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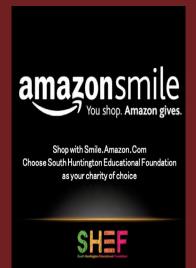
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October 21, 2020

Food for Thought

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"You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Superintendent's Corner

At last week's Board of Education meeting, the trustees voted to have us work towards returning all elementary children to classes in a full-time, in-person model. The discussions included a review of our survey results, which indicated that 71.6% of our elementary parents favored switching from hybrid to full, in-person instruction with the complementary 28.4% preferring to have their children remain in hybrid sections. Additionally, 84.5% of families indicated they would send their children to school if the district replaced the hybrid model with in-person instruction, with the other 15.5% noting they would go remote in that case. The Board entered into a robust debate before directing us to devise a plan for gradual reintroduction of K-5 students. The next steps, which will take place this week, require us to ask parents for a declination, so we can determine exactly what types of numbers we are dealing with in the classrooms, buses, etc. Our task, at this point, is to get the full numbers (via this week's Parent Instructional Option Selection email) and then develop a re-entry plan that maintains masks and sneeze-guard barriers, while maximizing the social-distancing (which is looking to be approximately 4 feet, after we bring in full elementary grades). One of the primary goals (in addition to health and safety, which is paramount), is to preserve as much instructional continuity as possible. We realize the elementary teaching teams are being very well received, and we will be working to retain the strength of those partnerships, while simultaneously meeting the needs of our remote students and staff. As in the past, we will work to modify things and make accommodations for special health and safety concerns if and when they arise. In addition to in-person instruction, the remote option will be retained for families who are not comfortable with face-to-face classes.

News from Deputy Superintendent Dr. Joseph Centamore in the Curriculum Office

After careful consideration and deliberation, the district is preparing to transition K-5 elementary students from the hybrid/remote instructional option to full, in-person (at school each day, 5 days per week) and the full, remote option, provided adequate staffing is possible. The in-person transition would begin soon after the start of the new academic quarter on November 16th, when each school will roll out one grade per week, over a three-week period. Parents would still have the option of choosing to have their students participate in full, remote instruction.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and all of our families remains paramount. As we have communicated, the district has exceeded New York State reopening guidance in several key areas. They include the requirement





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that all students and staff wear masks (with scheduled breaks), the placement of sneeze guards on all student desks, as well as temperature scanners in each school. Extensive daily cleaning will continue to occur in all schools and buses. With these measures in place, students will now be moved closer from the current 6 feet of social distancing to no less than 4 feet. In-person class size is expected to double with an approximate range of 18-25 students. Class size will not exceed the allowable space in each classroom.

To foster instructional continuity, the district will be maintaining the teaching partners. In terms of teacher assignments, students remaining in a full, remote section would maintain their teachers. Students transitioning from hybrid to full, in-person would also maintain their teachers. However, if a student is changing either from full, remote instruction, or to it, then a change in teacher assignment will occur as those teachers are remaining with their classes.

With respect to transportation, social distancing and bus capacity (22-25) will remain consistent. There will continue to be one student per seat (unless there is a sibling) and masks worn at all times.

A link to the Parent Instructional Option Selection was emailed and is also posted on the district website. The district does need to receive a response from every elementary parent, even if your child is continuing to participate in full, remote learning. The coordination of this transition, especially for transportation, will take a few weeks, so we ask that you complete and submit your selections by Friday, October 23rd.

The transition schedule to full, in-person instruction will be as follows:

Monday, November 16th

Countrywood and Oakwood: Kindergarten Birchwood and Maplewood: Grade 3

Monday, November 23rd

Countrywood and Oakwood: Grade 1 Birchwood and Maplewood: Grade 4

Monday, November 30th

Countrywood and Oakwood: Grade 2 Birchwood and Maplewood: Grade 5

News from Assistant Superintendent for Business and District Operations Dr. Vito D'Elia

Our new Transportation Supervisor, Ms. Laura Brothers, became a Wildcat this week and is now on the job. Ms. Brothers, who has a long and successful career in transportation supervision, looks forward to becoming part of the South Huntington family, and fully understands the "customer service," which our district leadership team expects from its newest addition. My office will be working closely with Ms. Brothers, as we look to maintain the quality of services in the areas that have been most efficient, while simultaneously improving upon our procedures. We look forward to following Ms. Brother's efforts and truly believe that the best days are ahead for our transportation department.

Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for **Student Services April Poprilo**

As the holiday season approaches, we realize that there are families in our community who are struggling economically as a result of the worldwide pandemic. With that understood, we remind parents that they are not alone in this struggle as the South Huntington family stands with them in this time of unprecedented need. We also remind families who are in a more manageable situation that their generosity could go a long way in brightening the lives of others during this often difficult time. These individuals will be advertising various food, cloth-





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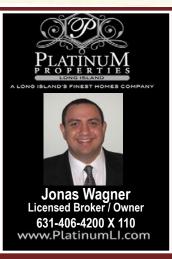
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ing, and toy drives as well as "giving trees" over these next several weeks.

In an effort to coordinate the collection of donations for families and/or distribute supplies to a family in need, please feel free to contact the building level social worker assigned to your child's school:

Oakwood Primary Center - Mr. Roberto Toledo, rtoledo@shfusd.org Countrywood Primary Center - Mrs. Jessica Esclanate-Rodriguez, iesclanterodriquez@shufsd.org

Birchwood Intermediate School - Mrs. Jennifer Provda, jprovda@shufsd.org Maplewood Intermediate School - Mrs. Jacqueline Carroll, jcarroll@shufsd.org Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center - Mr. Shaka Williams, swilliams@shufsd.org Stimson Middle School - Mr. Richard Garcia, rgarcia@shufsd.org Walt Whitman High School - Mr. Mark Graciani, mgraciani@shufsd.org; Mrs. Stacey Fletcher, sflectcher@shufsd.org; Mr. Roberto Torres, rtorres@shufsd.org

A very special thank you to the South Huntington Teacher Association (SHTA) membership for generously donating 100 supermarket gift cards at \$30 each to our families this year!!! On behalf of the Student Services Department, I want to convey our appreciation for their support and continued partnership with supporting our students and families.

If you are a local business or organization that can contribute to the holiday collection with gift cards or food, then please contact either Mrs. Stacey Fletcher, WWHS social worker, sfletcher@shufd.org or Mrs. Ventura Trent, District-wide social worker, vtrent@shfusd.org.

News from Dr. James Wright, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, Athletics & Recreation

This is a link to an article regarding one of our former students, Brittany Ferrante. Brittany directs the Junior Golf Program at the Village Club of Sands Point, and participated in a 200-hole marathon to help raise money for Babes Against Cancer. Congratulations Brittany on a job well done!

News from Mr. John Murphy, **Principal of Walt Whitman High School**

To reach all our parents and community members, below is a video link message that will allow parents access to important high school information. Please click on the link below to view.

https://www.wevideo.com/view/1878904901

In an effort to address some concerns that have come up over these last few weeks, we felt it necessary to reach out to all parents to discuss some of the procedures and protocols for virtual-based learning. While we feel these last few weeks have been successful in providing a structured environment of learning, we believe there are areas in which we can improve upon. In order to make sure that all students are engaged during their scheduled classes, we are requiring that students utilize the camera function on Google Meet sessions. We have instructed teachers to enforce this by not allowing students to turn off their camera during class instruction. This will allow teachers to know if students are actively engaged in the class and remain present in front of the camera screen for the entire class. If your child's Chromebook is not working properly with regards to the camera, or having issues with connectivity, we ask that you please have your child report to Dr. Muller's office in room 225, or if fully virtual, contact the high school at (631) 812-3850 to schedule an appointment for repair or replacement.

This week starts our Spirit Week at Walt Whitman High School. What better way to show your school pride than by participating in this two-week event.









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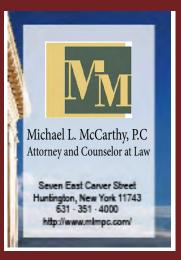
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Please see the list below for the themes of the day:

Tuesday, October 20th - Disney day
Wednesday, October 21st - Disney Day
Thursday, October 22nd - Class Shirt Day
Friday, October 23rd - Class Shirt Day
Monday, October 26th - Pajama Day
Tuesday, October 27th - Jersey Day
Wednesday, October 28th - Jersey Day
Thursday, October 29th - Halloween
Friday, October 30th - Halloween

Guidance News

Would you like an "on the spot" admissions decision and have your application fee waived? Five Towns College will be setting up virtual appointments for Friday; New York Institute of Technology on Thursday, November 5th; Adelphi University on Monday, November 16th; and Molloy College on Tuesday, December 1st. Contact Ms. Miranda in the Guidance Office to sign up.

The following colleges have virtual visits planned for Whitman. Please log on to your Naviance account to register. All visits kick off at 2:30 p.m.

College/ University	Representative	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
FIDM-Fashion Institute of Design &	Shannon Ress	Wed October 21, 2020	2:30 PM
Merchandising-Los Angeles			
Virginia Commonwealth University	Timothy Thurston	Wed October 21, 2020	2:30 PM
West Chester University of	Stephen Castaneda	Wed October 21, 2020	2:30 PM
<u>Pennsylvania</u>			
University of New Haven	Kayla Pjatak	Thu October 22, 2020	2:30 PM
Seton Hall University	Joseph Puleo	Thu October 22, 2020	2:30 PM
University at Albany, SUNY	Caitlin Maceno	Thu October 22, 2020	2:30 PM
Carnegie Mellon University	Ben Carpenter	Fri October 23, 2020	2:30 PM
Elon University	Quinn Reilly	Fri October 23, 2020	2:30 PM
High Point University	Lani Skelley	Fri October 23, 2020	2:30 PM
University of Connecticut	Bryan Feener	Mon October 26, 2020	2:30 PM
The City University of New York -	Yaskairy Castillo De	Mon October 26, 2020	2:30 PM
CUNY	La Cruz		
Mount Saint Mary College	Corinne Badini	Mon October 26, 2020	2:30 PM
Muhlenberg College	Eric Thompson 2	Tue October 27, 2020	2:30 PM
SUNY College at Old Westbury	Sarah Taiclet	Tue October 27, 2020	2:30 PM
SUNY Oneonta	Lauren Kelly	Tue October 27, 2020	2:30 PM

Class shirts are here! In-school students can pick up their shirts anytime from the Main Office. Virtual students please come after school, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., to pick up shirts from the Main Office.

All 9th, 10th and 11th graders who did not sit for pictures earlier this year must do so on Monday, November 2nd. Remember these pictures are used to update our ID card and data management systems. Lifetouch will be back in the South Gym from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for Group A students, and from 1:30-6:00 p.m. for Group B students and All-Virtual students. You must sign up for an appointment on Mr. Varlamos' Google Form which was emailed to your Shufsd account this week. Appointments must be scheduled by October 28th. If you would like to order pictures, information packets are available in the Main Office.

This year we are beginning our 4th and final year of "Scare for Charity," and we are asking for your help to make it the best year yet! S(care) collects unopened toiletries and new socks for the homeless here in Huntington. This year, we're adding packages of medical-grade masks and hand sanitizers to the list! If you would like to help the homeless in our community, you can bring in any unopened toiletries, socks, masks, and hand sanitizers anytime until October 30th. Donation boxes are located in the Main and Guidance Offices.





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News from Mr. Eddie Smith, Principal of Stimson Middle School

Next week is going to be a busy week at Stimson. To raise awareness for Breast Cancer and support ongoing research, all students (home and at school) are encouraged to wear pink to school and donate \$1. All homerooms that have 100% participation will be entered in a drawing to win a bagel breakfast. All money raised will go to *Stand Up for Suzanne*. *Stand Up For Suzanne* has donated \$50,000 since December, 2018, to support the research of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Assistant Professor Camila dos Santos and the research of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Assistant Professor Mikala Egablad. The group has donated nearly \$85,000 to CSHL since 2014. Please have your children layout their pink shirts the night before and help us increase awareness and support a wonderful cause.

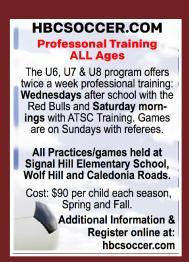
On Thursday and Friday, Stimson is going to host our first Halloween with costumes at school. Group A students can wear costumes on Thursday, and Group B on Friday. All virtual students are encouraged to get involved in the Halloween "spirit" and can email photos directly to me.

Please be reminded that Stimson Middle School is no longer distributing Progress Reports. All student grades are available and able to be viewed on the Parent Portal. This would be a great time to check your child's grades and review each class with them. Also, checking your child's attendance regularly is strongly recommended. This is particularly important for our students that are learning at-home virtually each day. The expectation is that our students are logging on to each Google Meet with their teachers as soon as the class begins. Our teachers will take attendance and then provide further instruction from there. Also, if your child is not attending school on a hybrid day, and chooses to join virtually, please still contact the attendance office at Stimson.

News from Mr. Steve Toto, Principal of Silas Wood Sixth-Grade School

The school pictures taken earlier this year arrived at Silas Wood this week and were sent home in backpacks with our Hybrid students. Pictures will be available for pick up for our Virtual students on school days, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., by coming to the front door of Silas Wood.

October brings us to "MOYA" – the Month of the Young Adolescent". This celebrates and is quite important to children in the Silas Wood-age range. Established in 1997 by the National Middle School Association, this major, world-wide event highlights the unique needs and characteristics of young adolescents. A flier, (which can be found below) was sent home to all families so that they can





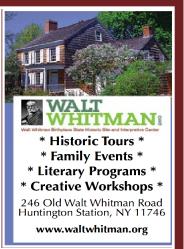






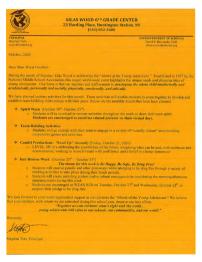






join with the rest of their Silas Wood family as we celebrate this month-long event with various activities. Also, we are thick in the midst of our wonderful autumn "Spirit Week" at Silas! This annual event is always enjoyed by students and staff alike - - lots of good fun as everyone gets into our School Spirit.

Coming next week is Red Ribbon Week – in celebration of a drug-free lifestyle. With this year's theme of Be Happy-Be Brave-Be Drug Free, students will take part in a variety of activities during their wheel classes and lunch periods celebrating things that make us happy without the use of drugs or alcohol. Stay safe, stay well, and please wear your masks!





News from Mr. Anthony Ciccarelli, Principal of Birchwood Intermediate School

Learning Days for the week of October 26th

Group A - Coming to Birchwood – Tuesday, October 27th, and Thursday, October 29th Learning from Home – Monday, October 26th, Wednesday, October 28th, and Friday, October 30th

Group B - Coming to Birchwood – Monday, October 26th, Wednesday, October 28th, and Friday, October 30th
Learning from Home – Tuesday, October 27th, and Thursday, October 29th

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Birchwood will be holding virtual parent-teacher conferences on Thursday, November 19th, and Wednesday, December 9th. Both of these days will be half-days of school for all our students. We will also hold a virtual parent-teacher conference from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8th. If you have not done so already, please reach out to make an appointment with your child's teacher(s).

If you have not returned your child's Emergency Dismissal Form, please do so as soon as possible. It is important that in case of an emergency early dismissal, the bus driver knows who can take your child off the bus if you are unable to make it to the bus stop. If we do not have a form and you are not at the stop, your child will come back to Birchwood to wait until you can pick them up

As the cooler weather arrives, please label all jackets, sweatshirts, hats, etc., so we can return them to your child if they get misplaced. We will be going outside unless the temperature is below 32 degrees. Please remind your children to come to school with the proper attire.

Participate in the PTA by clicking on the link: https://birchwood.memberhub.store/





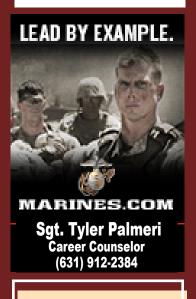






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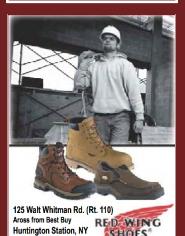
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News from Dr. Gayle Steele, Principal of Maplewood Intermediate School

Thank you to the PTA for organizing our school photos. In addition, thank you to the volunteers that helped to ensure the day ran smoothly. All students looked great and came prepared with a smile!

This year, our Parent Teacher Conferences will be virtual. Afternoon conferences will be held on Thursday, November 19th and December 9th, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Both days are half days for students. Students in school will be dismissed at 12:30. Evening conferences will be held on December 8th, from 6 – 8 p.m. Your child's teacher will contact you with information for arranging conference times.

We are looking forward to our Drive-in Movie Night this Friday, at Walt Whitman High School, at 7 p.m. Families will be able to enjoy watching the movie *Hotel Transylvania* from their cars. The cost is \$20.00 per vehicle, with an opportunity to purchase pre-packaged snacks. Please refer to the flyer and/or email that was sent home for any additional information.

News from Dr. Annie Michaelian, Principal of Oakwood Primary Center

It has been another exciting and eventful week at Oakwood!

Orange was the color of the week, as 700 pumpkins were scattered on the Oakwood field from Rottkamps Fox Hollow Farms for our annual Pumpkin Hunt. Our students were so excited to select their special pumpkin. Of course, we thank all faculty and staff who arrived early to spread the pumpkins around the field for our great event!

Another special thanks to SEPTA for their generous donation of pumpkins for Oakwood's youngest learners. Our Pre-K students were all smiles when they selected their very favorite pumpkin! Thank you, SEPTA!

Our wonderful PTA has arranged for a Halloween virtual assembly by Prismatic Magic! On Thursday, October 29th, and Friday, October 30th, Oakwood students will participate in this special event with their classes! A special thank you to our Oakwood PTA for the mask lanyards that have been given to all of our students! We appreciate you very much! Please also visit the new PTA Google Site (link listed below), which will be a hub for information and events throughout the year! Check the site frequently for updates and news!

https://sites.google.com/shufsd.org/southhuntingtoncouncilofptas/oakwood

We thank our PTA and the strong partnership they hold with our school and families! We appreciate you very much!

Stay connected and follow Oakwood at: Instagram: oakwood_primary_center and

Twitter: Oakwood PC

Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead!

News from Mr. Mitchell Levy, Principal of Countrywood Primary Center

This week, Countrywood kicked off the Halloween season with our annual Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. While Tuesday morning surprised us with a bit of rain, a great time was had by all of our Group A, and fully virtual students who each had a chance to pick their "perfect pumpkin." While Wednesday brought some soggy weather, our Group B students had an enjoyable time picking their "perfect pumpkins." Thank you to our volunteers who socially distanced and scattered 700 pumpkins for this fun event.



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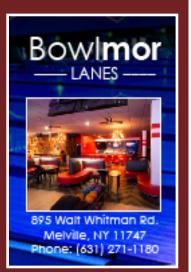
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A huge thank you to our PTA who has undertaken our "fully virtual" Fall Scholastic Book Fair. While you can never replace physically finding that perfect book, the virtual book fair has proven to be a great alternative during the COVID Pandemic. Continuing on with our wonderful PTA, looking ahead to next week, our Fall Photos will be taking place on Tuesday, October 27th, and Wednesday, October 28th. You should have already received information on this from the PTA. Please contact the PTA directly at CountrywoodPTA@gmail.com with any questions.

A friendly reminder - it is extremely important that everyone fill out the district survey indicating whether you will be sending your child to school five days a week in person, or if you will be selecting the fully virtual option. As always, please feel free to reach out should you have any questions for us.

Please mark your calendars – Fall Conference Days will take place during the afternoons of November 19th and December 9th, resulting in an 11:15 a.m. early dismissal on both dates. Conferences will also take place from 6-8 p.m. on December 8th (this will be a regular day of school). Your son/daughter's classroom teacher will be in touch about the specifics of your conference time and date. Please note that due to COVID-19 all conferences will be conducted virtually.

We wish you a wonderful week ahead.

News from the Board of Education

At last week's Board of Education meeting, the Board deliberated and carefully considered options involving the in-person return to school for Grades K-5 students. Acknowledging the magnitude of the decision, the Board of Education determined that through the District's well-implemented safety measures, exceeding the New York State's guidance in several key areas, the transition from the hybrid/remote instructional model to a full, in-person instructional model would take place with the commencement of the second quarter.

Parents have already received via email the <u>Parent Instructional Option Selection</u> that provides options of full, in-person or the full remote instructional model for parents to choose for their child/children. Additionally, transportation information is required from parents to complete the transition process. The link for the <u>Parent Instructional Option Selection</u> is also available on the homepage of the District's website: <u>www.shufsd.org</u>.

It is requested that selections be provided by Friday, October 23, 2020.

Our next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2020, and residents will be able to view the live-stream of the meeting from a link on the website. As always, the Board appreciates comments and questions, and asks that the following email account be used for this communication purpose: boe@shufsd.org

News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF



While SHEF supports local artisans and businesses, your raffle tick-upport Wildcats K-12. As the temps outside cool, this month's raffle features a beautiful, fall-themed prize guaranteed to keep things warm. Visit SHEFINC.ORG for your **October Raffle Tickets** to win this beautiful basket. Winner will be announced on social media on October 31st. Follow SHEF on Facebook and Instagram.







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News from South Huntington Public Library

The library is open! Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m. We encourage families to stop by, browse, and borrow items. Masks will be required while in the building, and social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

Homework Help: All students are invited to take advantage of free, online homework help via <u>Brainfuse</u>. To use this service, simply enter a valid SHPL card barcode. Live tutoring is available every day from 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. More digital resources can also be found at <u>shpl.info</u>.

Community Service: The Young Adult Department has a <u>blog post</u> outlining community service opportunities for South Huntington residents in Grades 6-12. Visit the page for opportunities that can be done for credit from home.

Programs: Kids of all ages can take advantage of virtual programs, everything from story times to crafts to cooking. Many of these "grab and go" activities are accompanied by videos featuring your favorite librarians! For details, visit the library's Events Calendar or sign up for a weekly e-newsletter.

News from SEPTA - Maureen Basedow

Our membership is always open, so please join our PTA and hear exciting, fun activities and events we do and will be planning for this year! Our flyers are at the bottom of the Newsletter. We are very excited again to donate pumpkins for our Universal Pre -K students at Oakwood for their Pumpkin hunt. We have great plans for fundraising this year, so look out for our flyers soon! Our next meeting is November 10th, 2020. Please join us via Google Meet! Thank you to those of you who have joined SEPTA, and please spread the word and look out for us on Facebook and Instagram.

The Weeks to Come

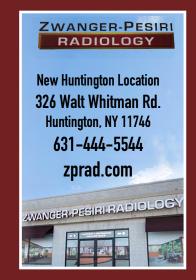
Log on to your individual school websites to view the calendar and upcoming events for that building.

Whitman Sports

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Community and School District Flyers

In an effort to make our weekly newsletter more convenient, each of the flyers we receive are listed below. Click on the one that interests you and you will be automatically linked to that flyer.

> **SEPTA** 2020-21 Membership **Form English**

SEPTA 2020-21 Membership Form Spanish

The Spirit of Huntington **Art Center** Online Series

Join Boy **Scouts** Troop 68

Sign-up here for **SH Public** Library E-Newsletter

Flag **Football** K-8th Grade

The **Boxfit** Experience All Abilities & Skill Levels

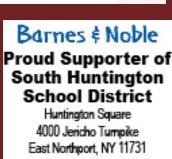
NEYSA Fall **Tennis** Lessons



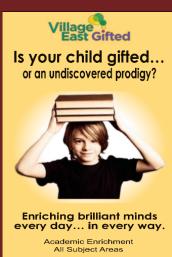
Mita A. Parikh, DMD

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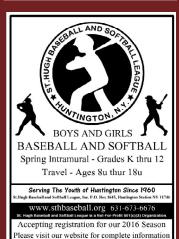
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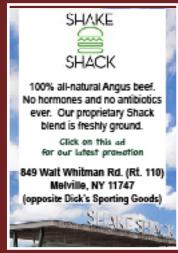


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