SAANYS has a long history of serving its membership during the best and most challenging of times, and we remain steadfast in serving you during this pandemic as you work around the clock to support your school communities.

The SAANYS Legal Department remains vigilant and on hand to answer your important questions about terms of employment, “essential workers,” contract negotiations, and more. Our Government Relations Department is sending daily reports on what you need to know from the state and federal government, as well as SEED. This timely information is also updated daily to the SAANYS website under our dedicated Coronavirus page (https://saanys.org/news/coronavirus-resources/). SAANYS professional learning has evolved into a number of online opportunities, including the newly created, “SAANYS Connect: A Panel Discussion Supporting Our School Leaders,” which focuses on sharing experiences and providing members with expertise, resources, and tools to use now and as our current environment evolves. Visit saanys.org/events regularly for the latest offerings.

The entire SAANYS staff is committed to remaining as accessible as always to the membership. To reach any staff member, please visit us at https://saanys.org/about-us/, where you will find a list of staff members, email addresses, and phone extensions. We are here to support you, do not hesitate to call on us.

Annual Award Winners Issue

Brentwoodwood Principal Selected as NYS Secondary School Principal of the Year and NASSP NYS Principal of the Year

Felicia Thomas-Williams, principal at West Middle School in the Brentwood Union Free School District, has been selected as the 2020 New York State Secondary Principal of the Year by SAANYS. This award is given annually to a member of SAANYS to recognize outstanding principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession.

Thomas-Williams will also represent New York as the NASSP NYS Principal of the Year as sponsored by SAANYS’ national affiliate, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). In addition to selecting a National Principal of the Year from all the state finalists, NASSP honors all state principals of the year at the Principal’s Institute held each year in Washington, DC.

A long-time educator since 1993, Thomas-Williams joined the Brentwood UFSD in 1996, becoming an administrator in 2005, and serving as principal of West Middle School since 2013. West MS is a very diverse community of almost 1,000 students stemming from more than 50 countries, with many of the students experiencing early childhood trauma as a result of their immigration journey. As such, parents are often unsure of the best way to interact with the school, believing that the language and cultural barriers are insurmountable. An empathetic leader, Thomas-Williams takes on this challenge and has implemented many inclusive and innovative programs, strengthening the home-school relationship and developing a truly welcoming culture at the school. A turning point in her understanding came after she had the opportunity to attend a session at the SAANYS 2017 Annual Conference on Adverse Childhood Experiences. She later shared her insights with the school’s faculty and staff and continued on page 8

Vacation in the Age of School Closure

As we are all aware at this point, Governor Cuomo’s state shutdown of schools has come with the edict that all remaining emergency closures and school breaks are null and void if school districts do not want to jeopardize state aid. While many could use a well-earned temporary break from the chaos, this might not be able to occur until the school year is officially over. The governor’s prohibition on school recess periods does not mean that administrators automatically forfeit their contractual vacation for the year though. Depending on the terms and conditions of your contract, you might have the ability to take vacation time while students are in session. Further, the superintendent may or may not have the ability to deny vacation time under the contract. These are issues that will require a case-by-case analysis should you wish to utilize a contractual leave day. However, the majority of contracts within districts provide that vacation time can only be taken during the summer and school recess periods. What happens if, for reasons completely out of your control this year, you are unable to use all of your leave time? Continued on page 6

Keynote speaker announced!

continued on page 8

continued on page 6
Executive Viewpoint

Thank you, School Leaders
Sponsor Opinion Piece by Kenneth A. Facin, Solutions Facilitator, Educational Vistas, Inc.

COVID-19 shuttered our society so quickly that there was little to no time to prepare for the unprecedented state-wide school shutdown. Regress exams and grades 3-8 ELA, and math assessments have been sidelined and there is uncertainty about regress classes this year. School leaders in every district across our state have built new remote systems to educate, feed, and socially stabilize their students. The challenges have been compounded by the digital learning divide among students. Many student households now have high speed internet and computing resources. Learning inequity is real and presents immense challenges ahead. Schools have stepped up, delivering learning materials, Chromebooks, and meals daily to their students. Teachers have and are establishing new learning platforms while staying connected to their students and parents. This is evident now more than ever with many schools serving as information centers for nervous communities in regard to COVID-19. Our schools are the informational epicenters for their communities and the fight, educators and teachers at the forefront of these efforts, always with a steady hand and soothing calmness.

You are navigating your students, faculty, staff, families, and communities through very trying times. Thank you all that you have done and continue to do for those you serve. Your great work has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated by everyone.

School Administrators
Association of New York State
Vol. XLIX No. 4/5

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SAANYS News & Notes
Vol. XLIX No. 4/5
Apr/Ey 2020

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to stand up to the task.

Chrisoper Reeve
Overview of the April Board of Regents Meeting

The April meeting of the Board of Regents was conducted via conference call. Chancellor Rosa began with a reflection on the current COVID-19 crisis. She acknowledged the governor, health care providers across the state, service personnel, and department leadership. She also acknowledged educators and parents who are doing herculean work under great stress. A moment of silence was held for all who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Commissioner Search

As of April 1, 2020 the board started working with AGB Search to begin the process of finding the next commissioner of education. Chairing the search committee will be Regent Young and other members of the search committee include Regents Tilles, Cea, Norwood, Chin, and Collins.

COVID-19 Related Regulatory Action

The next segment of the meeting was the review and adoption of proposed regulations to provide flexibility and support to school districts, institutions of higher education, charter schools, and professionals in the field to address needed changes as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Scan the QR code for a chart summarizing the regulations adopted for emergency.

More information on regulations relating to transportation may be found by scanning the QR code at right.

It should be noted that some regulations are proposed as a result of the need for consistency with revised motor vehicle law. Other regulations are a result of the COVID-19 crisis and those are included in the chart as well.

Non-COVID-19 Regulatory Action

APPR – Revised regulations that provided greater flexibility for the evaluation of principals were first introduced at the February 2020 meeting of the Board of Regents. The revised regulations, which were adopted as an emergency action allowed:

• The student performance category of principals have an additional option to SLOs. As collectively bargained, an input model that demonstrates evidence of principal practice that promotes student growth may be used. The input model may also be used in the optional sub-component of the student performance category.

• For the principal school visit category, multiple sources of evidence may be collected and incorporated into the school visit protocol to better reflect school leadership practice and provide actionable feedback. Evidence of a principal’s effectiveness as aligned to district or building goals may be used.

• The APPR regulations cited above are intended to be permanently approved by the Board of Regents at their May meeting. SAANYS has worked with SED to seek relief from current APPR requirements due to the COVID-19 crisis. Any action taken on this would need to be through an executive order by the governor.

Additional information may be found by scanning the QR code at left.

Another useful resource summarizing the regulations may be found by scanning the QR code at right.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

10 WAYS TO SECURE ZOOM!

1. Use a Unique ID for Large or Public Zoom Calls

2. Require a Meeting Password

3. Create a Waiting Room

4. Only the Host Should Share Their Screen

5. Create an Invite-Only Meeting

6. Lock a Meeting Once It Starts

7. Kick Someone Out of a Meeting

8. Disable Someone’s Camera

9. Prevent Animated GIFs and Other Files in the Chat

10. Disable Private Chat

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

SAANYS Benefits

- Learn Life-saving Driving Skills
- Reduce Insurance Premiums (for 3 years)
- Diminish Points

For more information regarding the SAANYS legislative agenda, the New York State Board of Regents, the Educational Conference Board, or other government relations concerns, contact Cynthia Gallagher, SAANYS director of government relations, at cgallagher@saanys.org.

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in Digital Education Award by SAANYS. This award recognizes a SAANYS member who has demonstrated exceptional, creative leadership in harnessing the potential of technology to further teaching and student achievement. The candidate will have demonstrated organizational and communication skills in supporting and promoting such innovative digital practices for higher learning community.

In his role as director of technology, DeLisle is often seen walking the halls of any one of the district’s eleven buildings. It is a testament to the technology, interact with teachers and students, and always asking himself the question, “What value does this add?” This hands-on approach has given him unique insight as to how best to integrate new and innovative technologies into each classroom. Principal Alex Ewing commented on DeLisle’s classroom visits, “As staff share openly their instructional needs, Mr. DeLisle not only offers words of encouragement and praise for implementing instructional creativity, but is right there in the trenches when necessary to troubleshoot and provide assistance to ensure positive experiences for teachers and students in the classroom.”

During his tenure in the district, DeLisle has also been instrumental in reimagining the district’s libraries into comprehensive learning centers. Seeing upon the vision of the library media specialists, he facilitated the creation of Learning Labs in some buildings where students and teachers can work collaboratively in a Google-like setting. Each library has been transformed by installing mobile furniture and technology along with many areas for collaboration stations, Oculus Quest Virtual Reality headsets, esports, green screens, recording studios, 3D printing, and more. Commented Durrett Jr. High School Librarian Lindsay Olin, “I demonstrate that great leaders are also great listeners. If you’re an educator that likes to dream big and try new things, RJ is the perfect person to have in your corner. He’s always been a vocal and persistent advocate for our library programs, allowing us, as educators, to innovate.”

Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Tony Cardamone commented, “RJ seeks not only to get the latest and greatest technology for students and teachers, he seeks to find technology to support learning and teaching. At his core, RJ is a teacher. His first love and passion is instruction.”

Commented Deputy Superintendent Joseph M. Delbarbier, “RJ demonstrates quality leadership and ongoing professional learning as he works to engage and cultivate the professional growth of teachers and leaders alike. He is hardworking and a team player. He is committed to the growth and development of all students, which is necessary for success in any leadership role.”

SAANYS and NASSP NYS Assistant Principal of the Year

Kristen Lennon-McMahan
Assistant Principal, Shenendehowa High School West
Shenendehowa CSD

Kristen Lennon-McMahan, assistant principal at Shenendehowa High School West in the Shenendehowa Central School District, has been selected as the 2020 New York State Assistant Principal of the Year by SAANYS. This award is given annually by SAANYS and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to a middle or high school assistant principal who has set the pace, character, and quality of education for the students in his or her school. Nominees are administrators who are committed to students, parents, and the community and have shown exceptional contributions to the educational process.

Lennon-McMahan has been an educator in the Shenendehowa school district since 2005, with the last eight years serving as assistant principal of Shenendehowa High School West. She is known as an administrator who is passionate about helping her students grow into empathetic young adults. To that end, Lennon-McMahan developed a school-wide event known as “Day of Acceptance” where students, staff and faculty participate in three hour-long programs. She notes that “the goal behind each day was for students to recognize and respect differences. We really aimed to include every student and adult in our building to make it an inclusive activity.”

Commented student, Nuyuana Owens, “She is always there when I need to her. That is one thing that is absolutely wonderful about her. That also applies to my fellow teachers as well.”

Lennon-McMahan has also worked to provide cultural responsiveness training called, “The Art of Understanding Our Students” for staff and faculty, which has recently been implemented district-wide. Over the course of two years, close to 70 faculty and staff have been trained to become facilitators for the program. Commented Principal Ron Agostini, “Kristen understands the value and necessity of a positive culture where all stakeholders have opportunities for input. Her focus is not only to provide input, but to also empower those around her to make sustainable and systematic positive changes.” Associate Principal Michael Gutchell notes, “I wholeheartedly cannot think of anyone else more deserving of this honor. She is dedicated to the educational success of every student that comes through her building.”

Known as a leader who truly understands the social-emotional needs of middle school students, Val prides herself on knowing each of her student’s personal stories. She spearheaded the implementation of the school’s Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) initiative, which has since been introduced at the high school level as well. One important component of this initiative has been to solidify the role of the “Redirect Center,” a non-punitive space where students can get assistance from a social worker or guidance counselor to address their social-emotional needs. A testament to her leadership, students know her office is also a safe space and regularly seek her out for help and to share successes.

Commented Director of Human Resources Daniell Erting, “She knows every person in the building from student to staff member. She knows when something seems a little off. She knows when someone may have had a bad night at home. Mrs. Val immediately reaches out to their teachers to make them aware and get their input.”

Val is also active in the community serving as the softball league coordinator and on the board of the Saugerties Little League. As such, she spearheaded the league’s “Light it Up” campaign in 2016, an effort to upgrade the girls facilities to include the installation of lights for evening play. After three years of effort, the lights will be turned on this season. Commented Saugerties Little League Vice President Gregory DelCelle, “She has put in countless hours chairing events and fundraisers as well as working with the business community to help fund the efforts to put lights on our primary softball field. This has been an effort of epic proportion for her and she has excelled Beyond all expectations. She has served on our league board with Mrs. Val and have tremendous respect for her efforts on behalf of the children in our community.”

Commented Jr Sr High School Principal Thomas Averill, “She understands what it means to be a good parent and the needs of parents of students from four elementary schools into one Jr Sr high school. Finding ways to create an environment conducive to their age and maturity level has been the hallmark of her administrative leadership.”
Mark Warford, assistant principal at Bethlehem Central Middle School in the Bethlehem Central School District, has been selected as a 2020 New York State Assistant Principal of the Year by SAANYS and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). This award is given annually to a member of SAANYS and NAESP promoting educational excellence for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade (Pre-K-8) schooling and calling attention to the fundamental importance of the assistant principal.

A long-time educator since 1995, Warford has served in his current position at Bethlehem Central Middle School since 2008. A significant accomplishment that began early in his educational career was the creation of an academic assistance program for at-risk students called GROW (goal setting, responsibility, organization, work ethic). This program has been highly successful in giving these students the ability to achieve in school, while working on foundational skills and habits needed to reach that goal. Because of the success of the program, several other local school districts have since established their own GROW program. At Bethlehem Central MS, the GROW program has doubled in size in the past five years.

In addition to his mentorship of colleagues, Dawkins has continued to serve his profession. He has also presented a variety of workshops at state-wide conferences, continuing to set the standard for ongoing professional development and organizational success. During his tenure in the Rensselaer City SD, Dawkins was known as a mentor to all. He has served as a college supervisor of student teachers for SUNY Oneonta and was instrumental in the launching of the SAANYS Mentor Coaching service. In 2012, Bethlehem MS was one of the first three public schools in New York State to be certified as a Green School by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
**Vacation in the Age of School Closures**

Like most things in public sector education, the answer will depend on your contract. Those that provide for unlimited rollover and accrual of vacation time provide the easiest resolution, but many contracts provide limitations on how many days can be carried over from one year to the next. The next step is to look at the number of days you can sell back for cash at the end of the school year. Many people already factor that ability sell back days when planning their vacation usage for the year, still leaving an overage due to the current predicament. If alter utilizing all of the remedies discussed above that are available to you under your contract, try or someone in your unit still has a surplus of vacation days that will be forfeited due to the Executive Orders, SAANYS recommends that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) be negotiated and drafted to prevent such unforeseen losses this year. There are many different combinations as to how this goal can be accomplished with the district. The easiest solution would be for the MOA to permit unit members to sell back all unused vacation days at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. With increasing budget concerns, this might not be feasible in some districts. The cap on vacation accruals and rollover amounts, if any in your contract, could be enlarged to cover the unused vacation for this year. This could be a permanent change or for a limited duration during which time the unused vacation time must be used. If it is the latter, make sure that the timeframe is sufficiently long enough to allow your members to be able to take the time. Depending on how many extra days are being rolled over, taking them all during the 2020-2021 school year might not be practical. Of course, there is also always the ability to combine these options in a way that best benefits both the district and the unit.

The SAANYS Legal Department is here to help you navigate the options within your contract, as well as negotiate an agreement for preserving your unused vacation days at the end of the year. Please reach out to us with any questions so that we may help lessen your contractual concerns during this trying time.

**Legal Highlights**

**SAANYS has always been there for members who need advice or assistance from legal counsel on job-related matters. Now, SAANYS has partnered with the law firm of Feldman, Kramer and Monaco to help when you need personal legal advice and assistance.**

$85 annually provides a single will power of attorney, health care proxy, living will, and unlimited advice via telephone. Enrollees will also receive certificates good for two free hour-long office consultations with a local referral attorney. For services beyond this package, discounted rates apply.

Contact Feldman, Kramer and Monaco, the law firm that administers the plan for SAANYS members, at 1-800-832-5182 for help to preserve your membership.

**What a time it is.**

A few short weeks ago, we were digging down into the details to make the final arrangements for upcoming professional learning events before the world changed. The events that were scheduled into the spring, SAANYS After School Series, a four-part series for those in Rochester, and other events, were canceled right after things fell apart, but we are fortunate that that this part of our series for current or aspiring principals and assistant principals with Andrew Marotta, will happen. We are also continuing to work on a collaboration with an area college for an online school leaders’ network that will offer short focused workshops on topics that emerging and current leaders ask for. I hope to make that a primary focus as I work remotely and wonder, like all of you do, where this is all going?

But beyond the more immediate plans and works progress, there are bigger questions that are and will continue to present themselves as the weeks pass, and we continue to walk through this unprecedented experience that impacts every part of our personal and professional lives.

There is certainly no playbook for this, and to me it seems that more questions arise by the day.

One thing that I find myself thinking about a lot is what school will be like when it does resume, whenever that may be. On the bright side (because I don’t know about you, but I have to keep looking for some glimmer of light in this tunnel!), I think students and families will appreciate school like never before — a ride on the school bus, lunch in the cafeteria, and not to mention that real human interaction around learning should take on a new gleam. I also think that appreciation for the way teachers and school leaders have stepped up in record time to get together so that students can have some continuity at home during this time will be strongly in evidence. The memes (some pretty funny) about how parents have a new appreciation for school and the people that make it run are everywhere online. Let’s hope that sentiment goes beyond the memes to greater respect and reverence for what schools do in and day out to support students in so many ways.

I also think that the crash course everyone is taking up their game with technology, regardless of where they were when this began, will deepen and take root in ways that continue to benefit students and their learning long after this is over. The explosion of Zoom, Google Classroom, Schoology, and so many more applications came of necessity to many late adopters, but are likely to continue to be able to take their place as tools that supplement and enhance the real human relationships and interactions that we are missing right now.

One thing I think will be even a bigger priority than it has been up to now (if that is possible) once schools resume, is the mental and emotional wellness of students and educators. Regardless of how well kids or adults appear to be handling this crisis, the deep wear and tear of new levels of anxiety and uncertainty are taking their toll. The worry and stress this experience is engendering is not going to dissipate when the school buses roll again. We have to start thinking now about where the needs will be and how we will be called upon to support students and families in ways we never imagined. I know we will continue to rise to the occasion in the days ahead.

**Contact a SAANYS Attorney**

**SAANYS Professional Learning Update**

For information on any SAANYS professional learning event, contact Karen Benison at kbronson@saanys.org.

Annual Professional Learning Event

**Moving onward and upward?**

**VISIT THE SAANYS CAREER CENTER**

www.saanys.org

Your destination for accessing an opportunity is school administration.

**Have questions? Need assistance?**

Use the “Ask SAANYS” button at saanys.org.

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SAANYS is pleased to announce a PRECONFERENCE DAY dedicated entirely to assistant principals and newer school leaders in any role (i.e. principals, IT, essential service leaders, directors) to be held on Saturday, October 17, the day before the SAANYS Annual Conference at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020 | OTESAGA RESORT

This day of professional learning and connecting is devoted entirely to issues that impact you: keynotes, roundtables, mini-ed camp, and the opportunity to meet colleagues from all over New York State. Topics suited to your role and career goals will include:

- navigating district culture and politics
- building trust and relationships
- nitty gritty for those of you who handle discipline, such as
  - balancing consequences with restorative practices
  - dealing with pressure around handling of disciplinary issues
  - considerations for special education students
  - communicating with students and families
- the principal/assistant principal relationship
- getting better at difficult conversations
- onboarding and preparing for the principalship
- “Do This, Not That” strategies for building a professional reputation and avoiding common pitfalls
- using your local unit and SAANYS resources for support
- managing time and email
- improving your skills with teacher feedback around instruction
- taking care of yourself; managing stress
- APPR and getting to tenure; certification questions
- assistant principal as a career choice
- connecting with mentors
- special challenges facing IT and essential service leaders
- onboarding and preparing for the principalship
- nitty gritty for those of you who handle discipline, such as
  - building trust and relationships
  - navigating district culture and politics
- checking in on your health and well-being
- building trust and relationships
- navigating district culture and politics
- connecting with mentors
- special challenges facing IT and essential service leaders

SPACE IS LIMITED – REGISTER EARLY

- Registration – $125 includes light breakfast and lunch.
- Hotel reservation – please visit www.otesaga.com and enter group code 2792334 ($185 a night); or nearby Holiday Inn Suites, Cooperstown, visit http://bit.ly/39idAHw and enter group code: SAANYS Conference. Room blocks will open April 6.

SAANNYS is an exclusive no-cost symposium for New York educators. Register by emailing kallern@nysir.org. Hotel rooms, attendees’ only cost, may be reserved at Tarrytown.

The New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal presents an exclusive no-cost symposium for New York educators. Register by emailing kallern@nysir.org. Hotel rooms, attendees’ only cost, may be reserved at DoubleTree.com and entering the group code SIR.

**The Administrator’s Handbook**

Now Available on **amazon** (on Kindle or in Paperback)

**A Practical Guide for Education Leaders**

**2020 CALENDAR**

**JUNE**

Great Outdoors Month
National Caribbean-American Heritage Month
June 5 World Environment Day
June 8-14 National Little League Baseball Week
June 12 Anne Frank’s Birthday
June 14 Flag Day
June 15 Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin’s Kite Experiment
June 15 Magna Carta Day
June 16 International Day of the African Child
June 16 Anniversary of First Woman in Space
June 19 Juneteenth
June 20 First Day of Summer
June 21 Father’s Day
June 27 Helen Keller’s Birthday

**MAY**

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
May 3-10 Be Kind to Animals Week
May 5 World Press Freedom Day
May 4-10 National Children’s Book Week
May 4-8 National Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teacher Day
May 5 Anniversary of First American Man in Space
May 5 Cinco de Mayo
May 6 National School Nurse Day
May 8 FE Day
May 10-16 Food Allergy Awareness Week
May 10 Mother’s Day
May 16 Armed Forces Day
May 20-21 Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
May 25 Memorial Day
May 25 Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Birthday
May 31 World No Tobacco Day

**APRIL/MAY 2020 CALENDAR**
arranged for embedded workshops with agencies to come work with the students. The impact of learning about and responding to these students’ experiences result- ed in significant social-emotional gains at West Middle School. Commented PTA board member and parent Maria Henckin, “As the parent of an academically and emotional- ly challenged child, I have witnessed first-hand her caring and compassionate nature. She has stood strong with my child, letting him know that throughout his challeng- es he had a safe place and someone to always turn to.” Commented Assistant Superintendent Monique Darrisaw-Akil, “At Mrs. Thomas-Williams’ school, differences are celebrated and students are encouraged to showcase their cultural heritage. She uses her creativity to develop programs that engage students and parents.” Thomas-Williams is also active in her community, work- ing with organizations such as the Special Olympics, the Parent Academy to foster positive relationships with parents, serving as community co-chair of My Brother’s Keeper, and serving as an executive board member of the Brentwood Principals and Supervisors Organization. She is also a member of the board of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a former member of the board of directors for the Wheatly Heights Mother’s Club, a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, as well as being active in the Long Island Association for Curriculum and Development, the Long Island Black Educators, and more. Commented NYS Senator Monica Martinez, “Felicia Thomas-Williams is an individual I hold in the highest re- gard. She is a loyal, dedicated, and hard-working individ- ual. Her talents and abilities prove her capacity to bolster the success of anything she does.”

Stratford Road Principal Named Elementary Principal of the Year continued from page 1

physically, socially, and emotionally.” Stratford Road ES is not only the largest elementary school in the district, but also home to the largest English Language Learner (ELL) and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) populations, as well as the district’s Autism Program. Commented Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lorna Lewis, “The success of this special population is due in no small part to the energy and support Dr. Clark gives to the program. Students and parents leave her building valuing the lessons of patience, charity, and kindness demonstrated there.” The school hosts many events fostering inclusivity throughout the year, such as the annual circus, pay it forward, game days, gym helpers, peer buddies, and the kick-off welcome back assembly. In addition, students take part in community service projects by donating “Birthday Boxes” to Birthday Wishes, a local nonprofit that provides birthday parties to children living in local homeless shelters. Over the years, more than 120 Birthday Boxes and over 400 gifts have been donated. Amanda Bodeker, grade 5, summed it up perfectly, “Dr. Clark puts kids before herself.”

Considering herself the school’s lead learner having earned her PhD while leading Stratford Road ES, she is also known as a mentor who cultivates leadership in others. She is an adjunct professor at SUNY Old Westbury, works with doctoral students writing their dissertations at Concordia University, and has published numerous articles in educational journals. Commented Michael Rodgers, POB director of music and performing arts, “She has a disposition where she welcomes all and offers herself completely to help, listen, or support someone. She is a remarkable colleague who understands careers, trajectories, and believes in her team.”

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, what you can still come out of it.” — Maya Angelou

Statewide Workshop

Transition to Superintendency Program 3 Full days – Syracuse, NY July 14, 15 & 16, 2020

…for Building Administrators and Central Office Administrations interested in the superintendency and wanting the insight and understanding needed for successful transition.

Magnum Trainings

Online workshops and Webinars

Leadership to Address the Fiscal Challenges of Special Education (online) for Special Education Administrators & Business Officials

Six hours (two 3-hour sessions) – July 28 and August 4

Online Workshop – 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

School District Claims Auditing (online) for Central Treasurers and Administrators

Two 1.5-hour sessions, on non-consecutive days

Online Workshop – 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Extraclasseoom Activity Funds (online) for Central Treasurers and Administrators

Two 1.5-hour sessions, on non-consecutive days

Online Workshop – 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Readiness for the Superintendency (online)

Single session – Online Webinar - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Applying for the Superintendency (online)

Single session – Online Webinar - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Dates, detailed information, and registration at www.SuperintendentOfSchools.com

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SAANYS is the official state affiliate of both the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals and their state / national principal of the year programs.