

FROM THE DESK OF *Phyllis Alpaugh*



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Rockaway Borough Schools
December 2019

REFERENDUM TIMELINES SET

[CLICK HERE TO GET AN UPDATE ON HOW WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE REFERENDUM](#)

RAMS CORNER

Read about Morris County's
ESP of the Year



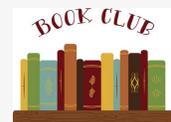
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[Click here for upcoming events](#)



For more information regarding these or other topics, feel free to contact me at pa@rockboro.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S BOOK CLUB



Throughout my professional career as an educator, literacy and the promotion of reading has always been one of my top priorities. Not sure if it stems back to my own love of reading nurtured and developed as a child or my personal belief of the strong importance literacy plays in supporting academic progress. Either way, I am happy to report that I am resurrecting my popular student book club that I started while I was a principal at Lincoln. For many school years and summers, I met with groups of students to read, share and discuss a variety of books. While I am hopeful it was enriching and fun for them, it was surely a wonderful experience for me to share my love of books with our Borough students and get to know them on a completely different level.

For this upcoming session, I am inviting students in grades 4-6. We will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons in January after school in my office at the White House. The targeted book is *From the Mixed Up Files of Basil E. Frankweller* by e.l. konigsburg. The book was awarded the Newbury Medal and tells the tale of a suburban young woman who runs away from her Connecticut home to the Museum of Metropolitan Art in New York City and all the crazy adventures that take place as a result of her decision.

If your child is interested in participating, please see the

above attached flyer and RSVP to Mrs. Sally Ascoli by 12/16 so we can plan accordingly.

Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent of Schools

This issue's FEATURED ARTICLE...

Financial Literacy and Why Has It Become So Important



If you follow curriculum guidelines at the state and even local levels, you know much attention has recently been given to the topic of Financial Literacy. We too here in the Borough have been focused on its inclusion and integration to our curriculum especially on the Middle School level. So what is it really about?

By definition, financial literacy is the education of various financial areas including topics relating to managing personal finance, money and investing. Its simple aim is to help individuals become self-sufficient so they are ultimately able to achieve and maintain financial stability, no matter what their age or situation is. Understanding the “ins and outs” of financial literacy allows individuals to make good decisions about purchases, such as whether the item is required or necessary, whether it is affordable and whether it is an asset or liability. For young adults just beginning to think about their working lives, it can provide basic tools for budgeting and saving so that expenses and debt can be controlled and dealt with accordingly. As individuals grow and mature, it includes the knowledge of making appropriate decisions about personal finance such as investing, insurance, real estate, paying for college, budgeting, retirement and even tax planning. In the state of New Jersey, legislation (*N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.34*) was enacted on January 3, 2019, that requires school districts to incorporate financial literacy instruction in each of the grades six through eight to pupils enrolled in those grades starting in the grades, beginning in the 2019-20 school year. The law states that the instruction must:

1. Be appropriate to, and reflect the age and comprehension of, the students enrolled in the particular grade level; and
2. Include content on budgeting, savings, credit, debt, insurance, investment, and other issues associated with personal financial responsibility as determined by the State Board.

[New Jersey Student Learning Standard 9.1](#) outlines clear and specific benchmarks for student achievement in Personal Financial Literacy.

In Rockaway Borough, our curriculum has been accordingly updated to align with the state mandates and the accompanying standards. Currently, students in the targeted grades receive financial literacy instruction through their designated CID (Creativity Innovation Design) classes as well as integrated into other content areas where it is relevant and meaningful.

For more information on the topic, I have included an article from the National Financial Educator's Council entitled, "Why is Financial Literacy so Important for Youth?" as well as two recent online pieces that highlight Rockaway Borough's initiatives and showcase both staff and student efforts regarding financial literacy.

<https://bethkobliner.com/advocate/educators-finlit-classroom/Spotlight Kids>

"Why Financial Literacy is so Important for Youth"



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS www.rockboro.org



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