



schoolhouse news

Cherry Avenue Elementary School
155 Cherry Avenue West Sayville NY 11796
Phone: 631-244-6700 Fax: 631-244-6707

Cherry Avenue Elementary School

BACK TO SCHOOL



John Stimmel Principal
Susan Day PTA President
Kelly Bando Editor

Toward excellence with enthusiasm.

The Cherry Jubilee is produced by the Cherry Avenue Elementary School PTA and Schoolhouse News.

A Message from the Principal

Dear Students and Families,

The 2011-2012 School term is here! The staff and I welcome you whether you are returning or it is your first venture at primary school. We hope you have had a relaxing summer and also that you are eager to embark on the new school year. We anxiously awaited your most precious possessions – your children!

There are additional members to the teaching staff: Kindergarten teacher Ms. Carrie Breuer, Grade two teachers Ms. Kathleen Corrao and Mr. Patrick Campbell and Ms. Francesca Scarpinato Librarian. We also wish to announce that Ms. Laura Newman is the administrative assistant at the James H. Boyd School. Her teaching assignment will be filled by an outstanding young educator Ms. Deanna Levy. Class sizes are superb 19-21 kindergarten through grade two with most about 20 students per class. All staff met on Tuesday, September 3 for staff development. Again, differentiated instruction will be the focus. The teachers will participate in tasks both in large and small groups to strengthen and expand the ongoing training in differentiated instruction. Several staff members participated in a weeklong training session in July. These experiences will be shared by Ms. Laurie Sherrell, district coordinator and Dr. Kathleen Semergieff, assistant superintendent curriculum and standards.

Meet the Teacher programs took place on September 9 for grade 2 parents and on September 10 for grade 1 parents. Kindergarten parents and students had get acquainted visits in August and will have a curriculum night on September 25.

Our pledge to you is to continue to make the primary school a caring, learning school community. We thank you for your past cooperation and we look forward to your future cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Stimmel

PTA News

Dear Cherry Families,

The Cherry Avenue Elementary PTA welcomes you to the start of what promises to be a wonderful school year! We are thrilled to be your PTA co-presidents for 2011-2012 and are looking forward to meeting and working with all of you.

The Cherry Avenue Elementary PTA is dedicated to improving the education and quality of life of our children by uniting the forces of home, school and community. We invite each of you to become a member of the PTA. Your support enables us to provide outstanding Cultural, Arts, Parents As Reading Partners, Children's Authored Books, Kindergarten Orientation and Tots Library Programs. We also sponsor fun-filled events like the Halloween Party, Harvest Festival, Visiting Authors, Fashions for Kids, Special Persons Day, Family Fun events and many other throughout the year. To be successful we need your help through your membership, volunteer efforts and support during our fall fundraising drive.

This year, *Cherry's Jubilee* has received a bit of a facelift. We hope you enjoy the new look and content of our publication. *Cherry's Jubilee* will now be produced monthly so we can communicate with families on a timelier basis. Look for important dates, events and reminders. The Faculty Favorites corner promises to be a lot of fun. Be sure to read it to your children. We think they'll love it.

Our first PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24th at 8:00pm. Please take this opportunity to introduce yourselves to the PTA Board and fellow PTA members. Immediately following our general meeting, we invite you to join us for a PTA social. It's a great way to meet other parents and make new friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join PTA... Be Part of America's Future

September is PTA Membership Month. Membership is only \$7 for an individual and \$11 for the entire family. Just send back your membership form along with your check made out to Cherry Avenue Elementary PTA. If you don't have a form email Kathleen Sweeney at ksween4@hotmail.com. The benefits of being a member are priceless.

We Need You!

Volunteers are what make our PTA so successful! Please share your time and talents. Your participation is most welcome and appreciated. If you haven't yet signed up to help with our committees, please consider doing so. It's never too late to volunteer!

Sign up sheets are available in the main office or you can contact Sharon Left at shleft@yahoo.com or Heather Cicero at heathercic@gmail.com.



Calendar of Events September



- 12 6:30-8:30pm Family Dance Party Gymnasium
- 20 4:00-8:00pm Family Dinner Night TBD
- 23 School Pictures
Cherry Meet-the-Teacher
7:00pm am Kindergarten
8:00pm pm Kindergarten
- 24 8:00pm Joint Cherry PTA/SEPTA Meeting
PTA Social immediately following
- 25 6:30pm Curriculum Night
- 26 Cherry Fundraiser Deadline
- 29 1:00pm Elwood Community Day at Shea Stadium

Fall Fundraising Drive

Please support your PTA. Our annual gift wrap fundraiser has begun. This is our major fundraiser for the year. Gift Catalogs were sent home with the children. You may choose from a wide variety of wrapping paper and gifts. Please share the catalog with your family, friends and co workers but for safety's sake, no door-to-door selling.

Curriculum Corner

Second Grade

The second graders will be taking a journey over the next few weeks through the rain forests. We will be discovering where the rain forests are located, identifying the layers of the rain forest, characteristics of the rain forest and lastly, ways to prevent our beautiful rain forests from disappearing! We will be adopting 2 acres of the Brazilian Rain Forest. (Details about this will be sent home soon!) The 2nd graders will begin to practice for their musical program with the 3rd graders which will be in December. They are very excited about performing again for everyone! We may have a future in "American Idol"!

Farewell to Mrs. Barta

All of the second graders have enjoyed lessons with Mrs. Barta's student teacher, Mrs. Amy Hosmer. She will be leaving soon and we will miss her. The students and the faculty wish her Good Luck in her teaching career. Please visit us again soon! Thank you for all your hard work and wonderful lessons!

– Mrs. Barta, Mrs. Meeke, Mrs. Guarino and Mrs. Hosmer



Faculty Favorites

Kindergarten Teacher: **Ms. Carrie Breuer**

How many years have you taught? 3

How many years have you taught at Cherry? 1st year

What are your hobbies? Reading, swimming, boating, arts and crafts

What is your favorite book? *Oh the Places You'll Go*, by Dr. Seuss

What is your favorite movie? *The Parent Trap*

What is your favorite music? *Dave Matthews Band & Match Box 20*

What is your favorite ice cream flavor? *Chocolate*

What is your favorite animal and why? *Dog – they are always excited to see you!*

What is your favorite school lunch? *Ravioli*

Who is your hero? *My father – he's amazing!*



National Education

News



More Teacher Job Cuts Anticipated

By Anthony Rebor, *Teacher Education Week*, Published: June 29, 2011

Nearly 84 percent of the nation's school districts anticipate funding shortfalls in the upcoming school year, and a majority of those districts (some 64 percent) plan to cut staff to make up the deficits, according to a report released this morning [PDF] by the Washington-based Center on Education Policy.

The report, which is based on a survey of school districts nationwide, attributes the bleak forecast to the fact that many districts have reached a so-called "funding cliff" after exhausting (or nearly exhausting) funds from the federal economic-stimulus and education jobs packages.

All told, according to the report, 46 percent of districts nationwide plan to cut teaching jobs for the 2011-12 school year, while 41 percent plan to make cuts in administrative or support staff. Cuts are anticipated for teaching jobs in non-core subjects at a somewhat higher rate than for those in core subjects (55 percent to 40 percent in districts expecting budget shortfalls).

But the layoffs could be even worse than projected, according to the report, because many districts had not yet decided where to cut at the time of the survey.

The report notes that continued budget woes are inevitably impeding school-improvement efforts. Some 54 percent of the districts anticipating shortfalls in 2011-12 reported that they "expect to slow progress on reforms or postpone or stop reform initiatives." That's on top of many districts that responded that reform programs had already been hindered in 2010-11.

Our Broken Escalator

By Nicholas D. Kristof, *The New York Times*, Published: July 16, 2011

The United States supports schools in Afghanistan because we know that education is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to build a country.

Alas, we've forgotten that lesson at home. All across America, school budgets are being cut, teachers laid off and education programs dismantled.

My beloved old high school in Yamhill, Ore. — a plain brick building that was my rocket ship — is emblematic of that trend. There were only 167 school days in the last school year here (180 was typical until the recession hit), and the staff has been reduced by 9 percent over five years.

This school was where I embraced sports, became a journalist, encountered intellectual worlds, and got in trouble. These days, the 430 students still have opportunities to get into trouble, but the rest is harder.

For the next school year, freshman and junior varsity sports teams are at risk, and all students will have to pay \$125 to participate on a team. The school newspaper, which once doubled as a biweekly newspaper for the entire town, has been terminated.

Business classes are gone. A music teacher has been eliminated. Class size is growing, with more than 40 students in freshman Spanish. "It's like a long, slow bleed, watching things disappear," says the school district's business manager, Michelle Morrison.

The school still has good teachers, but is that sustainable with a starting salary of \$33,676?

In a rural, blue-collar area like Yamhill, traditionally dependent on farming and forestry, school has always been an escalator to opportunity. One of my buddies was Loren, a house painter's son, who graduated as salutatorian and became a lawyer. That's the role that education historically has played — but the escalator is now breaking down.

"Every year we say: 'What can we cut? What can we reduce?'" said Steve Chiovaro, superintendent of Yamhill-Carlton schools. "We've gotten to the point where we can no longer 'do no harm.' We're starting to eviscerate education."

Yamhill is far from alone. The Center on Education Policy reports that 70 percent of school districts nationwide endured budget cuts in the school year that just ended, and 84 percent anticipate cuts this year.

In higher education, the same drama is unfolding. California's superb public university system is being undermined by the biggest budget cuts in the state's history. Tuition is set to rise about 20 percent this year, on top of a 26 percent increase last year, which means that college will become unaffordable for some.

The immediate losers are the students. In the long run, the loser is our country.

Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz, two Harvard economists, argue in their book "The Race Between Education and Technology" that a prime factor in America's rise over the last two centuries was its leadership in educating the masses.

On the eve of World War I, only 1 percent of Britain's young people graduated from high school, compared with 9 percent

of Americans. By 1950, a majority of American youths were graduating from high school, compared with only 10 percent of British youths.

American pre-eminence in mass education has eroded since the 1970s, and now a number of countries have leapfrogged us in high school graduation rates, in student performance, in college attendance. If you look for the classic American faith in the value of broad education to spread opportunity, you can still find it — in Asia.

When I report on poverty in Africa and poverty in America, the differences are vast. But there is a common thread: chipping away at poverty is difficult and uncertain work, but perhaps the anti-poverty program with the very best record is education — and that's as true in New York as it is in Nigeria.

Granted, budget shortfalls are real, and schools need reforms as well as dollars. Pouring money into a broken system isn't a solution, and we need more accountability. But it's also true that blindly slashing budgets is making the problems worse. As Derek Bok, the former Harvard president, once observed, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Still, we nation-build in Afghanistan and scrimp at home. How is it that we can afford to double our military budget since 9/11, can afford the carried-interest tax loophole for billionaires, can afford billions of dollars in givebacks to oil and gas companies, yet can't afford to invest in our kids' futures?

Sometimes I hear people endorse education cuts by arguing that "school isn't for everybody," which usually means something like "education isn't for other people's children" — or that farm kids in places like Yamhill really don't need schools that double as rocket ships. I can't think of any view that is more un-American.

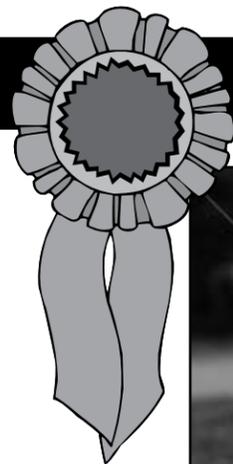
Congratulations

...to Teachers and Staff led by Spike Schiavo

on winning a decisive victory in the Parent/Faculty Volleyball game, to parents on making a valiant effort and to our chairperson Ronnie Whelton who made it all happen!

...to fantastic Sayville Prep Squad who cheered loudly for BOTH sides in the volleyball game and their coaches Adriane Berger and Barbara Popple!

...to all who supported the Book Fair, which garnered \$1600 in profit for the PTA, and especially Debbie Jeter and her team of volunteers who once again worked exhaustively to make it a great success!



Great Educational Website

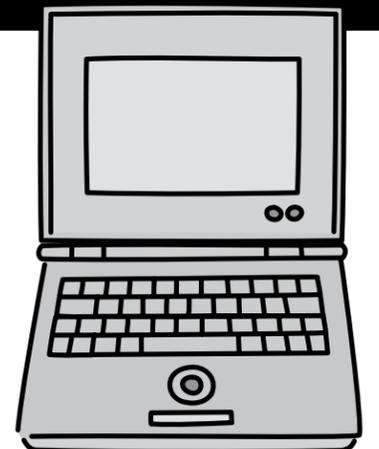


<http://www.produceforkids.org>

Before reaching for another Twinkie, have your child reach for the mouse and log on to this website.

For children, it's games and activities that promote healthy eating.

For parents, it's an excellent resource for tips on how to get our children to eat better, recipes, and general nutrition.





Kids Corner

What is the difference between the letters above the line and the letters below it?

AEFHILMNTVWXYZ
BCDGJOPQRSU

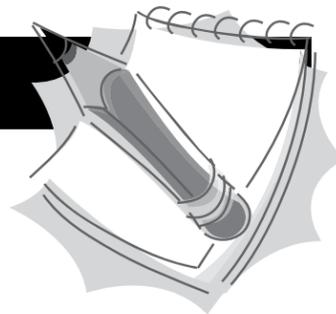
How can you make these numbers total 236 without adding any other number?

68+99+18

How many words can you find in:

“Cherry Avenue School”

Tips



BICYCLE SAFETY

**Protect your head...
Wear a helmet.**

- Buy a helmet that bears a label saying it meets the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard.
- See and be seen...Wear bright fluorescent colors during the day.
- Avoid biking at night...If riding at night, equip your bicycle with head and tail lights and wear reflective clothing.
- Go with the flow...Ride with traffic.
- Check for traffic...Be aware of traffic around you.
- Learn the rules of the road...Obey traffic laws.
- Check brakes before riding.



Recipe

Pumpkin Pie Bars

1 (18.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
1/2 Cup melted butter
3 eggs
3 Cups pumpkin pie filling

2/3 Cup milk
1/4 Cup white sugar
1 teaspoon ground

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan. Pour one cup of yellow cake mix into a medium-size mixing bowl; set aside. Combine remaining cake mix, 1/2 cup melted butter and 1 egg; mix well. Press into the baking pan. Combine pumpkin pie filling, 2 eggs and milk in a second medium-size mixing bowl; mix until smooth. Pour evenly over the crust in the 9x13-inch pan. Pour the sugar and cinnamon into the mixing bowl containing the 1 cup of yellow cake mix. Cut in the butter until the mixture looks crumbly. Sprinkle this mixture over the pumpkin filling. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until a knife inserted into the bars comes out clean. Let cool before cutting.

The staff, children, and parents of Cherry Avenue Elementary School thank the supporters of our newsletter.

<p>[Third Page] Your Ad Here</p>	<p>[Business Card] Your Ad Here</p>	
	<p>[Quarter Page] Your Ad Here</p>	
<p>[Eighth Page] Your Ad Here</p>		



The staff, children, and parents of Cherry Avenue Elementary School
thank the supporters of our newsletter.



[Half Page]
Your Ad Here
