

The Anchor

SOUTHAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Learning Through Giving

As we enter the holiday season, after a year where families and individuals struggled in a variety of areas, the district continues to emphasize learning through giving and the importance of philanthropy.

As part of the district's character education curriculum, students are regularly instructed on the importance of giving back to the community that they call home. The benefits of giving are not just taught through a variety of character education classroom lessons on citizenship, but also through hands-on experiences led by our talented teachers and caring club advisers.

Every year, our elementary, intermediate and high school students are inspired to dedicate thousands of volunteer hours to a variety of causes. At the elementary level, students hold drives for winter coats and nonperishable food for those less fortunate. Intermediate students have grown produce in the school garden that was donated, and at the high school, students celebrate our veterans through an annual dinner.

Despite restrictions due to COVID-19, giving back has not wavered. With the assistance of their teachers and club advisers, students are finding creative ways to be altruistic while being socially distanced.

Learn more about the humanitarian causes students have taken on inside this issue of The Anchor.

"We are constantly heartened by the generosity of our students. They are always willing to step up to lend a hand. Through giving, students gain an understanding of the many ways to practice philanthropy and become empowered to take action for the common good."

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nicholas Dyno



UNITY THROUGH GENEROSITY



Interact Club (Rotary)
Adviser: Sarah Fitzsimons
 The high school Rotary Interact Club aims to energize and inspire students as globally responsible leaders. To that end, club members work to help those in the community through several means. This year, students fed homeless community members at the Southampton Presbyterian Church. They are also planning to raise funds for a local charity. In the past, they have raised money for charities through bake sales, a bingo night, car washes and candy grams.

Patriot Club
Adviser: Thea Fry
 The high school Mariners Patriot Club is a group dedicated to patriotism and giving back to local veterans. There are a few ways that the club accomplishes this. Each year, they hold an annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner. This year, due to COVID-19, the dinner was served via takeout. Over 75 meals were distributed with the assistance of the elementary school Student Council. Additionally, club members placed flags on the graves of fallen veterans at the Sacred Hearts and Southampton cemeteries in honor of Veterans Day. They are currently working on two additional projects: collecting lip balm and candy to send to troops overseas, and conducting 100 Turkeys for 100 Vets, in which they are collecting 100 turkeys, canned vegetables, potatoes, cranberry and pies and distributing them the weekend before Thanksgiving.



Athletes Helping Athletes
Adviser: Eddie Arnold
 High school athletes who participate in the Athletes Helping Athletes athletic leadership program are trained by professionals to speak to elementary school students about positive decision-making. They focus on motivational messages and concentrate on what an individual can become rather than what they should avoid. They also participate in an annual food drive, where they collect nonperishables that are donated to Human Resources of the Hamptons.



Opening Act Club (Rotary)
Adviser: Nick Epley
 Southampton Elementary School's community service group, the Opening Act Club, aims to provide younger students with an opportunity to give back. Currently, the group is assisting the local Rotary group with a food collection for the holiday season. Students will be creating and assembling food boxes to help with the collection. They are also helping Heart of the Hamptons with an annual Holiday Star Program, where toys are collected for children during the holiday season. Additionally, members are creating ornaments and posters to help with the toy collection and will be working with Heart of the Hamptons to help promote their upcoming fundraiser, the Polar Bear Plunge.



Natural Helpers
Advisers: Tonya Bess-Hodges and Sherrilynn Blakey-Smith
 Natural Helpers is a peer-to-peer assistance program that trains participants to become natural helpers. Students who are selected as peer leaders are trained during a weekend retreat at the high school. During the retreat, they build skills that aid in finding effective ways to help their peers.

Best Buddies
Advisers: Emily Bishop and Tania Ciancio
 Best Buddies is an organization that is designed to foster meaningful relationships between general education and special education students. Students meet weekly to engage in creative and exciting activities such as scavenger hunts, talent shows, art projects, board games and various types of field trips. These meetings give students with intellectual disabilities socialization opportunities and afford them the ability to make meaningful friendships with peers their age. The club also participates in yearly fundraisers such as the Best Buddies Walk, bake sales, T-shirt sales and friendship bracelet sales.



Student Council
Advisers: Tim Schreck and Brian Tenety
 The members of the high school Student Council work together to help others in need. This year, the council is working with Heart of the Hamptons to deliver Thanksgiving meals to district families in need. Additionally, members are holding a winter coat and clothing drive for Backpack Blessings and a holiday gift drive to support local families. They will also be assisting with the Cell Out for Soldiers campaign by collecting old cellphones to be recycled.

SES Student Council
Advisers: Lisa Carew and Annemarie Calogrias
 The Southampton Elementary School Student Council helps to foster responsibility and leadership. Students are engaged in organizing schoolwide activities and community endeavors. In an enthusiastic effort to reach out to others in need, the student council, comprised of third and fourth graders, have been involved in many projects, including facilitating a schoolwide collection of used coats and canned food items for the Heart of the Hamptons food pantry. Council members also collected used children's shoes that traveled to Uganda in October 2020 to a children's orphanage with Southampton surgeon Medhat Allam of International Surgical Mission Support. This year, members joined the Patriot Club of Southampton High School in hosting a takeout dinner for local veterans in honor of Veterans Day. In support of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the council sponsored a speaker from Southampton's Breast Cancer Coalition.



SAVE Promise Club
Adviser: Melissa Mitchell
 In the SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Promise Club, high school students work to raise awareness about school violence prevention through an annual Say Something Day, where all students are encouraged to speak up to prevent violence. For their work in 2020, club members were presented with a proclamation from Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman.

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Students Against Destructive Decisions

Adviser: Nature Richard

SADD is a school-based organization dedicated to addressing the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving and drug use. The mission is to provide high school students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the serious issues young adults are facing today. Empowerment is SADD's basic principle. SADD members work to promote a message of "no use" of alcohol and drugs and discourage their peers from participating in activities with destructive consequences.

SIS Student Council

Advisers: Pasquale Ferro and RoseAnn Gentile

The intermediate school's Student Council is student-run group that organizes events and activities that benefit their peers and the community. This year, the students kicked off their activities with a winter coat drive where they collected gently used coats for those in need. They are now working on a holiday gift-giving campaign with a goal to collect gift cards and gifts for families who may not have a holiday due to COVID-19.



Garden Club

Adviser: Christina Cassel

The Garden Club at the intermediate school assists in growing produce for all of the district's schools, as well as for cooking lessons taught in the home and careers program. Lettuce, carrots, kale, raspberries, blackberries, asparagus, squash and Long Island cheese pumpkin have been the focus harvest for a few years now. All of the seeds are graciously donated by Adam Halsey.

**UNITY
THROUGH
GENEROSITY**

Key Club

Adviser: Peter Liubenov

Key Club is part of the parent organization Kiwanis and connected to Key Club International. It is a student-run leadership and community service club in which student members make decisions about fundraising and community service opportunities. Members also take on leadership roles and learn how to become effective leaders and serve others.

