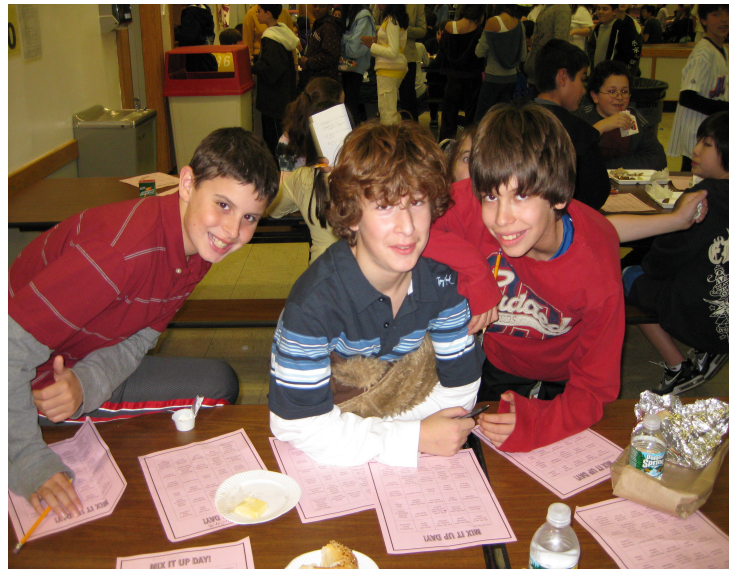


**J. M. S. News. . . by Donald F. Gately**  
**February 2, 2009**

**Quote of the Week:**

**"Love and kindness are never wasted" They always make a difference.**

**- Barbara DeAngelis, Author**



**"Right Isn't Always Easy!"**

Yesterday, I received a small package in the mail that was sent from someplace in New York City. In it was a wallet with a note that read:

*Dear Sir,*

*I found this wallet in Central Park last weekend. As per the School ID,  
I believe it belongs to one of your students.*

*Regards,*

The wallet belonged to one of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. He was so happy when I returned it to him. The wallet contained almost \$200 in cash and gift cards . . . all intact.

This act was so gratifying to me because it epitomized our Social Emotional Literacy program. It would have been the easiest thing in the world for this person to continue walking or take the wallet and enjoy the contents. Instead, he took the time to go to the post office and pay to send it to our school. The lesson here as someone once said, "Easy thing isn't always right; the right thing isn't always easy." We hope that through our S.E.L. programs, students will understand the importance of acting in concert with our monthly themes and do the right thing . . . even when no one's looking and it isn't easy.

**"Love is in the Air at Jericho Middle School"**

Our Social and Emotional Literacy Theme for the month of February is:

*Love*

Learning to appreciate is one of the most important attitudes and habits that lead to success, fulfillment and a love for life. H. Stanley Judd said, "Don't complain because you don't have . . . enjoy what you've got." Being thankful needs to become a way of life that demonstrates the highest expression of respect and love for oneself and others. Through these expressions of love, respect, and appreciation . . . "a person's words will always express what has been treasured in his heart."

Thoreau said, "... What lies beneath us and what lies ahead of us are insignificant compared to what lies within us. For it is what lies within us that, ultimately, defines the course of direction awaiting our 'walk' through life."

### **Personal Best Awards Ceremony**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Personal Best Awards Ceremony took place on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:15 p.m. in the Middle School Library. This program is our way of saluting students who strive to do their personal best. Congratulations to our winners. Please click on the following link to view the pictures: <http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/library/personalbestawardsJan2009.htm>

### **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 has been displaced or is 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 11th. To promote this community service effort, all students are invited to participate in a School Wide Pajama Day on Friday, February 6th. 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.

### **8th Grade Girls Student Leadership Group**

The members of the 8th Grade Girls Student Leadership Group are continuing their efforts to raise \$1,000. for the Ronald McDonald House. They will be selling homemade chocolate covered pretzel rods for 50 cents each during lunch periods on Wednesday, Feb. 4th and Thursday, Feb. 5th. Enjoy a delicious treat and help us reach our fundraising goal.



### **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 Parents Survey** **"Results from last week's poll"**

Choice	Total	Percent
<b>Does your child participate in after school clubs?</b>		
Yes	41	57%
No	31	43%
<b><u>Total Number of Responses</u></b>		<b>72</b>

## Jericho Middle School Welcomes a New Student Teacher

### Seth Busching - Student Teacher of English

Mr. Seth Busching is excited to be working as a Student Teacher at Jericho Middle School alongside cooperating 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher, Ms. Casey Gallagher. He is currently completing his final semester at Stony Brook University and will be obtaining a B.A. in English and a NYS Teaching Certificate. He has spent the last year observing at North Shore High School and has also worked with the Boys and Girls Club of America as a teaching assistant for summer programs held at North Shore High School. In his free time, Mr. Busching enjoys reading literature of all kinds, playing with his dog, and most of all spending time with his fiancée. He has been having a great time working with the faculty and students of Jericho Schools and is looking forward to the rest of the year.



### Staff Members of the Week:

### Jessica Smith - Learning Center Instructor

Ms. Smith has worked in Jericho Middle School as a teacher of English as a Second Language for seven years. She is from Cape Town, South Africa. She loves languages and different cultures and has traveled to many different countries. She enjoys scuba diving and in her spare time is trying to learn Korean. Ms. Smith has one son, Mike, who is in tenth grade in Jericho High School. She teaches an evening ESL program for parents in the district. She loves working with all the students in the Middle School and especially, loves helping the new students adjust to the school and culture of the United States.



### Marissa Sinclair - Learning Center Instructor

Ms. Sinclair has worked in the Learning Center for three years as a Learning Center instructor. She loves her job at Jericho, and enjoys getting to know all of the talented and clever students at Jericho Middle School. The first two years here in Jericho, Ms. Sinclair worked in the sixth grade, but this year, she is working with seventh grade students. She is enjoying getting to know even more students this year. She has one dog, Calypso, who she adopted while on vacation in Puerto Rico! In her spare time, she enjoys reading and traveling to other parts of the world. Next time you see her in the hall, stop and say hello!





### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<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</b> (additional information to follow)
<b>February 13</b>	<b>Personal Best Day</b> (additional information to follow)
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Sixth, Seventh &amp; Eighth Grade Guidance Evening Hours, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</b> 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.