

Sullivan West BULLDOG BULLETIN

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From Dr. Hackett...

FAMILY AND FUTURE

Our opening of the 2016-2017 school year included the introduction of some of the members of the Class of 2034. There were 11 babies in attendance bright and early on that Tuesday morning and of course their moms and dads.

I love the first day of school. Each year, I look forward to the delight on the faces of the children as they enter the school buildings.

I started my 5th year at SW this fall. It seems hard to believe it's been 5 years. How time flies when you are having an amazing time. Needless to say, I find my extended family is the community at Sullivan West.

Your family isn't something you can chose, it is chosen for you. The pre-determination

factor aside, families have their ups and downs, happy times and sad moments, accomplishments and disappointments. It is the same in our SW family.

We are all gathered in this district to share in the education of all of our students. Some of these children will flourish instantly, some need a little encouragement and others require more assistance. We will, as a family, work together to inspire and vitalize.

It is not an easy task, but the faculty and staff at Sullivan West is ready and able to nurture, enrich and excite your children about their future.

When researching family, I found this quote, "Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one." Even with an unknown author, the notion is genuine.

Reading this newsletter, you will see our branches and our roots. Come visit at our campuses to see education at its finest.

Welcome to the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy M. Hackett

CALENDAR INFORMATION

IMPORTANT CALENDAR CHANGES:

CHANGE IN SCHEDULED 2-HOUR DELAY

At the Sullivan West Board of Education meeting held on August 25, 2016 the Board changed the date of our first scheduled 2-hour delay from October 19th to October 26th. Please mark your calendars with this change.

WINTER BREAK ON DISTRICT CALENDAR

An error was discovered on our SW District Calendar that was mailed to our families. Winter Break begins on Friday, December 23, 2016 **NOT** Thursday, December 22, 2016 as reflected on the calendar. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

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FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Who was your child's first teacher? Many parents may respond with the name of their child's kindergarten or preschool teacher. The answer is actually YOU! Family involvement plays a huge and important role in early literacy development and the benefits are overwhelming. Involvement with reading activities at home has significant positive influences in both primary and secondary education. The earlier parents become involved with their child's literacy development ensure more profound results and a longer-lasting impact.

Benefits include:

- Language and emergent literacy skills
- Language acquisition
- Increased comprehension
- Expressive language skills
- Increased reading enjoyment

Similarly, opportunities to use mathematics in the home abound; patterns appear in our linens, upholstery, and clothing. Our schedule depends on telling time, and of course, there's always the topic of money! Allow your children to see that you've created an environment that makes math seem pretty special and interesting—let them see you enjoying activities that use math (measuring for a carpentry project, or using a fraction in cooking, for example). Be ready to talk with your children about mathematics and to listen to what they are saying. Even when you yourself may struggle with a part of problem solving, asking a child to explain the meaning of each part of the problem will probably be enough to find a strategy they were taught. Be more concerned with the process of doing mathematics rather than a particular correct answer. The answer to any particular problem has very little importance, but knowing how to find the answer is a lifetime skill.

Here are some ways to become more involved:

- Read to children of all ages everyday
- Write notes to each other
- Create a grocery list
- Make a recipe together
- Read/write letters
- Play a board game and read the instructions
- Let your children watch you reading and enjoying a good book
- Complete crossword puzzles or a word search puzzles
- Look for math patterns in art, music, nature, dance, fabrics.
- Point out the shapes you see surrounding your home.
- Make games of counting everyday objects (toys, beans, pebbles).
- Use estimation—guess how many steps across the street, of about how much time an errand will take.
- Ask how they figured out a problem.
- Most importantly just have fun together!

Children whose parents are involved not only succeed academically, but also socially and emotionally. The next time you're asked who your child's first, and most important, teacher was, state your name!

Key Strategies For Family Involvement In Your Child's Music Education

The following strategies are ways to involve the whole family in supporting your child's education in the area of music:

- For students in grades PK-3: Encourage your child to perform songs that they have learned in class for you at home several times a week. Ask them to teach you the songs that they sing in school.
- Take your child to concerts and theater events to expand their experiences in music.
- Ask your child to sing, or play on their instrument, songs that they are learning in Chorus and Band for you. Show them how much you care about their progress.
- Offer your child praise for all of their accomplishments; whether they learned a new note, mastered a new technique or song, or performed for you with a better sound. (Even sounds that are not pleasing to your ear are progress for the beginner band student!)
- Encourage your child to listen and watch videos of classroom songs that they are learning. Have them show you what their instrument may sound like if they continue to study.
- Post a video of your child performing on Facebook for your friends and family.
- Set a consistent daily practice schedule for 10 minutes a day, and give your child a place to practice where they will not be disturbed.

If you use these seven key strategies for involvement in the development of your child's musical education, you will notice significant improvement in your child's progress.

OUR SPECIAL FAMILY

What is a school? There are many meanings for the word "school," but one word that should ideally come to mind is "FAMILY." A basic definition of "family" reads as follows: "a group of people held together by bonds of love and affection." Here at Sullivan West Elementary, we are a special kind of school family.

Our Pre-Kindergarten teachers start off the school year with home visits to each family. This gives each child the opportunity to be introduced to his/her new teacher in the comfort and familiarity of home. The children are very excited to show off their toys and rooms, and some even want to go right to school that day to begin learning.

Our Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade recognize the importance of a strong family connection. They welcome volunteers to assist in their classrooms during class or special projects, to accompany them on trips, and to celebrate their children's accomplishments.

Our school family is emphasized in grades three and four. They begin the school year reading many books relating to character education. As they discuss these books, the teachers encourage the students to look out and protect each other. By following the "golden rule" often discussed in these books, the school family will be a very happy family. The third graders also study communities around the world, comparing and



contrasting USA families with families in other countries. The fourth grade teachers encourage their parents to become actively involved in their child's education by helping them study and inspiring them to read.

Our fifth and sixth graders are introduced to a number of important life skills with the help of Lynn Baron from the Recovery Center. She teaches the students how to cope with anger and stress. As our oldest students grow, new obstacles will be faced by each and every one of them. They learn the importance of taking time to breath.

Our teachers work closely together to ensure that each student feels like a special member of our school family. Although the students only spend one year with their teacher, the bond that they create often lasts for years to come.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Adrianna Florke, Danny Mulero, Julia Nelson, and Cameron Sullivan initiated a request to meet Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther while working on letters for entry to a Scholastic

News writing contest during English Language Arts class. When they read, "Call Me, Join my Email List, Come Meet with Me!" they told their teacher that they wanted to meet her because she wanted to meet them. Little did their teacher know that later that evening when she off-handedly mentioned what happened in class that day, the group would be invited to the Capitol Building to meet Assemblywoman Gunther. The extraordinary visit took place on May 24, 2016. They were treated like dignitaries and received a private tour of the Capitol Building by Mr. Tom Gatto, Assemblywoman Gunther's Legislative Aide. They were then granted access to the Legislative Chamber during a working session. When they entered, Assemblywoman Gunther was busy voting on bills. However, she graciously split her time between voting and personally speaking with them about how government works.

After that trip, the group created a PowerPoint about their trip. Danny Mulero and Cameron Sullivan presented the PowerPoint to the Sullivan West Board of Education at the June meeting. In addition, they self-published a book about their trip. If you would like to view it, Dr. Hackett has a copy in her office which the students are sure she will share.

THE SULLIVAN WEST CONNECTION!

Rod McLaughlin, Elementary Principal

I joined the Sullivan West family in 1998 when I became the Principal of the former Jeffersonville Elementary School of the J-Y School District. My wife, Keri, and I have 5 children who have always loved being part of the SW family by going to school with me and taking part in various activities like Fun Day and/or Trout Release Day. When I was principal of the HS, my children especially loved attending sporting events, Color Wars and the Talent Shows where many great memories were made and are still recalled fondly. The decision-making in my role as principal has always been made easy by thinking like a dad and remembering this simple question: "If this was my child, what would I want done?"

Mark Plescia, High School Principal

My ties to Sullivan County begin with my wife's family, and compared to others, relatively new. My wife's father moved to the Liberty area 35 years ago. When she and I would visit we would feel "at home" in the country. The surrounding areas have so much to offer both in physical beauty, activities and culture. As our family was growing we decided to leave northern NJ, finding a home in Grahamsville. After a decade of working in two districts, an opportunity presented itself to apply for a position at SWHS. As with any new possibility, my family and I drove around the district. As we visited the downtown areas and returned to the river where our family took our first camping trip, it was evident that the Sullivan West community was special.

I was blessed with being offered a position in the district and began working as SWHS Principal in July 2015. Not long after, both my son and daughter enrolled in the SWCSD. Shortly thereafter, we placed our house in Grahamsville on the market and began to look for our home in the SW district. As our roots begin to be planted in the SW community, I look forward to watching my kids grow at school and within the community.

Kevin Carbone, Assistant Elementary Principal

My parents ran a butcher shop/grocery store in Lake Huntington in the late 70s. During that time my mother worked for Sullivan BOCES where she made friends with people who lived around her. The bonds my parents forged were strong enough to endure when they moved down to Orange County before I was born. I regularly visited Lake Huntington as a kid and attended Firehouse BBQs while my parents caught up with their friends. Once I was old enough, I hunted with my dad up here and was a member in a few different hunting clubs. This area has always been like a second home to me and I am honored and privileged to be working with these great communities.

Maxine Evans, 5th Grade Teacher

I am a native of Jeffersonville and attended the former Jeffersonville-Youngsville Central School. As a teacher here at Sullivan West, I am on my second generation of students, having had many parents, aunts, and uncles, as former students. Some of my former students are even my coworkers. It is wonderful to see them in the hallways knowing I had a small part in their success.

Vicky VanFradenburgh, 5th Grade Teacher

Recently I ran into someone that works in Newburgh, and he remembered me and said how I had helped him through a tough time when he had no family. Each year, I think of my class as a family since we are together all year long.

Meg Armstrong, 4th Grade Teacher

I joined the former JYCS family in 1986, when my new husband and I relocated to Sullivan County for his job. Coming from Staten Island, the small, close-knit community I found at JYCS was simultaneously strange and comforting. Throughout my 31 years in the district, I have seen many changes: new buildings, our merge into Sullivan West, new teachers, new curricula, and



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so much more. The characteristic that has been constant, however, is the sense of family. That sense of family was strengthened as I brought my children, Jessica, class of 2007, and Justin, class of 2009, to school with me, created long-lasting friendships with co-workers, parents, and even former students, and became involved in nearly every aspect of our school system. As I begin my last year before retirement, I know that the Sullivan West family will forever be a part of my heart.

Suzanne Andrews, Science Teacher

My mother (Mary Louise Napoliello) graduated from the Jeff-Youngville school in 1960. She met my father (Lee), who was from Lovell, Maine, when he came to Jeff to visit his mother, Rachel Sturdivant, a 6th grade teacher at Jeff. I went to kindergarten in the building across the street from the Lions Field. We moved when I was 6 to Dannemora because my dad, a corrections officer, had been transferred from Woodbourne. I still came back to Jeffersonville to visit my grandmother (Dolly Schwartz Napoliello) and spend the summers. My best friend in kindergarten, Janet Redington, and I wrote letters back and forth when I was back home in Dannemora and when I would come visit we would hang out. When she got married I was a bridesmaid in her wedding. I met my first husband, Walter Mall, in that wedding as he was the usher with whom I was paired. We married in 1983 and I moved here. Our son, Caleb Mall, graduated from Sullivan West in 2006.



Kathy Tampone, 3rd Grade Teacher

I grew up in Youngsville. My brother, Mike, sister, Cheryl and I graduated from J-Y.C.S. I returned to JYCS at the start of my teaching career 26 years ago and continue to teach third grade at Sullivan West Elementary. I married Michael Tampone Jr., a graduate of Narrowsburg Central School. Our son, Ryan, graduated from Sullivan West in 2013. I enjoyed having my son attend the same school I went to as a child and loved seeing him every day in elementary school.

Kathleen Lowe, 1st Grade Teacher

I was born and raised in Jeffersonville, along with my siblings (including Sullivan West employees Kelly Erlwein and Mike McKeen), and attended JYCS from K-12th grade. I also met my husband, Mike Lowe, while attending this high school and later returned to teach in the very same district where I was raised! My older children, Meghan and Ryan Lowe, are graduates of Sullivan West, and my younger son, Jason Lowe, is currently a student at the Sullivan West High School. I have been teaching first grade for over 20 years, and I am proud to belong to the Sullivan West community.

Sandy Ahnstrom, 1st Grade Teacher

My husband and I both grew up in the Jeffersonville area. We met at the babysitters as very young children, never imagining that one day we would be married. We are 1997 & 1998 graduates of JYCS. We found our way to each other after graduating high school and now have 2 beautiful children who will attend Sullivan West.

Elizabeth Huggler, Chief Technology Officer

In 1945 my dad, John Egan, came to Youngsville, NY, from Dunmore, PA, with his wife Jean and three young children, to cover a maternity leave in the Youngsville school's English department. They went on to raise eight children, all of whom attended Youngsville and then the JYCS merged district. John retired from JYCS in 1972. My mom, Jean, has been attending school and sports events for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for close to 80 years. I returned to the area with my children in the early 80s rejoining the JYCS community as a mother and substitute teacher. When I received my degree in '95, I became a member of the staff here. I guess you could say my family lived through two district mergers.

Sue Mullally, AIS Math Teacher

I graduated from Delaware Valley, was an aide and substitute in Narrowsburg, and then was hired as a 2nd grade teacher in Jeffersonville. This was a dream come true, since my husband Brian (a JYCS graduate) was the technology teacher and my four children were attending school and later graduated from JYCS/Sullivan West. My sister-in law, Joanne, and I were hired the same summer. It was wonderful to see everyone throughout the day, along with my nieces and nephew... there are lots of Mullallys! My mother-in-law, Winnie Mullally, was also a long time history teacher in the school. My husband's father and uncles helped to build the beautiful 1938 building on the Jeffersonville campus. I am truly blessed to work at Sullivan West; I get to work with some of my former teachers, classmates, family members and colleagues, and many students whose families I have known for years. Having attended DVCS and working in Narrowsburg and Jeffersonville makes "Sullivan West" feel like home.

Michele Krentz, Music Teacher

I grew up in Orange County, NY, but relocated to this area to be closer to the community in which I worked. Originally hired at the former JYCS in 1991, both of my children, Julius (Class of 2015) and Michael (Class of 2020) are proud members of the Sullivan West CSD. I was so lucky to be able to go to my job every day and be with my children, secure in knowing they are getting the best education a family could ask for. There were even some cases where my children were in my classes. How's that for closeness?

Catherine Lunn-Dickey, English Teacher

When I was finishing my undergraduate work, my husband and I visited some friends in the area. It reminded me of a town I used to visit in the summers with my grandparents. When we saw the house we now own, we decided to investigate buying it. We bought the house, and I finished up my degree at New Paltz commuting daily from Jeffersonville. I student taught in Jeff-Youngsville where my daughter was in kindergarten. When I finished student teaching, my cooperating teacher, Carol Kehrley, asked me to substitute for her during the last week before Christmas vacation so the students would have consistency during her absence. While on Christmas vacation, a part-time English teacher, Dorothy Hartz, resigned and I was asked if I would like her part-time position. It was like it was providence to go from student teaching to teaching in a matter of weeks. The next year, a full-time position opened up and I was offered



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that job. My daughter attended Jeff-Youngsville, and graduated from Sullivan West in 2011, and I will be here until I retire. I have loved living and working in this community, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to teach the children of my friends and neighbors.

JoAnn Mullally, Elementary Technology Teacher

My family came to Jeffersonville in 2001 because I was hired as the technology teacher at the JY campus. My husband's family has lived in Jeffersonville for generations and has a long history with the school. My mother-in-law Winnie was a teacher for 30 years in this district, my brother-in-law Brian taught technology in the high school and my sister-in-law Sue Mullally, who was hired the same year as me, teaches AIS in the elementary. My son Connor started that year in Kindergarten and graduated in 2014. My son Michael is a junior at the high school and keeps us busy attending football games and track meets. When a job opened in the high school several years ago, my sister Debbie Molusky filled the position and now we're lucky to have both sides of the family nearby!

Karen Waldman, Teacher Aide

My parents, Jack and Doris Costello, moved from Long Island to Jeffersonville in 1995. My husband and I moved from Long Island to Texas in 2009, and when we decided to come back home in 2011, we brought our family here to Jeffersonville as well. That year Samantha entered kindergarten and Zack entered 4th grade. I joined them at Sullivan West a year later. I now have a 5th grader and a 9th grader, and I'm so grateful to be so close every day, so grateful to be a part of their school community.

Deb Molusky-HS Secretary.

We're all from New York, right. Then why do my Student Council kids say I have an accent? Especially with the word "barn." They crack up when I say that word! Originally from Utica in Upstate New York, I moved to the area after marrying into the Molusky family ten years ago. The Molusky family

is from the Callicoon area and my husband's mother graduated from our district many moons ago. My husband's three children are graduates of the DV School and two have stayed locally – Jeff is an assistant principal at BOCES and Brad is a health/PE teacher in Liberty. My sister, JoAnn Mullally, technology teacher at the elementary school, told me about an opening at the high school (she and her husband also introduced me to my husband – floating down the Delaware was our first date!) - and I was fortunate enough to get a job at the high school and continue with my already almost 20 years in the NYS school system.

Casey Ross, Teacher Aide

I am a graduate from the Delaware Valley Central School, Class of 1999. I started working for the district in September 2000. I have had the opportunity to work with many of my fellow classmates' children throughout the years. When I was in first grade, I had Mr. Lance Brodmerkel as my teacher. Now we have the joy of being co-workers.

Darlene Bingham, Teacher Aide

I started with the Delaware Valley district 29 years ago. My daughter, Danita, graduated from that building in 1999. I love working with children and our wonderful "family" at Sullivan West. I have been a resident of the district my entire life.

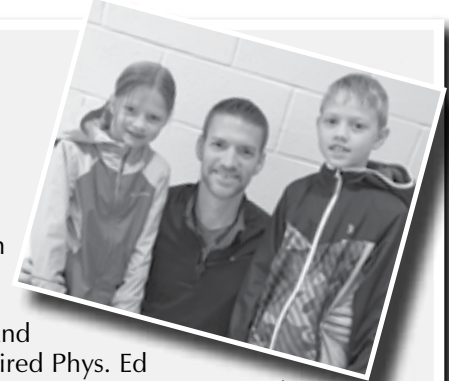
Jackie Peters, School Secretary

I was hired full time in 2002 at Delaware Valley Central School. Before this time I subbed for a couple of years. At that time I had two girls in high school. Danielle was a senior and Michelle was a junior. Danielle went into the air force after graduating and is now an RN at Cedar Sinai in Beverly Hills CA. Michelle is an RN in Rochester at RGH. My husband and I also have a dairy farm. I have always loved my job in which ever building I have worked (both high school, junior high and elementary). The best part of my job is the children. I look forward to seeing them each day.



THREE GENERATIONS OF SCARDINOS HERE IN SULLIVAN WEST

You probably don't have to travel far within the walls of SW before you run into a Scardino. Tom Scardino started his teaching career in DV back in 2000. Today you can find him in the high school teaching Technology courses to 7th through 12th graders. Georgina Scardino started working at DV back in the mid 1990's as a Teacher's Aide. Today you can find her working at the high school in that same capacity. The offspring of Tom and Georgina, their children, Scott, Sara, and April, all alumni of SW, are also employed in the district. Scott Scardino is the newly hired Phys. Ed teacher at the elementary school. Scott's children, Aiden and Carly, are students at SW. Aiden is currently in 3rd grade and Carly is a 2nd grader.



Sara Scardino has just been hired as an aide in the elementary school. Sara's son, Cole, is a first grader at the elementary school. Youngest daughter, April Scardino, is employed as a substitute teacher at both the high school and elementary school campuses. She also can be found playing the piano as an accompanist for some of the SW concerts. So far that makes five Scardinos working and teaching at SW – a pretty impressive family legacy. Who knows, with that kind of dedication to education, we may see the next generation of Scardinos working at SW one day!



DISTRICT NEWS

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Kevin Carbone, Elementary Assistant Principal

After spending the last 14 years teaching science to 7th and 8th graders, as well as advanced biology, in the Middletown School District, Kevin Carbone is excited to be joining the Sullivan West family as our new assistant principal. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Mount Saint Mary's College. Mr. Carbone continued his studies at New York Institute of Technology, receiving a Master of Science in Instructional Technology. He acquired his Advanced Certificate from Long Island University.

When Mr. Carbone is not busy at work, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Carri, who he met while teaching in the Middletown School District, and their children, Casey and Andrew. They all enjoy fishing and cheering on our New York Yankees and New York Jets.

Scott Scardino, Elementary Physical Education Teacher

Scott Scardino, a Delaware Valley Central School graduate, has joined our elementary physical education department. He earned both his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and his Master's degree in Community Health at the State University College at Cortland. Prior to joining the Sullivan West staff full time, Scott worked part-time at St. Peter's School in Liberty, at Sullivan West as a physical education teacher, and at BOCES as a physical education and health teacher for grades 7-12.

In his spare time, Scott enjoys spending time with his wife, Kristen, and children, Aiden and Carly, biking, running, and rafting. Scott is very excited to be a member of the Sullivan West Central School family.

Bethany Adams, Special Education Teacher

Our Special Education department welcomes Bethany Adams. She will be working with the 5th and 6th graders at the elementary school. Bethany received her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education and Elementary Education from Kutztown University. She continued her education at Drexel University receiving a Master of Science degree in Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum. For the past 3 years, Bethany worked as a Special Education teacher at the Center for Discovery. She is looking forward to helping the students at Sullivan West be the best they can be.

In her spare time, Bethany and her husband, David, enjoy spending time at the lake on their boat with their children, Delilah and Eva. She also loves her two English Bulldogs, Lola and Sherm.

Judy Hendrickson, Special Education Teacher

The Special Education department at the Sullivan West Elementary School is also happy to welcome their new colleague, Judy Hendrickson, who is working with a group of very eager 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Union College. Judy continued her education at Mercy College, receiving a Master of Science in Childhood and Students with Disabilities.

For the past twelve years, Judy has worked as a Special Education teacher within the New York City Public Schools. She is very happy to join our family and has found everyone to be very helpful, kind, and courteous.

In her spare time, Judy enjoys spending time with her husband, James and their children, Jeremiah and Jamie, and taking care of their saltwater fish tank. She also likes to paint and draw.

Gina Sullivan, Special Education Teacher

Gina Sullivan also joins our Special Education department working with a group of 1st and 2nd graders in our Management Attention Program. Prior to joining our staff, Gina worked as a special education teacher at the Center for Discovery and Sullivan County BOCES. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Empire State in Psychology and continued her education at Grand Canyon University, earning dual Master of Science degrees in Students with Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

In her spare time, Gina enjoys spending time with her husband, Jake, and their children, Zoey and Jack. She also likes to read, walk, and search for great ideas on Pinterest. Gina is happy to be a part of our staff.

Amanda Mall, Elementary Guidance Counselor

Joining our staff as our School Counselor is Amanda Mall. She will provide our young learners with effective and developmentally appropriate tools for communicating, making decisions, and developing friendships and coping skills. Prior to joining Sullivan West, Amanda serviced children in Sullivan County for the past 11 years working for the Department of Community Services.

Amanda received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Human Services from Mount Saint Mary's College. She continued her education at SUNY Oneonta, receiving a Master of Science degree in Education with a concentration in school counseling, grades kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Amanda, her husband, Kurt, and their children, Emerson and Amelia, make their home in Jeffersonville. They enjoy spending time together with their dog, ZuZu and their cat, Stella. Amanda also enjoys shopping, taking photographs of her children, and reading. She is very excited to be a part of such a dedicated staff.

Michele Crasa, Teacher Aide

Michele Crasa joins our staff as a teacher aide in Mrs. Judy Hendrickson's classroom, but she is no stranger to Sullivan West. She has been a substitute for 10 years, and last year worked as a 3-hour aide helping out during lunch and recess and in our kindergarten classrooms.

In her spare time, Michele enjoys sitting by the pool with her husband, Dominick, and their children, Jackie, a 2014 SW graduate, and Nicholas. She is very happy to be a full time employee working with such a great group of people.



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Jessica Kinne, Teacher Aide

Jessica Kinne will be working with Mrs. Gina Sullivan as a teacher's aide in the Management Attention Program. She worked as a substitute at Sullivan West for the past 2 years. Jessica received an Associate's Degree in Elementary Education from Sullivan County Community College.

Jessica and her husband, Tim, enjoy spending time with their children, Carter and Allie. She likes to paint and shop, and also makes cakes for all occasions.

Jena Love, Art Teacher

Jena Love is our new art teacher at the high school. She grew up in NYC and went to college at SUNY New Paltz. She met her husband at New Paltz and soon after graduating they moved to Orlando, Florida. After the birth of their daughter, Indigo, they moved back to NYC. Mrs. Love taught at a NYC public school for one year, but they decided the city was not for them anymore. Ms. Love and her family recently bought a home in Liberty.

Regina Stabbert, Teacher Aide

Mrs. Stabbert, originally from Mineola, L.I., N.Y. moved to Sullivan County thirty years ago. She met her husband Fred Stabbert III at St. Bonaventure University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Fred is a graduate of the former Delaware Valley Central School. Regina and Fred have raised three children, all Sullivan West graduates: Laura (2007), Claire (2009), and Andrew (2015). Regina spent eight years working as a Substance Abuse Counselor, in an all-female Intensive Residential Treatment Center in Sullivan County prior

to becoming a substitute at Sullivan West, and now a full-time teacher's aide. Regina is looking forward to working with the Sullivan West School family.

Christina Zrake, School Psychologist

Our student service department welcomes Ms. Christina Zrake, our new School Psychologist. Christina received her undergrad degree in Psychology from CCNY, and completed her Masters at Queens College. She is originally from Long Island, and moved to Jeffersonville for the opportunity to work at the high school. She is from a town called Huntington Station, so she got a few laughs out of the fact that now she works in a town called Lake Huntington. Ms. Zrake has never lived this far away from the ocean, and is still fascinated by the sheer number of deer she sees on an average day. She likes to spend her time doing puzzles, making bracelets, and spending time with her family.

Krystal Herbert, Special Education Teacher

Krystal Herbert is our new Special Education life skills teacher. She has fourteen years of experience as a Special Ed teacher, having worked at The Center for Discovery, Monticello Central, and Tri-Valley Central School District. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and Elementary Education from The College of St. Rose and has a Master's Degree in Reading from SUNY Albany. Krystal has been married to her husband Shawn for 13 years and they have two sons, Lucas, age 10, and Owen, age 7. In her spare time, Krystal enjoys photography, scrapbooking, skiing, along with riding her motorcycle, and four-wheelers.



Michele Craser



Jessica Kinne



Regina Stabbert



Kevin Carbone



New Staff – L-R; Krystal Herbert; Amanda Mall; Bethany Adams; Jena Love; Judy Hendrickson; Scott Scardino; Christina Zrake and Gina Sullivan



High School News

ALUMNI DAY-BRINGING STUDENTS BACK HOME FOR A VISIT!

On January 4th, the halls of Sullivan West will be filled with alumni from the Class of 2014. These graduates of Sullivan West have transitioned to life beyond high school and are actively pursuing employment, college degrees, and/or a career in the U.S. Armed Forces. They are shining examples of the value of education and of what is possible for our students when the school, families, and community work together to



support our youth. Alumni Day was initiated many years ago by retired School Counselor, Mr. George Rose. It was well received by both students and staff and has remained a tradition since. Members of the class of two years prior to the current year are invited to return to Sullivan West for Alumni Day and recount their experiences since graduating high school. We try to recruit a diverse group of students including those pursuing college degrees in various fields, those who have entered the work force, and others who might have joined the military or who are in vocational/trade programs. These alumni access all of our juniors and seniors and hold open forums in which our students can learn about the challenges of earning a living or surviving college life, and the demands that accompany life as a young adult.

Alumni who attended last year (see above photo) reported that they felt well prepared for their current endeavors. Most wished that they could return to Sullivan West and enjoy the relatively carefree days of high school. They cited that the most beneficial merits of our high school included an incredibly caring staff and rigorous course offerings. They urged younger students to take challenging courses and to heed advice from teachers and counselors. Current students who attended the presentations reported that they were inspired by our graduates and that they had a better awareness of choices available to them after graduation. In an ever-changing world that is always evolving and requiring diverse skills, it is imperative that our students receive current advice and feedback regarding expectations after high school. We hope that Alumni Day will foster partnerships that will allow our students – both past and present – opportunities to learn and flourish.

Have You Heard the Saying, “Always a Bridesmaid”?

This November the WSUT & SRP will once again be sponsoring a fall play. Under the direction of Mr. Bill Moloney, six Sullivan West staffers will return to the stage in the comedy *Always a Bridesmaid*. Our “bridesmaids” include veteran performers Catherine Dickey, Nicole Farrell, Cheryl Graham, Bethany Hamilton, Sheri Meyer, and Christina O’Sullivan. This show is a hilariously funny story of four friends who have sworn to keep the promise they made on the night of their

Senior Prom: to be in each other’s weddings...no matter what! More than thirty years later, these Southern friends-for-life are still making “the long walk” for each other, determined to honor that vow. If you’ve ever elbowed a stranger out of the way to catch a bride’s bouquet, if you’ve ever seriously questioned the mental stability of the duo saying “I do” or if you’ve ever been forced to wear the world’s ugliest bridesmaid dress, you will love this play.

Three performances are scheduled to take place in the Sullivan West High School auditorium in Lake Huntington, NY, on November 4 - 6. The curtain will rise on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door – students \$5, adults \$10 and senior citizens free. All proceeds will benefit the WSUT & SRP scholarship fund. The WSUT & SRP scholarship foundation awards an average of \$8,000 in scholarships to approximately 50% of the applicant pool in any given year. This past year, twenty-three members of the senior class applied, and four \$1,000 scholarships and eight \$500 scholarships were awarded. Were it not for the dedicated commitment from the SW Union members, who kindly volunteer their time, skill, and money, this generous scholarship program could not be sustained. Please support their efforts by joining us for a few hours of hysterical laughter as these bridesmaids struggle to stage the perfect wedding in spite of fistfights at the altar, runaway brides and the mistaken, and unfortunate release of a flock of white doves on the first day of hunting season.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. ELLMAUER!!

Michael Ellmayer, HS science teacher, was one of 32 teachers nationwide chosen to complete a food science training program developed and implemented in a partnership between the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and Graduate School USA. The one-week program for middle and high school science teachers, as well as family and consumer science and health education teachers, took place in Washington this summer. The goal of the program is to educate teachers and students about critical food safety issues such as foodborne illnesses by exploring the science behind them. The program arms teachers with a unique topic and curriculum with which to teach science. In addition,



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participants learned about nutrition, food allergies, cosmetics safety and color additives from FDA experts. The teachers also received nutrition education material to help teach their students how to use the Nutrition Facts label to make better food choices. Mr. Ellmauer will be teaching a Culinary Chemistry class second semester.

SUCCESSFUL CLUB SIGN-UP DAYS

Sullivan West High School has a variety of clubs students can join – and we recently held club sign-up days in the cafeteria foyer. Club advisors and current members displayed their year-



ly activities and club descriptions on poster board and encouraged students to join in on the fun this year. Clubs include: art, French, game, gardening, HS Student Council, musical production (the play), SADD, school book store, science, ski, Spanish, video and yearbook.

National Honor Society is an organization in which students are invited based on certain criteria. Clubs for 7th and 8th graders only include: Odyssey of the Mind, JH student council and robotics. It's not too late to sign up for a club – encourage your children to join at least one club!

CLASS OFFICERS

Serving as class officer is a privilege and a responsibility. Mr. Plescia will be meeting with all class officers and Student Council officers monthly for an open forum on communicat-



ing with students how we can make our school better. This year, class officers are as follows: **Class of 2017** (Seniors) – President, Ayden Gann; Vice President, Kevin Puerschner; Secretary, Farrah Flynn; Treasurer, Jackson Haberli and Board of Education Member, Leah Jacobson. **Class of 2018** (Juniors) – President, AJ Lumalcuri; Vice President,



Jordan Kubenik; Secretary, McKinley Bernitt and Treasurer, Alex Unser. **Class of 2019** (Sophomores) - President, Joseph



Joyce-Turner; Vice President, Kayla Schock; Secretary, Allison Unser and Treasurer, Sydney Hermann. **Class of 2020**



(Freshmen)
- President, Maggie Herbert; Co-Vice Presidents, Ryan Kocher and Nikita Parikh; Secretary, Maggie Russell and

Treasurer, Brooke Kloss.

Homecoming – Week of October 11-15

Please join us for a week of celebrating our senior athletes and their families – football, cheerleading, soccer, cross-country and volleyball. Parent recognition nights at games will be held at the high school as follows: Thursday, October 13th - Varsity Girls Soccer vs Florida, 7:00 pm under the lights, Friday, October 14th, Varsity Girls Volleyball vs



Florida, 5:30 pm in the gym and Varsity Boys Soccer vs Tri-Valley, 7:00 pm under the lights. In addition, the 7th and 8th graders will have a dance in the cafeteria from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. On Saturday, October 15th, come to the annual Powder Puff game at 4:00 pm on the football field. It will be junior girls against senior girls playing flag football. Let's see who has the bragging rights this year! Later that evening starts the Varsity Football Homecoming events (vs Tri-Valley) with senior players and parent recognition of cross-country boys, cheerleaders and football players taking place at 6:15 pm. The Red

Dogs football team will hold the banner for the players to run through before the game. During half-time the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen will take place after the cheerleading routine. Don't eat before you come – the Class of 2017 has their almost-famous walking tacos, hot dogs and other goodies. Come and support our student athletes!



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Cheerleading Seniors



Girl's Soccer Seniors



Girl's Volleyball Seniors



Cross-Country Seniors



Boy's Soccer Seniors



Football Seniors



Homecoming 2016



High School News

PTSO ACTIVITY NIGHT

Students in grades 9-12 – come to the PTSO's annual high school activity night on Friday, October 28th, 2:30-8:00 pm. All students in 9-12 are invited to play games and eat FREE FOOD. This date was selected as it should coincide with the end of most fall sports.



HS STUDENT COUNCIL – CLOTHING DRIVE

Do you have any clothes, quilts, soft baby toys, bikes, shoes, drapes, handbags – anything fabric – that you would like to get rid of? Please consider the HS fall clothing drive. Bring your items to the high school collection bin located at the visitors' circle in front of the building. We would like to thank the Kratz family for donating a storage unit to hold our bags until our November 10th collection date. We would also like



to thank the Russell family for the past three years of space in their barn. Check out the school's website for a complete list of items collected.

ROBOTICS CLASS

Mr. Billard's 6th period Robotics Class is learning to fly – a drone, that is. His class can frequently be seen outside flying the drone on the high school property. You might have won-

dered what that light in the sky was at a recent football game – no, not an alien ship – it was the drone taking a picture of the



game. Each student experiences how to control a drone with Global Positioning System (GPS) and gyros. These two systems aid in flight control. After several flights and using GPS and the gyros, students are very comfortable with its operation. To reinforce the understanding of flight control students build small quad copters using the 3D printer and build the electronics for the controller and receiver. During this time students use Baseflight software to program the small drones. This process helps students understand what an autonomous control system is all about.

COME TO THE CABARET!

The Sullivan West Senior High Choir will be presenting its Annual Cabaret Fundraiser – *Lullaby of Broadway*, on Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00 pm in the Sullivan West High School Cafeteria, Lake Huntington. The choir will be performing as well as a number of chorus students singing in various solos, duets and small ensembles. Music will include popular songs from Broadway shows both old and new. The choir is under the direction of Mr. Jerry Hoch with Mr. Dom Daurio as accompanist. Desserts and snacks will be provided. A donation of \$5, which goes to support the Senior High Choral program, is welcomed and appreciated. Come out for a fun evening of great music. For more information contact the Sullivan West High School at 932-8401 x-1273.

Sullivan West

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Mr. Plescia • High School Principal.....932-8401, Ext. 1101

Mr. Franskevicz • Athletic Director.....932-8401, Ext. 1284

First Student Busing • Transportation Questions..... 482-4448

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If you wish to contact the school, please feel free to do so.

Our newsletter is available on-line at: www.swcsd.org

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A LOOK @ SWCSD

