

# J. M. S. News. . . by Donald F. Gately

## February 9, 2009

### Quote of the Week:

"The good life is inspired by love and guided by knowledge."

*Bertrand Russell - Philosopher*



### S.A.D.D., the Value Club and our Community Service Program

These clubs are sponsoring a collection of new children's pajamas to be donated to "The Pajama Program." This wonderful organization distributes pajamas to disadvantaged children throughout the nation, many of whom have been displaced or are in foster care. **Donations of pajamas can be dropped off outside Mrs. Bany's office or Mr. Wiener's office from Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.** To promote this community service effort, all students are invited to participate in a School Wide Pajama Day on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to bring in their pajama donations and are invited to get into the spirit of the "Pajama Program" by wearing pajamas to school.

### Diversity Day

Diversity Day will be held on **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, during periods 3 and 4 (8:59 a.m. - 10:23 a.m.) in the **Auditorium**. Parents are welcome to attend and see the wonderful diversity that strengthens our community.

### Personal Best Day

**Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** will be the **Third Annual Personal Best Day** at Jericho Middle School. This is a school-wide initiative to encourage and support the academic and social emotional development of every member of the Jericho Middle School Family. There will be an assembly program during period 3; between classes music will be played over the P.A. system; at the beginning of every period a "mystery staff member" will read an inspirational quote, with the students being asked to guess the identity of the mystery staff member; and classroom-related activities throughout the day.

### Middle School PTSA Meeting and Principal's Coffee Hour

On **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 9:00 a.m. in the **Middle School Library**, Don Gately and Joe Prisinzano will be presenting on **"School Rules and Discipline at the Middle School and High School."** We encourage everyone to come to this informative meeting to learn about our discipline procedures.



### 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip

Jericho Middle School is organizing a 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to a L.I. Ducks Baseball game in June of this year. The Ducks stadium is a friendly and cozy venue, and the Ducks' organization and players make it a memorable event for the crowd. Please click on the following link for additional information: <W:\Parent Letters\LIDucksGame2009.pdf>

## Jericho Middle School Welcomes a Leave Replacement Spanish Teacher



Ms. María José Vaca is muy feliz (very happy) to join the Jericho School District as a Leave Replacement Spanish Teacher. She received her Bachelor of Science in Adolescent Education in Spanish from L.I. University, C.W. Post Campus. Currently, she is enrolled at L. I. University to obtain her Masters degree in Spanish Literature. During the summer, Ms. Vaca works as a Teacher Assistant at the Center for Gifted Youth at the same university she attends. In her spare time, Ms. Vaca enjoys traveling, playing with her dogs and spending time with her family. She is very excited to work with the students, teachers, and parents of the Jericho School District. ¡Hasta Pronto!

### BRAVE Ambassador Training

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, a comprehensive full day training workshop in advanced leadership skills for eighth grade BRAVE ambassadors was held in the Jericho Middle School Library. The students learned group facilitation techniques that include active listening and communication skills. Through this training, the eighth grade BRAVE ambassadors will be prepared to co-lead lunch time "Quality Circles", conduct bully prevention classroom activities and speak to groups of students and parents. The BRAVE ambassadors participated enthusiastically and demonstrated leadership abilities. Click on the following link to view photos of this training session: <http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/library/8thgradebrave2009.htm>

### Staff Members of the Week

#### Maryann Goldstein - Teacher Aide

Mrs. Goldstein has been working as an Aide in the District for about five years. She started working in the Teachers Attendance Office in the Middle School this past November. Prior to working in the Teachers Attendance Office, she also worked in the Middle School Counseling Center. She enjoys her job and feels very fortunate to be working with such nice people. She doesn't have to travel far to get to work. Mrs. Goldstein lives in Plainview with her husband Ira, and her two children Marshall and Marla. Marshall is 15 years old and in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and Marla is 13 years old and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. When she is not busy driving them all over Long Island, she keep myself busy by cooking, baking, and exercising. On weekends she likes to take family road trips out east, to the city and upstate.





## Antonia Okeke - Learning Center Instructor



Mrs. Okeke has been on staff at Jericho middle school as a Learning Center Instructor since 2004. She loves working with children, for they are truly a joy. She had previously worked for five years as a social worker for the child protective services. She has a wonderful husband of 23 years and they are blessed with four wonderful children (three sons & one daughter). Her two sons are in college, Kene, 3<sup>rd</sup> year and Ugo, 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Sophie Davis Biomedical School in New York. The third son Dubem is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and her baby girl Adaora is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. After staying home for more than ten years to care for her children, Mrs. Okeke went

back to school and received a Masters degree in Special Education from Hofstra University. Mrs. Okeke is very outgoing, and enjoys spending time with family and friends and working at Jericho Middle school is both an enriching and fulfilling experience for her.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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| <b>February 10</b> | <b>Middle School POPS Concert - Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>February 11</b> | <b>Board of Education Meeting - MS Library - 7:30 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>February 12</b> | <b>Diversity Day - Auditorium - Periods 3 and 4 (8:59 am-10:23 am)</b>   |
| <b>February 12</b> | <b>PTSA and Principal's Coffee Hour - MS Library - 9:00 a.m.</b>   |
| <b>February 13</b> | <b>Personal Best Day - Assembly, Special Events,<br/>Classroom-related Activities All Day</b>  |
| <b>February 24</b> | <b>Sixth, Seventh &amp; Eighth Grade Guidance Evening Hours, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</b><br>Recognizing that other commitments often make it impossible for parents to find time to meet with counselors during the regular school day, we will continue a program of evening meetings this year. If you would like to meet with your youngster's counselor, but are unable to do so during the school day, please call the counselor in order to schedule an evening appointment. |