helps with the digestion of any of the other foods that you take in. Drinking water helps to keep your energy levels up. It's particularly important in the summer since it is so warm outside. Your hair and skin can easily dry out in the summer but this problem is prevented (at least in part) when you drink enough water.

Drink the minimum of eight glasses of water per day.

Try to get in other forms of water as well.



Penne Pasta Salad

(Serves 8)

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 2 Tablespoon fresh minced parsley
- 1 can (28oz) tomatoes, diced, drained
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 16 oz penne pasta
- 4 Tablespoon fresh shredded basil
- 2 Tablespoons fresh Balsamic or red wine vinegar
- 1/2 Teaspoon each salt and pepper

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and cook one minute until soft but not brown. Add parsley and tomatoes. Add salt and pepper. Cook for 3 minutes until flavors are combined. Remove from heat and let cool. Add vinegar, toss and refrigerate for 2 hours.*

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse under cold water to discontinue further cooking. Toss with marinated tomato mixture. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Before serving, correction seasoning if needed, add fresh basil and toss.

*if using fresh tomatoes, you may skip this step and combine first four ingredients with vinegar and refrigerate until needed.

PEP Mock United Nations Summit

The fifth grade PEP core groups from Daly and Manorhaven Schools worked collaboratively to present the first PEP Mock United Nations Summit to parents and guests on Friday, May 7, 2010. The summit, held in the Daly All Purpose Room, was a huge success!

PEP teachers Mrs. Kimberley Singh, from Manorhaven, and Dr. Irene Virgilio, from Daly, worked closely together to develop this "Global/Cultural Studies" academic unit of study. Students researched various cultures around the world and compared them to their lives in Port Washington. They began their studies by reading and discussing the books; *Hungry Planet*, *Material World*, and *If The World Were a Village*. Several group discussions and hands-on activities were used to develop a greater understanding of the lives and needs of children around the world.

The students then researched the United Nations' Millennium Goals 2015. Through a variety of online websites, teacher-developed research activities, and current events, students will be able to experience an in-depth study of three specific countries; Haiti, India, and Mali. Students were then able to choose whether to participate in the summit as an Ambassador of one of these countries or as a member of the Executive Council. Using the Millennium Goals 2015 as a guide, all students researched and learned about the primary concerns and needs of each of these countries. They focused on four specific goals; eradicating hunger and poverty, primary education, child mortality, and environmental sustainability.

Our students were able to work closely with each other by participating in collaborative work sessions at each school and also via five different video-conferencing sessions. This unique experience was a terrific way to integrate technology into an already exciting unit of study. Students continued their interest in helping children in these countries by collecting money for Heifer International. We are so very proud of our students' accomplishments during this exciting unit.





Mrs. Elaine Ajello with Jack Lieblein, Grace and Christo Freitas at Main Street Clean Up Day

**John J. Daly Library
Birthday Book Collection**

Commemorate your child's birthday.

Teach the importance of giving.

Give the joy of reading to our Daly Students.

Thank you to the following students for donating books to the Birthday Book Collection at the Daly Library in the past few months:

- Isabella Argyros
- Caroline Filorimo
- Samantha Fried
- Abigail Garfin
- Nicole Guarino
- Madeline Hiller
- Amber Kakkar
- Arthur Kapinos
- Braiden Lipset
- Ali Martinez
- Carley Schor
- Jack Siegel
- Myles Siskind
- Anna Watson

For more information or to donate a book, please email Randi Schor at schor@optonline.net.

Incoming 5th Graders: There's still time to sign up for Bus Buddies! E-mail Mindy Tashlik at mtashlik@optonline.net to register by June 30th, and help welcome our new Kindergarteners this fall!

PORT GOES GREEN

Science Fair Expo



On May 13, 2010, the Compact Committee at Daly teamed up with Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington to host a first of its kind educational and community pride event, PORT GOES GREEN Science Fair Expo.



The Ride Your Bike to School Day has been canceled for this year.



Mrs. Corbisiero's 4th grade class put on an amazing performance for Visitors Day on May 14th entitled Coming To America. Parents and Grandparents were able to see the story of immigrants coming to America through Ellis Island.