

Box Out Bullying For Red Ribbon Week

One of the highlights leading up to Red Ribbon Week is a Joint Munsey Park/Shelter Rock SCA meeting which is focused on a nationally acclaimed bullying prevention program called "Box Out Bullying." To help accommodate busy parent schedules, two meetings will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8, a morning meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Munsey Park and an evening meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Shelter Rock. The target audience for these two meetings are parents of students in grades K -6. This topic is quite pertinent as some children in our society are verbally abused by their peers in ways that are as painful to those physically bullied and as to those who are simply left out of friend groups by their classmates.

During the summer I wrote a letter to the Manhasset staff that contained the following relevant personal story:

On the first weekend in August, my wife, Debbie, and I were minding our three grandchildren as our son, Craig, and his wife, Krystal, were attending an out of state wedding. On this hot Saturday afternoon, two close friends, who are now both grandmothers, also happened to be watching their grandchildren. Before we knew it, seven children, ranging in ages from six months (Madison) to thirteen years, were in the pool at



SUPERINTENDENT'S
COLUMN

**CHARLES
CARDILLO**

our house; it was a scene reminiscent of the old days at the Cardillo household, of summers when our six sons spent countless hours swimming and playing together. In watching these youngsters, I felt a measure of nostalgia; for me it was a throwback Saturday with young children having carefree fun, laughing and splashing around with one another, playing pool volleyball, tipping one another off floats and swimming. (Note: Madison was in the pool in a tube float with her grandfather successfully shielding her from any large waves of water coming in her direction.)

When I finally got out of the pool, several of the kids remained splashing in the water. Watching them, I began to think about each of these seven children, wondering (unrealistically, I know) why we can't keep children in a protective bubble, shielded from life's daily distractions

so they might maintain that pure and wonderful innocence that children always possess?

As it happens, one of those youngsters is a special needs child who has had to cope with significant physical issues and countless operations, and yet, on this day, she was enjoying the pool as much as all of the other children. In less than a month, she will be starting middle school in a neighboring county. Naturally, she and her parents are feeling a bit of apprehensive about starting in a new school. Will her classmates in the new school treat her as one of the core group or will she be left on the outside of the core and not have a friend group? Will her teachers, support staff and administrators help her manage throughout the school year with many academic, social and emotional challenges that she will likely face? These are questions her parents, and perhaps all parents, contemplate before the start of (and during) any school year.

When classes begin here in Manhasset on Tuesday, Sept. 1, each of the students attending our schools will bring with them a unique personal story, just as the beautiful young girl referenced above will bring to her new school. Some of the students entering our schools may have similar concerns to hers,

while others may be more fortunate because all is good in their lives and they feel comfortable and ready for the new year.

There is a wonderful song, "Don't Laugh at Me," written and sung by Mark Wills, which in its lyrics contains a very poignant anti-bullying message. Below are a portion of the lyrics of this song:

*I'm a little boy with glasses
The one they call the geek
A little girl who never smiles
'Cause I've got braces on my teeth
And I know how it feels to cry myself
to sleep
I'm that kid on every playground
Who's always chosen last...
Don't laugh at me, don't call me
names
Don't get your pleasure from my
pain....*

Manhasset is blessed with having a great student body and staff. But, as is true in any community, even with students who are mostly thoughtful and caring, there are instances when a student has had to experience pain as a result of some thoughtless or uncaring word or action from a classmate. Collectively, let's all make a commitment to making a meaningful difference so that all of our students can feel they are very special members of Munsey Park, Shelter Rock and the Secondary School families.

Upcoming League Of Women Voters Candidate Forums

BY LYNDIA ADAMS

MANHASSET@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

Election Day is coming up on Nov. 3 and the League of Women Voters of Port Washington and Manhasset have assembled the candidates in two forums to educate the registered voter about who is running for election and how the candidate stands on the issue. As a citizen of the United States, each individual has the inalienable right to cast a vote in an election. You must be a registered voter in order to have this privilege.

Wednesday, Oct. 14—

Local Candidates Forum

With its cosponsor, the Women's Group of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR), the LWV will host a Candidates Forum on Wednesday, Oct. 14, for those running for town supervisor; town receiver of taxes; town council districts 2, 4 and 6; and county legislature districts 9, 10 and 11. They will try to convince voters that they are the best choice by first

delivering a brief statement and then answering audience questions. The same format will be used for each set of candidates.

The forum will be held at the UUCSR, 48 Shelter Rock Rd. in Manhasset starting at 5:30 p.m. A light supper will be available. For additional information, call 516-627-0831 or go to www.lwvofportwashingtonmanhasset.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 21—

Panel To Address New York State Education Policy

The League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset (LWVPW-M) announces that it has invited five distinguished leaders involved in education to address the important and timely question: "NYS Education Policy: How and by Whom Is It Set? Are Changes to the Current System Needed?" The panelists will share their diverse knowledge and perspectives on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Landmark on Main Street in Port Washington. All are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

The LWVPW-M believes that focusing on these important issues is of tremendous relevance, value and importance to the public, given the significant interest and controversy currently surrounding K-12 education policy in New York State.

The program's panelists bring to the table vast experience and multiple viewpoints because they come from different spheres and have played different roles in the education process.

- Susan Bergrau, first vice president and director of New York State School Board Association
- Arnold Dodge, PhD associate professor of Education and chair of Educational Leadership & Administration Department at LIU Post
- New York State Senator George Latimer, Democratic member of NYS Senate Education Committee
- NYS Assemblyman Dean Murray, Republican member of NYS Assembly Education Committee
- Roger Tilles member of NYS Board of Regents

Come hear their ideas and opinions, which should be informative and, hopefully, help answer some questions about the state's education policy.

Landmark on Main Street is located at 232 Main St. in Port Washington. For additional information, contact Allison White at 516-944-7794 or www.alliwhite@gmail.com, or go to www.lwvofportwashingtonmanhasset.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 28—
Nassau County DA Candidates Forum

The League of Women Voters of Nassau County will host the Candidates Forum for the two candidates running for Nassau County District Attorney—Acting Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas (D) and Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray (R).

The Forum will take place in Room 302 of Hofstra University Law School, 121 Hofstra Blvd. in Hempstead at 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.lwvofnassaucounty.org.