



P2 / MASTHEAD

*Letter from the editor
*A message from Superintendent James Nolan
*Key district dates

P3 / SACHEM IN THE KNOW

A listing of key events going on in the Sachem Central School District over the next couple of months.

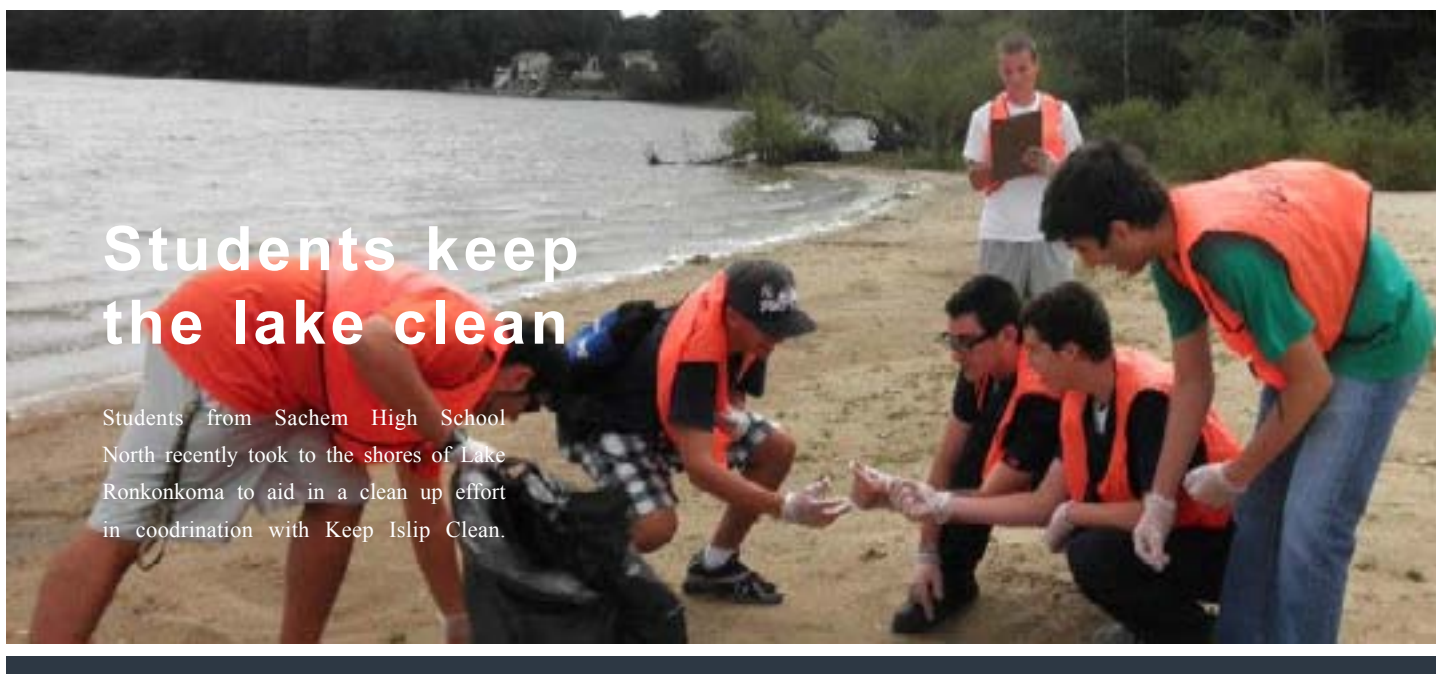
P4-5 / LONDON 2012

Maria Michta became the first Sachem alum to compete in the Olympics. We captured the experience live from London.

THE SCENE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2012, NEW VOL. 1



Students keep the lake clean

Students from Sachem High School North recently took to the shores of Lake Ronkonkoma to aid in a clean up effort in coordination with Keep Islip Clean.

Join Sachem on Sunday, Oct. 21 at Jones Beach State Park for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Please meet at Jones Beach between 8 and 10 a.m. Sachem will be at the Suffolk NYSUT tent in the Commercial Sponsor Area to join together with our Sachem Family for photo opportunities. There is no need to bring your donation money to the tent as there will still be fundraising in the school buildings throughout October, so you can turn your donations in to the Sachem Central Teachers Association in your home building. The SCTA is also selling tee-shirts

for breast cancer awareness this month. Sachem needs your continued help with the baskets and donations for "NOT JUST Ladies Night Out" raffles on Nov. 8, at Villa Lombardi's. Make sure you get your table seating's in ASAP as they are on a first come first serve basis. Principal's, administrators, board of education trustees, secretaries are also invited to attend. Most importantly please advise as to any breast cancer survivors who will be attending so that we can order the appropriate number of gifts for a survivor ceremony that evening. For any additional information or ordering shirts

for yourself, family or students please contact your building rep or us at SCTA@SCTA.net.



Letter from the editor

It's with great pleasure that the Sachem Central School District brings back "The Scene" newsletter. It hasn't been gone for long, but the reaction from community members and organizations upon the news of its return has been outstanding. As a part of my efforts to bolster the communication initiatives in the Sachem Central School District, "The Scene" will be a vital part of distributing news and information to parents, students, staff and faculty members. We have plenty of other functions underway as well. If you're not already following us on Twitter, you can find us @SachemSchools, and likewise with Facebook.com/SachemSchools. Each month we'll expand this publication, offering more and more interesting stories and tidbits you can't get anywhere else. If you have any news or information you'd like us to share across our multiple digital platforms, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. You can email me at CVaccaro@Sachem.edu. #GoArrows!

-Chris R. Vaccaro



From the Superintendent's desk

Dear members of our Sachem Community, We are very excited and thankful that Chris Vaccaro is going to publish the first edition of The Scene for this school year. There is always a great need to open lines of communication between the schools and the community. Chris Vaccaro is a Sachem graduate who is highly skilled with many forms of media and technology. Hopefully this will be one more method to communicate many of the happenings, events, activities and achievements within our Sachem Family. Thank you Chris and thank you to our entire community! Sachem Central School District We Are Sachem!!!



-James J. Nolan, Superintendent

Key Sachem District Calendar Items

October

- *Oct. 17: Board of Education regular meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- *Oct. 18: College Information Night, Sachem HS North, 7:00 p.m.
- *Oct. 29: SEPTA Meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.

November

- *Nov. 2/3: School plays: "Little Women" (East) and "Lend Me a Tenor" (North), 7:30 p.m.
- *Nov. 7: Board of Education work session, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- *Nov. 12: SCHOOLS CLOSED, Veteran's Day
- *Nov. 14: Board of Education regular meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- *Nov. 15: Financial Aid Night, Sachem HS North, 7:00 p.m.
- *Nov. 27: PTA Council Meeting, Sachem HS East, 7:30 p.m.

December

- *Dec. 5: Board of Education work session, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.
- *Dec. 9: Father's Club Festival of Trees/Lights, Sachem HS North, Noon-7:00 p.m.
- *Dec. 19: Board of Education regular meeting, Samoset MS, 7:30 p.m.

Sachem Central School District

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Facebook.com/SachemSchools
#GoArrows / #WeAreSachem

Sachem's Special Education PTA still has two more basketball clinics open in October. The program is for all special education students and is free to children of SEPTA members. To all others, there is a \$10 charge. All children will receive a shirt the first night they participate and a basketball and trophy on the last night of the clinics. Clinics take place every Wednesday evening at Samoset Middle School from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

SEPTA BASKETBALL CLINICS



Sachem East math teacher featured on Ted-Ed

Scott Kennedy, a math teacher at Sachem High School East in Farmingville, N.Y., was recently featured in an animated video lesson on the newly launched TED-Ed website. Using lessons originally developed by Euclid, an ancient Greek mathematician famous for revolutionizing the way math is written, Kennedy, 29, presents nearly a five-minute lesson about proofs in a fun and enlightening manner. Kennedy, who has been recording math lessons for his YouTube channel for a couple of years, learned last March that he would be one of the first 100 educators to have a lesson on TED-Ed. Through recording equipment that was provided by TED, Kennedy recorded his own lesson, which was matched with illustrations by Karrot Animation, a company based in Britain. Scott Kennedy on working with TED-Ed: "I try to stay on the cutting edge. I find it's effective. I find my students love it and it keeps it interesting for me. If you can supplement with technology, it's all the better. I've always wanted to be a cartoon

character. That's just awesome. I'm an animated person in the classroom. I get very into my lessons and what I'm talking about. They really captured it pretty well because they watched my YouTube videos. It's good exposure. I'm just trying to be the best teacher I can be in the classroom." Sachem East Principal Lou Antonetti on Kennedy: "Scott is a very dynamic teacher whose passion and enthusiasm for math lead to great outcomes in the classroom. The recognition he is receiving for his work on TED.com is a credit to his persistent approach and ability to vary lessons structures based on student abilities." TED stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design. TED-Ed videos aim to capture and amplify the voices of the world's greatest educators. To achieve this, they pair extraordinary educators with talented animators to produce a new library of exceptional educational videos.

SACHEM IN THE KNOW...

OCT. 16: PTA PRESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE

There will be a Sachem PTA Unit Presidents Roundtable Tuesday, Oct. 16 also at Sequoya in the Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. Presidents' join the council for an evening of information sharing, networking and an opportunity to have questions answered. If you are not able to attend please send your officer(s) to represent your unit.

OCT. 18: CAYUGA BLOOD DRIVE

Cayuga Elementary School is hosting a blood drive on Thursday, Oct. 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the multi purpose room. Email Debbiecayuga@gmail.com with name, number and time that they would like to donate.

OCT. 20: MERRIMAC FALL FESTIVAL

The PTA's annual Fall Festival will be held on Oct. 20 from 1-3 p.m. The Fun Stuff Book sale and the fifth grade Yankee Candle sale begin this month. Our second PTA meeting will be held on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Come support the PTA!

OCT. 23: SACHEM EAST HOSTING IDOLMAKER

The Sachem High School East PTA will be hosting the third annual IdolMaker on Oct. 26. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The talent show atmosphere has gotten more exciting each year. Tickets are \$10 each, available at the door. All profits will go towards scholarships.

OCT. 24: PTA COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

There will be a PTA Council Leadership Training program, Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. held at Sequoya Middle School in the Little Theater. Presentation will be on the new math for K through 6.

OCT. 25: SUFFOLK PTA FALL COUNCIL

There is a Suffolk Regional PTA Council Fall Conference on Thursday, Oct. 25 at Newfield High School. Registration is 6:30 p.m. Workshops begin at 7:00 p.m.

NOV. 17: TECUMSEH CRAFT FAIR

Tecumseh Elementary School is having its first vendor/craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you're interested in having a booth, please email cec52071@aol.com.

MERRIMAC PTA UPDATES

The Merrimac PTA will be hosting its annual MINGO night on Friday Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. All reflections entries are due Nov. 1. The fifth grade Yankee candle order ends on Nov. 7. The fifth grade will be selling raffle tickets from Nov. 16-20.

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 *WEB: WWW.SACHEM.EDU
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More news and notes

OCT. 20: CLOTHING DRIVE FOR FRANZI

The Sachem community is hosting a clothing drive and fundraiser to help raise funds for Nicholas Franzi, a student at Sachem High School North, who suffers from chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). On October 20, the community will host a clothing drive at the high school. Every pound will help raise funds for a great cause. Drop off is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North.

OCT. 21: RYO CHINESE AUCTION

There will be a Chinese Auction for Cooperstown RYO Cardinals on Saturday, Oct. 21 at Samoset Middle School. Times are 6:00 p.m. for viewing and auction from 7-9 p.m.

EAST STUDENTS NAMED MERIT SCHOLARS

Lou Antonetti, Principal of Sachem East, announced that Ivan Guan and Alan Mohr have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Sequoia student attends Space Academy

This past summer, Justin Morris, an eighth grade student at Sequoya Middle School, flew down to Huntsville, Ala. to attend Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

It was a week of educational fun and games for Morris. Activities included building and launching rockets, designing and testing thermal heat tiles, and being strapped into a gyroscope to simulate disorientation.

A highlight of the week was meeting experienced NASA astronaut, Don Thomas, who was a mission specialist on four shuttle missions.

Morris also enjoyed 2 mock space shuttle missions in a life-like flight simulator, one as an astronaut and one as a member of Mission Control. He described the experience as the best week of his life.



Fundraiser for Sachem East alum and wrestler Paul Di Iorio

A fundraiser is being held to benefit Sachem East alum and former All-County wrestler Paul Di Iorio. Di Iorio was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, which will require a lengthy treatment process and regular visits to Sloane-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. "Sachem Takes Down Cancer" will be held Friday, Oct. 19 at the Holtsville Fire Department starting at 7:00 p.m. There is a suggested donation fee of \$25. Di Iorio, a 2008 Sachem East graduate, was one of the most fierce competitors to ever take the mat for Sachem East. He was a four-year varsity letter winner, two-time All-League and All-County wrestler, and team captain. He epitomized the program's philosophy of wrestling whistle to whistle with the highest possible intensity. His relentless attack paid off, as he still holds the school record for most pins in a season with 29. As a team captain, Di Iorio was fantastic, always leading by example with his outstanding work ethic. He is a young man of outstanding character who approaches life with the same drive and determination that led him to



success on the wrestling mat. He graduated near the top of his class at Sachem East and went on to complete a biochemistry degree in the honors program at St. Mary's College of Maryland. "We would like to help Paul as he battles this disease," the Sachem East coaching staff said in a statement. "We know Paul is up to the challenge before him and will overcome this obstacle just as

he did many opponents and other challenges in his life. Please stand with us in Paul's corner and help us support him and his family during this time." For tickets and info, contact Regina O'Malley, 631-678-6500 or Sachem East wrestling coach Sean O'Hara, sohara@sachem.edu.



Michta represents Sachem at Olympics

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY CHRIS R. VACCARO

LONDON – Near the finish line, which was situated perfectly in The Mall, the beginning and end to one of the more surreal event set-ups in all of London for this year’s summer Olympics, Russia’s Olga Kaniskina and Elena Lashmanova put on a show in the 20k race walk. Lashmanova, who won the previous three world championships and a gold medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, led for almost the entire race, but Lashmanova, within striking distance as the two raced themselves as 59 other women competed in their rear-view, saw an opportunity to charge and win the color medal she really wanted; gold.

Like a head-to-head battle down the straight away in a NASCAR race, Lashmanova and Kaniskina gave the fans in The Mall and the viewers at home on NBC Sports Network a performance to get out of their seats in angst about. The strenuous tension of competition that sets in for fans – possibly in no greater stage than the Olympics – as one athlete overcomes adversity to capture victory

is remarkable. Lashmanova edged fellow country-woman Kaniskina for the gold and set world and Olympic records in the event with a 1:25:02 finish. Kaniskina was seven seconds behind at 1:25:09. China’s Shenjie Qieyang won bronze (1:25:16).

For America, and for Long Island specifically, the race that mattered was the one on the other end of the 20k course that ran past Buckingham Palace, past the Queen Victoria Statue and the some 10,000 fans who came out in droves and stood 15-20 deep around the 12.4-mile course on a gorgeous London summer day, Saturday, Aug. 11. It was about Maria Michta, the walking scientist from Nesconset, N.Y. who affirmed her love for race walking as a student at Sachem High School and has since gone on to earn the status as the No. 1 ranked competitor in the event in the states.

By the time Lashmanova captured her own Olympic glory, Michta was on her final lap, blitzing past the Palace – the Queen possibly inside watching from a window – saying Happy Birthday to her fiancé Joe Coffey, who traveled with eight of Michta’s family members, including the Coffey

clan, to London for a moment in their lives they’ve been envisioning for as long as Michta has adapted her own slogan of “dream, believe, become.”

The goal of becoming an Olympian had been set for a couple of years, but only became a reality on July 1 as she narrowly beat Miranda Melville at the U.S. Olympic Trials. By that point Michta, who graduated as valedictorian from C.W. Post in 2008 and from Sachem in 2004, had already taken a six-month sabbatical from her doctoral studies at Manhattan’s Mount Sinai College of Medicine, where she is competing against Hepatitis B in the lab as a microbiologist. Less than a month after the trials, Michta was off across the pond, walking in the opening ceremony at the monstrous Olympic Stadium in London. She gained more national recognition when she made an appearance on NBC’s Today Show with Matt Lauer, Al Roker, Ryan Seacrest and Maria Menounos, teaching them the intricacies of the race walk.

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“I was ecstatic to say the least,” Michta wrote on her blog, “what a great opportunity to get positive media attention as well as an excellent chance to educate the general public back home about my Olympic event.”

She also harnessed her Twitter presence, gaining more than 1,000 followers during the games and the coveted verified status symbol on her account and she kept the Sachem and Long Island communities engaged and informed on her daily schedule throughout.

On race day, Michta was in 46th place at the 10k midway point and continued to charge

hard, picking up ground as she walked faster and stronger. She was 36 at 12k, 32 at 14k and finally 29 at 16k, where she eventually finished. Those tuned in at home were forced to watch the race up front and rarely saw Michta forging her own path.

The race, nearly a powerful memory by the time she made Coffey’s day with a birthday wish, – as if he needed more than to see his love reach her dream anyway – turned out to be the most successful in Michta’s career. She recorded the second-fastest time ever by an American woman in the event and the fastest by an American woman at the Olympics, finishing in 1:32:27. The previous American Olympic record was 1:34:15 set by New

Hampshire’s Joanne Dow in 2008 at the Beijing games. Michta, who cut 2:25 off her personal best mark, also added a 10k personal best time of 46:02 during the first 6.2 miles of the race.

“I think I raced the first [kilometer] with my head and my last 19k with my heart,” she said after the race. “It was the best race in every scenario - I wanted to set a 10k pr, get the Olympic A standard, set a personal best, everything I wanted and more happened today. It is just a dream come true, everything that I did getting to this point has all been worth it to have a race like this.”





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Place announcement in "The Scene"

For more information, email Chris R. Vaccaro directly at cvaccaro@sachem.edu.



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IN PERSON REGISTRATION

Monday Oct. 15th - Cherokee Elementary School 6:30-8pm
Wednesday Oct. 17th - Slocum Elementary School 6:30pm-8pm
Thursday Oct. 18th - Ronkonkoma Middle School 6:30pm-8pm
Saturday Oct 20th - St. Joe's Gym Hallway Noon-2pm
Monday Oct 22nd - Seneca Middle School 6:30pm-8pm

GIRLS ONLY DIVISION

FOR INFORMATION: Cathy - 588-1879
Clinic & Boys Division - Henry - 467-6091
Girls Division - Debbie - 467-6174



MAIL IN REGISTRATION ASAP

I agree as parent/guardian to provide all transportation to and from all games and practices. I hereby authorize my child's participation in St. Joseph's CYO sports program, and I know of no physical disabilities or illness which would interfere or prevent his/her participation. I do hereby waive, release, indemnify and agree to hold harmless or responsible the St. Joseph's CYO, its sponsor, staff and participants, for any claim arising out of injury to my child, whether the result of negligence or for any other cause except to the extent of St. Joseph's CYO, liability responsible for this activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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 I WILL DO FUND RAISING OF CANDY

Name _____ D.O.B. _____ School attending _____
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Home Phone _____ School _____ Check One: Boy Girl Grade _____
Parent's Email _____ I want to coach I want to assist

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-Workouts on Saturday evenings

-Professional instruction

-Discounts offered on lessons

For information call Fred Forgione at 631-737-0008 or email him at ryocards@yahoo.com

2013 Spring and Summer Registration

Sachem little league will be hosting its first walk in registration on October 5th and 6th at Nokomis Elementary School which is located across the street from the Sachem Public Library.

Registration times are below:

Friday 10/5/12: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Saturday 10/6/12: 10:00am-2:00pm

Saturday 11/10/12: 10:00am-2:00pm

You can register online anytime by visiting www.sachemll.com



Sachem Sports Club

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Spring 2013

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Registration Fee: \$125 per child /\$35 discount each additional child

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Pre-School Clinic

K-1 5 & 6 year olds

2nd -6th grade teams

Questions? K-6th LAX – 631-610-3602

Pre-school Clinic – Ron Chamberlain – 631-472-0119

Web Site - www.sachemsportsclub.com

Register by mail: Fill out form below and mail check made payable to:

Sachem Sports Club P.O Box 278 Holbrook, NY 11741

Child's Name _____

Birth Date _____ Age _____ School District/School _____

Address _____

City _____ NY Zip _____ Phone _____

Registering for: K-6 Lacrosse or Pre-school Clinic

Has the child played before? _____ If yes, where? _____

Parent or Guardian agrees to the following: 1. Registration fee is non-refundable. *2. SYS reserves the right for placement of your child. * 3. Fund-raising participation is required for each child.

Parent or Guardian's Signature



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Spring 2013



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Times: 5:30-6:15 on Mon and Wed, 10:00-10:45 on Sat (Prospects- Ages 5-6)

6:15-7:00 on Mon and Wed, 10:45-11:30 on Sat (Minors- Ages 7-9)

7:00-7:45 on Mon and Wed, 11:30-12:15 on Sat (Majors- Ages 10-12)

Fee: \$125 per month, \$300 for 3 months, \$500 for 6 months

****Each day will consist of a different aspect of the game. Clinics start on the first of every month and run through the end of the month. Schedule of skills can be given upon request via for or email**

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