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October 28, 2020

#### **Food for Thought**

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"He who has faith has... an inward reservoir of courage, hope, confidence, calmness, and assuring trust that all will come out well - even though to the world it may appear to come out most badly."

~ B. C. Forbes

#### **Superintendent's Corner**

It's hard to believe that we are approaching our final few days of October. While the COVID virus has certainly impacted every corner of our lives, the calendar keeps moving on as days turn into weeks, and weeks into months and seasons. As we enter this third month of school, we are committed to capitalizing upon the positive energy that makes our district shine. We also take a moment to wish the very happiest and safest Halloweens to our students and their families. We truly hope that our youngest children have the opportunity to squeeze important joy from this holiday weekend, and our thoughts are with families throughout the community.

P.S. - We are proud to announce that the South Huntington Girl Scouts will be holding a donation drive on Saturday, November 7th, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m., for local veterans and food pantries. Our dedicated scouts are seeking non-perishable food and personal care items (soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) and your generosity will be greatly appreciated. You can donate by simply pulling up to the South Huntington Public Library side parking lot on Saturday, November 7th, anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. You just need to pop your trunk and the volunteers will remove the items, while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

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

I am pleased to announce that the Chromebook devices for the primary schools (K-2) have arrived and are being prepared. Principals will be communicating to parents over the coming days for their distribution. This will soon be followed by a communication from the intermediate schools regarding the distribution of loaner devices for the 3rd graders while we await that delivery. We thank our students, parents and staff for all of your patience and efforts during this time.

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

Please be reminded that the clocks "fall back" this Sunday morning at 2 a.m. In essence, our region will be "losing an hour" as we get back into Eastern Standard Time.

# Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo

We invite you to log onto our district website (<u>SHUFSD.org</u>) to read the full story of our own Mr. Edward Nitkewicz, receiving the highest possible award





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from the New York State School Boards Association. The story captures a piece of Mr. Nitkewicz's tremendous service to New York State students, and we welcome you to log on and join in congratulating our award-winning trustee.

A very special thank you to the South Huntington Education Foundation (SHEF) for sponsoring 30 families with gift cards at \$30 each!!! On behalf of the Student Services Department, I want to convey our gratitude for SHEF's generosity 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 Jackie's Art Corner**

In its 8th year, the Huntington Arts Council will host its Spooktacular Art Gallery presentation of Halloween-themed artworks from students all across Long Island.

This year, Stimson 8th grade students Delia Miles and Isabella Weber will have their artworks featured in this fun-filled juried art contest. Congratulations, Delia and Isabella for this prestigious recognition and congratulations goes out to our Stimson Art Teacher, Ms. Linda Salta!

There will be a costume reception at the Huntington Arts Council gallery on Main Street in Huntington, Friday, October 30th, from 6-8 p.m. The artworks exhibited range from scary, silly, creepy, and beautiful. This event is free and ALL are welcome! The exhibit will run thru November 16th.

#### WALT WHITMAN JAZZ BAND

We are happy to announce that the Walt Whitman Jazz Band will be starting up soon! Audition videos are due by November 4th. Please submit audition videos to Walt Whitman Band Director Mr. Matthew Hoffman.

#### News from School Nutrition Services





NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

The School Nutrition program just completed the National School Lunch week celebration in all of our schools!

Each fall School Lunch programs across the country take a week to give our nutrition programs the exposure they deserve. This year's celebration theme "Movies-your ticket to good Nutrition" gave us the opportunity to highlight our lunch menu items and promote the kids favorite meal choices. Two great lunch entrees - "That's a Wrap" for our new chicken/lettuce/tomato/cheese wraps, as well as our all-time favorite "Popcorn" Chicken."

Each day SHNS provided fun activities to work on during their lunch break, as well as raffles to complete for drawings each day. This turned out to be a really

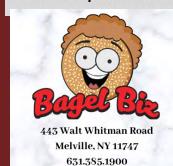


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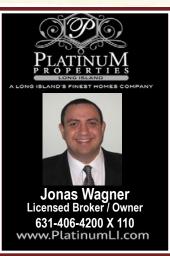
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nice surprise for the students. Amazon GC's were the drawing prizes, and they were very well received as shown in our group pictures.

Don't forget to follow us on FB (South Huntington Nutrition Services) and IG (shschoolnutritionservices). Thank you!



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

Do you want to save some time by having your child take their Permit test right here at Walt Whitman High School? Please have them come down to the Main Office and get an application form from our forms rack. Return the form to the main office, and we'll let you know when your child will be scheduled to take the test. The next Permit test will take place this week. Sign up now!

This week starts our second week of spirit here at Walt Whitman High School. We would like to thank all the faculty, staff and students who have participated over the last week, showing their dedication and spirit. We encourage our students and staff to continue in these festivities as we close out the month of October. Please see below for the remaining dates and themes of our spirit weak.

> Wednesday, October 28th is Jersey day Thursday, October 29th is Halloween Friday, October 30th Is Halloween

We are requesting that any student who is a member of the National Honor Society should go to the Google Site and read the important information. Student elections are coming up and we need to have the membership vote. Any and all information/events about the NHS this year will be posted on the site.

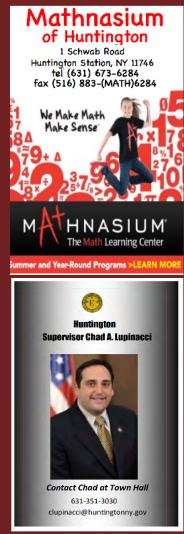
Wednesday is the deadline to sign-up for undergraduate portrait make-up on November 2nd. You must sign up for an appointment on Mr. Varlamos' Google Form, which was emailed to the student's shufsd account. If you have any questions, please come to the Main Office.

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.

#### **Guidance News**

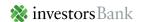
Would you like your child to have an "on the spot" admissions decision and have your application fee waived? Virtual appointments can be set up for: New York Institute of Technology on Thursday, November 5th; Adelphi University on Monday, November 16th; and Molloy College on Tuesday, December 1st. Contact Ms. Miranda in guidance 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.









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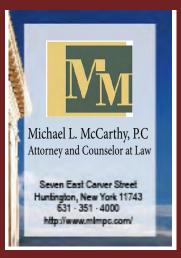




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#### News from Mr. Eddie Smith, Principal of Stimson Middle School

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. Students are reminded to make sure their costumes are school appropriate. Please no inflatable costumes or ones incorporating fake weapons. Our staff is also joining in the Halloween spirit and will be participating in the 5th Annual Stimson Staff Costume contest. Students will vote for their favorite staff costume throughout the day. The winner gets bragging rights for the 2020/21 school year.

Attention all students! The Student Portal on Infinite Campus has been opened so you can view your grades. To login into your account, please follow the steps below and follow this link https://shufsd.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/students/southhuntington.jsp.

**username** will be the 9 digit student ID, plus first initial, last initial (lower case)

**password** will be the 6 digit student birthday, plus first initial, last initial (lower case)

The student will be prompted to change their password the first time they log in.

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.

Just a friendly reminder that the clocks fall back an hour this weekend on Sunday. Have a safe and happy Halloween!!

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

Silas Wood is all-aglow in red this week as students and staff are enthusiastically supporting *Red Ribbon Week* with activities celebrating its' theme: "Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free!"

Wishing all Silas Wood families a Spooktacular and Fangtastic Halloween on Saturday, October 31! Please safely observe all social-distancing rules, wear your masks, stay safe, and have fun!





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A reminder that daylight savings time ends at 2 a.m. this Sunday, November 1st, unless you like the idea of showing up super early to Silas on Monday, clocks must be set back one hour!



School will be closed on Tuesday, November 3rd – Election Day, and will also be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in observance of Veterans' Day. Silas Wood A-B day calendar is provided for your convenience for those two weeks.

The Annual Silas Wood 6th Grade Center Community Thanksgiving Food Drive is up and running now through November 20, 2020! **Any contributions** are welcome and so greatly appreciated. We have particular donation categories based on which Team students belong to – Teams for both hybrid Group A and Group B and fully-virtual students. To bring some healthy competition to our Food Drive, it's a contest with the Team with the greatest number of donations to be rewarded!

**Team 1 - Commercially-Packaged Desserts** (cookies, cake mix, muffin mix, canned fruit, boxed pie crust mix, pie fillings, icings, etc.)

**Team 2 - Canned Vegetables** (corn, peas, string beans, carrots, green beans, asparagus, mixed vegetables, cauliflower, etc.)

**Team 3 - Starches/Carbohydrates** (any type of rice, any type of canned/boxed potatoes/potato mix, macaroni & cheese, any type of dry spaghetti/pasta, quinoa, etc.)

**Team 4- Sauces/Side Dishes/Beverages** (canned/jar gravy of any kind, any type spaghetti/pasta sauce, tomato sauce, canned crushed tomatoes/ puree, canned yams/sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned or boxed soup, non-perishable juices, tea mix, lemonade mix, etc.)

Items must be non-perishable and NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERA-TION! Lastly, any and all gift cards, turkey vouchers, or other supermarket cards are welcome, as these can be used to contribute to our food drive. Students may drop donations at the designated collection bins inside the main lobby of Silas Wood. Many thanks to one and all for your kind generosity!

Silas Wood school photos have been sent home with students; we hope you love your portraits! Retake photos will be offered to all students who were absent on the original photo days or ordered photos and are not happy with the photo that was taken. Original photos must be returned on retake day to sit for a retake photo. ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE YOU NEED NOT ORDER ANY PHOTOS, HAVING THIS PICTURE TAKEN IS **REQUIRED** FOR ALL SILAS WOOD STUDENTS, AS IT WILL BE USED FOR ID TAGS AND FOR YEARBOOKS, and this will be the last opportunity to have this done! So, if your photo was *not taken* on our original photo days, please be sure to get your photo taken on your retake day! Also, note that if you didn't order photos and would like to place an order, please go to ClassAct.com and use Code SILASWOOD20R. If you cannot order online, please contact Class Act directly at 718.338.2322; students may also request a photo order form from their homeroom teacher! Silas Wood retake dates are as follows:

<u>Thursday, November 5th</u> for Hybrid Group A students. <u>All fully-virtual students</u> (Group A & Group B – either retakes or those who did not have photos taken yet) may have photos taken after school from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 5 ONLY.

Friday, November 6th - for Hybrid Group B students

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The U6, U7 & U8 program offers twice a week professional training: Wednesdays after school with the Red Bulls and Saturday mornings with ATSC Training. Games are on Sundays with referees.

All Practices/games held at Signal Hill Elementary School, Wolf Hill and Caledonia Roads.

Cost: \$90 per child each season, Spring and Fall.

Additional Information & Register online at: hbcsoccer.com



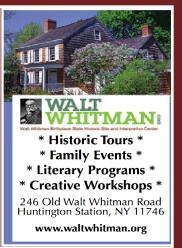












An all-virtual version of the PTA "Reflections" competition is open and accepting entries through Monday, November 9th! Last year, our students were honored through the County level, which we hope to meet or, hopefully, even

exceed this year! Description/Entry Form available at <a href="https://forms.gle/vAYTogUQ8SvFrRZB6">https://forms.gle/vAYTogUQ8SvFrRZB6</a> Speaking of the PTA, the Silas/Stimson PTA will be holding its first General Meeting on Thursday, October 29th at 7 p.m. This meeting will be virtual. Please use this Google Meet link to log on meet. <a href="mailto:google.com/fer-depv-yyx">google.com/fer-depv-yyx</a>. If you haven't already joined this worthwhile and enjoyable organization, please use the link below where you can order masks and Puravida bracelets as



well! https://stimsonsilaspta.memberhub.store

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

Learning Days for the week of November 2nd Election Day is November 3rd- NO SCHOOL

Group A - Coming to Birchwood - Monday, November 2nd, and Thursday, November 5th Learning from Home – Wednesday, November 3rd, and Friday, November 6th

Group B - Coming to Birchwood – Wednesday, November 4th, and Friday, November 6th
Learning from Home - Monday, November 2nd, and Thursday, November 5th

#### PTA BOOK FAIR

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for hosting a virtual book fair for all our staff and students this week. The book fair will continue until November 9th. Please use the following Link <a href="https://www.scholastic.com/bf/birchwoodintermediateschool">https://www.scholastic.com/bf/birchwoodintermediateschool</a> to order books.

#### PTA REFLECTIONS

The 2020-2021 PTA National Reflections Art Program is open to all students. This year's theme is "I Matter Because." Please see the below flyer for additional details and encourage your child to participate. We are looking forward to receiving many creative and thoughtful entries. Entries will be accepted online only via the following link https://forms.gle/a4F1SsVXKpmzy8jT7

#### 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 p.m. – 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





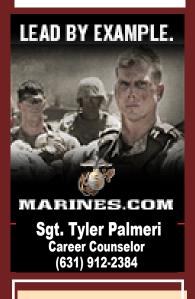






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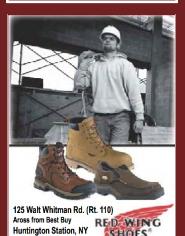
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we can return them to your child if they get misplaced. We will be going outside unless the temperature is below 32 degrees. Please remind your children to come to school with the proper attire.

Participate in the PTA by clicking on the link: <a href="https://birchwood.memberhub.store/">https://birchwood.memberhub.store/</a>

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

Our Drive-In Movie Night was a success! It was a pleasure to see so many of our families enjoy a nice evening together. Thank you to all that attended and worked with us in keeping the event safe for everyone. Our PTA did a great job organizing this event, and we appreciate all of their efforts. A special thank you to Mr. John Murphy, Principal of Walt Whitman High School, and the custodial team for their help with making sure the evening ran smoothly. It's teamwork like this that makes South Huntington such a great community.

Our Virtual Book Fair is up and running. An email with information was shared with our families. Flyers will be distributed to our hybrid students this week and electronic notices were posted in the Google Classrooms of our virtual classes. The Book Fair will be open until November 8th. Please use the link <a href="https://www.scholastic.com/bf/maplewoodintermediateschool1">www.scholastic.com/bf/maplewoodintermediateschool1</a> to make any purchases.

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

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

The positive energy is high as the smiles of our students brighten the halls of Oakwood Primary Center!

Oakwood had a very successful and fun-filled Pumpkin Hunt last week! Thank you to our staff who helped spread the fall spirit around the Oakwood grounds! Our students loved selecting their very favorite pumpkin, big or small!

This Thursday, October 29th, and Friday, October 30th, our PTA has arranged for a special Virtual Laser Light Show for all of our students! All are encouraged to wear your favorite Halloween colors or a fun Halloween shirt! Also, the PTA has arranged for a special Family Fun Halloween Zoom party on Friday, October 30th, at 6:30 p.m.! Information has been shared with families and be sure to visit the Oakwood PTA Google site to register!

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

We are continuing our safety drills throughout the year. Thank you to our families for reviewing and reminding our little ones of why this is important. We appreciate all of your support!

On Wednesday, October 28th, at 7:30 p.m., Oakwood Primary, along with our Countrywood family, will be recognizing our very own South Huntington Board of Education for all of their outstanding efforts for our students and community! Thank you for all you do!

Please note that Oakwood is posting great pictures on our social media accounts on Instagram and Twitter! We are very excited to share all of the wonderful things happening to enhance and build on our home-school connection! If you are interested in following us please see the information below:



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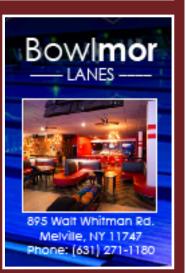
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Instagram: oakwood\_primary\_center

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Have a fantastic week, Wildcats!

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

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for all of their hard work and energy that has gone into this year's school photos. Thank you to our parents, staff, and students for your patience as we have navigated these new safety protocols to make our photo days such a huge success.

Later this week, we look forward to celebrating a calmer and tamer Halloween than in years past. As has already been shared, students may wear a simple Halloween costume that they can sit in all day, a Halloween shirt, or fall colors on either Thursday, October 29th or Friday, October 30th.

Our dedicated PTA is bringing in the Prismatic Magic Virtual Laser Program for all students. This virtual program will take place in each classroom, on the Smartboard. Each individual teacher will be celebrating the holiday a little bit differently, so please be on the lookout for information from your child's teacher with further details.

At this evening's Board of Education meeting, several Countrywood and Oakwood students will read letters of thanks to our fabulous South Huntington Board of Education in honor of board recognition week. This year's presentation has been pre-recorded, and the videotaped presentation will be shared.

We are very excited to share that starting next week, our school social worker, Ms. Escalante-Rodriguez, and our behavior specialist Ms. Chandler, will be going into your child's classroom to share a 5-week series of "Feelings Lessons." The objective of these weekly classroom lessons is to help our students identify and share what it is they are feeling and how to cope with these feelings. They will learn how to describe their feelings and address them in a positive manner. We are working on the details for implementation for our virtual students and will share that information in the near future. Students can expect to be involved in class discussions and activities that will assist in long-term emotional development. We are committed not only to our students' academic success, but their social and emotional needs as well. It is our hope and goal to have a student body that is emotionally resilient and successful.

We wish you a wonderful week ahead!

#### News from the District Clerk for the Board of Education

Tonight's meeting will be one to be remembered as it is the meeting whereby well-deserved recognition is provided to our Board of Education in keeping with New York State's Board of Education Recognition Week. The recognition is provided to help raise awareness of the critical role of a District's Board of Education. The seven members of our Board of Education—President Nicholas Ciappetta, Vice President Laura Carey, Board members Andrew Bronson, Michele DeGaetano, Sidney Joyner, Linda LaCara and Edward Nitkewicz—contribute their time as unpaid volunteers to serve our South Huntington learning family. Please consider participating via the link on the website as the presentation, while virtual, will speak to the great respect and significance of our Board of Education, by stakeholders throughout our wonderful South Huntington Schools.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., and the link will be provided on our website's homepage.

Questions can be asked through the Board's email account: <a href="mailto:boe@shufsd.org">boe@shufsd.org</a> and will be addressed during the Voice of the Resident.









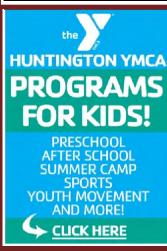
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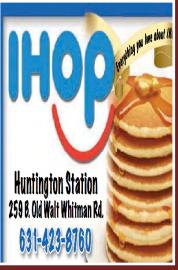
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# News from South Huntington Educational Foundation,

LAST CALL! While SHEF supports local artisans and businesses, your raffle tickets will support Wildcats K-12. As the temps outside cool, this month's raffle features a beautiful fall-themed prize guaranteed to keep things warm. Visit <a href="SHEFINC.ORG">SHEFINC.ORG</a> for your October Raffle Tickets to win this beautiful fall themed prize. Winner will be announced on social media on October 31st. Follow SHEF on Facebook and Instagram.



#### **News from the South Huntington Public Library**

**Election Day:** South Huntington Public Library is a polling site and will be open to VOTERS ONLY, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The library will not be open for regular services, but digital resources can always be accessed at <a href="mailto:shpl.info">shpl.info</a>.

**Pantry Drives:** The Adult Services and Young Adult Departments are collecting non-perishable food items for Long Island Cares. Drop boxes can be found on the first floor and lower level of the library. In addition, the Children's Department is collecting food and supplies for all kinds of pets on behalf of Baxter's Pantry, also sponsored by Long Island Cares. Contributions will be accepted from now until October 30.

#### **District PTA Council News**





### SUPPORT THE SOUTH HUNTINGTON PTA COUCIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

The South Huntington Council of PTAs is excited to offer a new way to shop our annual Miss Chocolate Fundraiser!

Go to www.misschocolate.com, click the online store, and search for your school.

Miss Chocolate is not just chocolate and cookie dough! From now until November 6th shop for great merchandise and earn prizes all while raising funds for The South Huntington PTA Council Scholarship Fund!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



#### The Weeks to Come

Please log onto your school's web page for further information and important dates.

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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.

> Donation **Drive for** Veterans & \_ocal Food **Pantries** 11/7/20

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

**SEPTA** 2020-21 Membership Form Spanish

Sign-up here for **SH Public** Library E-Newsletter The Spirit of Huntington **Art Center** Online Series

Join Boy **Scouts** Troop 68

Flag Football K-8th Grade

**NEYSA** Fall Tennis Lessons

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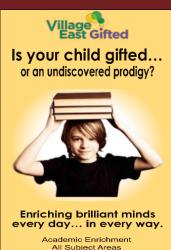
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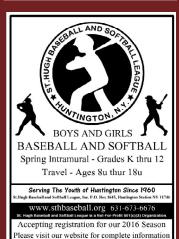
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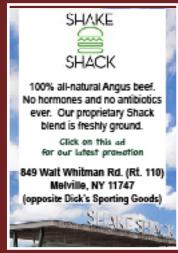


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