

DateBook

JANUARY

- 2 Recess
- 10 Parent Mtg for Drama Club Production, 6:30PM, Room 117
- 11 Winter II Sports Mtg, 3:15PM, Gym
- 12 Accelerated Program Meeting, 6:30PM, Auditorium
- 16 Recess - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 17 Winter II Sports (Begin), 3:15PM, Gym
- 18 HSA Meeting, 8:45AM, Library
- 18 6th Gr. Winter Art Reception, 7:00PM, Lobby



FEBRUARY

- 2 SEPTA/SHS Meeting, 7PM
- 6 2ND Quarter Report Cards Mailed
- 7 6TH Grade Math Olympiad
- 8 7TH and 8TH Grade Math Olympiad
- 8 SEPTA Meeting, 7:00PM
- 10-12 Weber Drama Production, Fri/Sat 7:30PM, Sun 3PM
- 14 The Mayhem Poets Perform for 7TH grade, 12:10PM
- 20-24 Winter Recess

MARCH

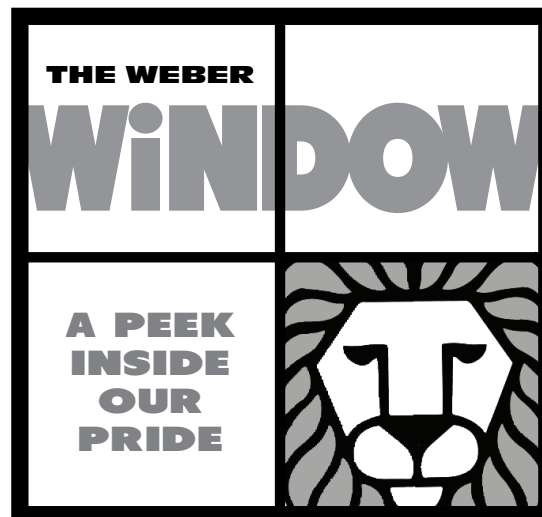
- 2 Regional Science Olympiads set up, 11:30PM
- 3 Regional Science Olympiads
- 6 6TH Grade Math Olympiad
- 7 7TH and 8TH Grade Math Olympiad
- 9 Weber Social, H on the Harbor, 7:30PM
- 14 HSA Meeting, 8:30AM Weber Curriculum Conversations
- 16 Six Mix, 7:30PM
- 21 8TH Grade Party Planning Meeting, Library
- 21 Spring Sports Meeting, 3:30PM
- 26 Set Up for Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 26 Spring Sports Begin
- 27 Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 28 SEPTA Meeting 7:00PM



8th Grade Parents: Never Too Soon to Talk About Fun!

Although we are only midway through the year, graduation from Weber will be here before you know it and the 8th grade party planning is underway! We're counting on the entire class of 404 students to celebrate together one more time on June 21st from 6-9pm. The site is Dave n' Busters in Westbury and plans are in the works for a fun evening of bowling, video games, karaoke singing, photos and more. Tickets to the event will include roundtrip bus transportation, games and food. The HSA is committed to providing tickets for students who might not otherwise be able to attend. We hope EVERY student will come. We are still seeking volunteers to help with the send-off celebration of the class of 2012! There will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 21st at 7:30pm in the Weber Library for all parents interested in helping with the event. More information about the event will be coming soon!

8th Grade Promotion Party Chairs
Kathi Sanft sanft@optonline.net
Debbie Harari dh24north@gmail.com
Cathy Adelhardt adelhardt@otponline.net



Weber HSA
52 Campus Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050

SAVE THE DATE
weber social
3/9/12

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you to all who have joined the Weber HSA and for all who have offered your time as volunteers; your support is invaluable. It is your funding and involvement that allows us to promote the welfare of our children and strengthen the home-school connection. All members should have received their directories; for those who have not yet joined, it's never too late. Membership forms can be found at www.weberhsa.org.

Times continue to be difficult all around; many families in our community are struggling. We are heartened by the generosity of the Weber families that contributed to our Thanksgiving, Holiday Gift, and Coat Drives. Thank you to the Outreach Committee for all their hard work: Chairs Debbie Harari, and Marlo Spilko and their committee members as well as Weber's Guidance Counselors, and Parents' Council Co-Presidents, Linda Weil and Emily Beys.

Thank you as well to the large numbers of parents who have attended our HSA meetings throughout the Fall. Attendees learned about a broad range of topics including the roles of the

Assistant Principals and Guidance Counselors and how their departments work with all students. At our October meeting,

Dr. Susan Bartell addressed Middle School Changes with "Practical Tips for how Active Parenting leads to Successful Kids". Our most recent guest speaker Danielle Betz, M.S., explored strategies to assist your child in developing organization and study skills. Thank you to all our guest speakers for their relevant and informative remarks; we are thrilled they were so well received by our audiences.

As we look forward to 2012, there will be many more opportunities for you to get involved. **Be sure to save Friday, March 9th at 7:30pm for our Social Night.** It promises to be a fantastic fundraiser at H on the Harbor.

The Social Committee, led by Vicki Scotto, has been hard at work for months already – it's an event you won't want to miss!

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to continuing to work closely with all our Weber families. Together, we can provide our children every opportunity to succeed.

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Next HSA Meeting January 12, 8:45AM **Winter 2012**



**STAY CONNECTED
THROUGH OUR
website**
www.weberhsa.org

Mariann Dalimonte
Mary Alice Kohs
WEBER HSA CO-PRESIDENTS

From The Front Office



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year!

Recently, I read an article from the Harvard Mental Health Letter entitled **In Praise of Gratitude**. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for both tangible and intangible gifts; expressing gratitude allows people to acknowledge the goodness in their lives. As a

cised more and had fewer outburst of anger. As a family, why not consider writing and personally delivering a letter of gratitude to someone who has done something nice to you or your family and encourage your children to focus on all the reasons they have to be grateful.

Years ago, when I first began facilitating parenting groups, I encouraged parents to **write a note of gratitude** to each one of their children highlighting their unique qualities and sharing how each child positively impacted their life. This activity brought such a positive response from each child to his/her parent that I encourage you to do the same. Take a few minutes to also write a letter of thanks to your spouse or significant other. I have found that placing these letters in your children's room or in a lunch box or in a spouse's briefcase, can really impact the day, week and month during which the letter is found.

As you begin this new year, take a few minutes each week to reflect on all the joys in your life and help your children to do the same.

Just a reminder, our charity of the year is the Interfaith Nutritional Network (INN). You can go to their website at www.THE-INN.org and see the list of specially-needed items, which changes weekly. If you are interested in serving a meal in one of the nineteen soup kitchens run by the INN, please contact me and I will be happy to be able to work with you on this volunteering opportunity.

Sincerely,

Marilyn M. Rodahan
PRINCIPAL



save the date
March 9, 2012 7:30pm
H on the Harbor

The Weber HSA
2012 Social Night
Fundraiser

Book Your Babysitters, dust off those dance shoes, it's time to get social!

Friends, fun and festivities await! This must-not-miss event is more than just a fantastic evening out at one of Port Washington's hottest night spots, the Social Night is the only major fundraiser of the school year.

Every dollar netted supports wonderful student programming including Cultural Arts events, school trip scholarships and supplies for enrichment programs. The event also funds the Student Directory and the parent newsletter, the Weber Window, and allows the HSA to **Gift Back to Weber** major purchases such as SmartBoards.

Formal invitations will arrive late January but for now, please save the date, rally your friends and join us.

See you on the dance floor!

You can help with the success of the event! We are always in need of donations for ticket/auction items including: sporting event tickets, concert tickets, jewelry, memorabilia, decorative arts, golf outings, show tickets, hotel stays, etc. No item is too big or too small.

Student Happenings



I have never let this disease stop me from doing anything.

Wow! 8th Grader Ashley Randall
Raises Over \$10,000 for Juvenile Diabetes

A diagnosis of Type I diabetes at age nine hasn't stopped Weber eighth grader Ashley Randall from being a multi-sport athlete. Ashley plays soccer, lacrosse and volleyball and recently took on another athletic challenge: cycling 42 miles in the JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes.

Ashley raised over \$10,000 from family, friends and neighbors before flying with her father Bill for the famous El Tour de Tucson race in Tucson, AZ. "I have never let this disease stop me from doing anything," said Ashley. "Participating in the ride was an opportunity for me to help find a cure."

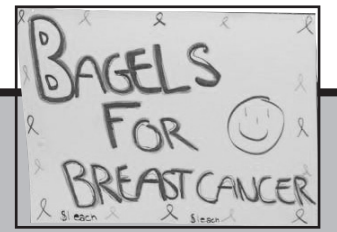
Ashley calls her initial diagnosis scary and overwhelming. "Over the last 4 years I have learned to live with all of the highs and lows, checking my sugar levels, and taking multiple shots daily," said Ashley.

"Type I diabetes is something I live with every minute of every day," she added.

Thanks to Ashley and the dollars she raised, better treatments and a cure may eventually be found. For more information on JDRF and how you can help, visit their web site at www.jdrf.org.



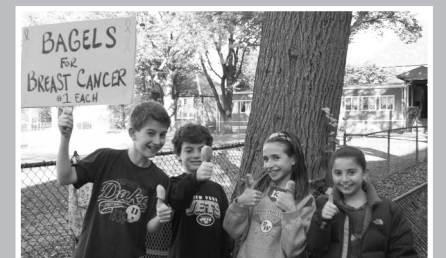
Ashley ↑



think pink!

Bagels for Breast Cancer

Pink bagels were the breakfast-du-jour at Weber on November 2nd. Student bagel lovers bought 420 pink bagels, netting \$350 for the Young Survival Coalition. The bagels were custom-made for Weber in the shape of the signature pink breast cancer ribbon by Sea Cliff Bagels. Congratulations to Jackie Popper, Debbie Levine, Susie Sollinger and Meryl Levine and all their student helpers for this delicious and creative fundraiser.



Cultural Arts



November

The entire eighth grade viewed an assembly program featuring **Ernie Sites**, a ranch-raised cowboy from Idaho who combines traditional and original Western singing/songwriting, yodeling, cowboy poetry, storytelling, and trick roping demonstrations. Sites' performance was part of a five-day writing residency with the eighth grade that supported the integrated English and Social Studies unit "Western Perspectives."

All Weber students enjoyed a musical performance featuring two top college a-cappella groups: **The Columbia University Kingsmen** (all male) and **The NYU N'Harmonics** (co-ed). The groups' accomplished renditions of traditional, rock and pop standards, including a "beatbox" demonstration, showcased a multiplicity of musical styles, while the performers themselves, with their variety of backgrounds and majors, served as role models. This performance was Weber's portion of the annual "District Show," a major arts programming initiative for all K-12 students planned by the district creative arts committee led by Director Sheri Suzann and HSA/PTA representatives.

The Weber Cultural Arts Committee's next event is the highly anticipated return visit by **The Mayhem Poets**, who will perform for the seventh grade on **Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 12:10pm**, and conduct a workshop for a smaller group of students immediately following. The Mayhem Poets are a spoken word troupe that combines elements of poetry, hip hop, theatre, improv and stand up comedy with the mission of changing young peoples lives and reshaping society's view of poetry.

CO-CHAIRS

Pam O'Connell pamo@optonline.net

Lee Anne Vetrone-Timothy eventmakr@aol.com

Linda Nutter ljnutter@aol.com



Parents invited to all performances! Please come to The Mayhem Poets, 2/14/12 @ 12:10pm



PWEF Grants in Action

Mr. Holzer (Blue 8/Social Studies) received a PWEF grant this year for Smart Response Clickers, an evaluation system which utilizes a hand-held clicker. Students use the clicker to immediately respond during class. The clickers enable Mr. Holzer to gauge, in real time, how students comprehend the lesson being taught. Directly after class, he is able to evaluate all responses and switch gears for the next lesson, if need be, to make sure all points reach his students.

For more information log onto www.PWEF.org. Grant applications will be available online in January 2012.



Welcome to Weber!



TECHNOLOGY

Daniel Ciccone

Weber's newest technology teacher is a former pilot who brings work experience to the classroom. Mr. Ciccone, who grew up in Long Island and comes from an entire family of teachers, "loves problem solving." He hopes to teach his students how to think deductively and problem solve "as people had to do "BG" (Before Google). Mr. Ciccone notes, "when you are flying, you have to solve problems for yourself, you have no choice but to think on your feet." To teach these skills Mr. Ciccone creates projects where teams of 4 students are assigned to build a prototype and students are assigned to be either Team Leader, Construction Manager, Engineer or Chief Financial Officer. The team is held accountable, as they would be in real life for the cost of materials as well as the design and construction of the model. Projects are evaluated, not only by how effective the design is, but on how well the team collaborated and used their creativity. Mr. Ciccone is married to a teacher and the couple is looking forward to their first baby in the spring of 2012!



TECHNOLOGY

Thomas Stepanek

A student teacher at Weber last year, Mr. Stepanek came back as full faculty this year and also brings life experience to the job. When he is not teaching technology at Weber he is a lieutenant and training officer in the firehouse where he volunteers. From the classroom to the firehouse Mr. Stepanek trains his pupils to use tools and equipment, to be safe and to think "out of the box" when creating their projects. "It's a different kind of class ... there are many ways to build a project and solve the problem. They have the opportunity to create in tech class," says Mr. Stepanek. "Students will put into action the things that they learn in this classroom." Mr. Stepanek's enthusiasm for technology stems from his own high school tech' teacher, who, he says, "opened my eyes to many things." This teacher became a mentor and encouraged "Step", as he is referred to by his students, to major in Technology Education at SUNY in Oswego. Now colleagues, Step remains in touch with his former teacher to this day. Step says he fell in love with teaching technology to middle schoolers because of the enthusiasm they bring to the classroom.



ENGLISH TEACHER

Elizabeth Hutchinson

Elizabeth Hutchinson, Ms. Hutch to the kids, rejoins the Weber staff after a three-year hiatus. We are so pleased she is back! A favorite English teacher with 13 years experience teaching in the Port schools, she enjoys team teaching. This year, she is paired with Mr. Bass. Says Ms. Hutchinson, "Mr. Bass and I work well together and strive to provide challenging and exciting activities for our students both in Core and Core Extension classes."

In addition to teaching, she is a seasoned coach. Impressively, Ms. Hutch has coached more than 40 teams over the years in field hockey, basketball, lacrosse and softball. An avid athlete herself, she played college-level basketball and lacrosse. She has also completed 4 NYC Marathons and hopes to run another next year!

Adding to her list of accomplishments, recently, Ms. Hutchinson completely renovated and remodeled a family home... "down to the studs"... a tougher job than she'd anticipated... she noted that she "may never try that again!" We shall see!

Ms. Hutchinson graduated from SUNY Oneonta ('89) and received a Masters in Education from LIU CW Post ('92).

Fall Sports

Weber dominates Nassau cross country carnival

On October 22nd, a beautiful Fall day, 17 schools participated in a two mile race as part of the Nassau County Junior High Cross Country Carnival. Under Coach David O'Connor, the Weber boys team dominated the event taking 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th place out of the 180 boys who raced. The Weber girls team came in 2nd place overall. The cross-country carnival is the biggest meet of the season, where each team competes against other school teams within the county. The Weber boys team finished the season with an undefeated record. Bravo to all runners!



"This was a banner season!"

Coach O'Connor

Coach Shackel Still Active Despite Retirement



After 38 years of teaching 7th grade English, while simultaneously coaching a variety of middle and high school sports, Stephen Shackel "officially" retired last June. But as the lucky students of Weber know, Mr. Shackel continues to both teach and inspire

as a substitute teacher and the basketball coach extraordinaire for the 8th grade boys.

Widely-admired, Mr. Shackel is described by his students and athletes as a kind, sympathetic, and humble man. A former student calls him "the best English teacher ever."

Mr. Shackel not only motivates his students to put their best foot forward, in the classroom or on the court, he also teaches the importance of stepping back and laughing at life and at oneself. A sharp wit and good humored sarcasm are his hallmarks: he makes learning fun and develops a relationship of mutual respect with each of his students.

Mr. Shackel also focuses on teaching his students life lessons. "The middle school years are three very

difficult years for students who experience both tremendous emotional and physical changes."

A lifelong Port Washington resident, Mr. Shackel is extremely passionate about our community and its children. His adult children still live in Port, and he is enjoying watching his five granddaughters grow up here.

Did You Know?

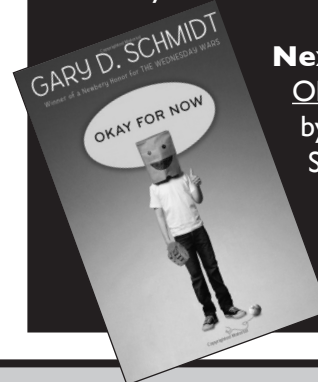
- He coached an AAU team that traveled to Ireland, playing against the Irish National Team.
- He's coached Schreiber's JV Girl's Basketball and Boy's Varsity Basketball, and Sousa and Weber Middle School's Boy's Basketball and Girl's Softball.
- He has overseen the PW Adult Education Basketball Program for the last 39 years.

New!

Weber Book Club

Gotta bookworm? This is a new club at Weber advised by Librarian, Kate Herz. Club meets once a month (usually Tuesdays, 7:30am in the Library) to choose and discuss a variety of books: fantasy, adventure, sci-fi, historical fiction and more. Multiple copies of each title are provided by the PW Public Library. Students are responsible for getting and reading it before each meeting date. Questions? See Ms. Herz in the Library.

Next Meeting Wednesday, January, 11th, 7:30am in the Library.



Next Book
Okay for Now
by Gary D. Schmidt

(2011 National Book Award finalist!)

Save The Date February 10, 11 and 12 (matinee)

A 70-plus student cast and a 20-person student stage and musical crew will be bringing **Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** - a rock opera by musical virtuoso Andrew Lloyd Weber - to our stage. It's country, meets rock-n-roll meets disco.



They Came. They Danced. They Donated.



A good time was had by all at this year's first Six Mix Dance on Friday, October 21st! Nearly 270 sixth graders attended, coming together for a fun evening with classmates while **raising \$800 for the Weber HSA.**

Our students also did their part for those less fortunate by filling eight large bags with non-perishable food items and toiletries. The items were donated to The INN and the food pantry at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

Event co-Chairs Lee Anne Vetrone-Timothy and Marilu Cummings wish to thank all parent volunteers who helped... from designing tickets and flyers, purchasing snacks and water, selling tickets at school, on-site check-in, first aid, photography and security to organizing/delivering the charitable donations.

Save the Date for the spring Six Mix on Friday, March 16th.



**next
spring 6mix
3/16/12**

• Both of his daughters were high school and college basketball players, who made the "Hall of Fame" at Schreiber and Oneonta. Both followed in their father's footsteps, becoming teachers and coaches.

• He has led a number of fundraising initiatives, including playing donkey basketball and playing against luminaries including the Yankees, Mets, WFAN radio celebrities and the Harlem Wizards.

• **Win with class, lose with dignity** has always been his motto. **Learning to win the respect of officials, coaches and opponents by the way you play and act is more important than winning the game,** said Mr. Shackel. **If you love what you do, your work is your play,** he concluded.