



One Working Unit



November, 2017 Edition



I.S. 303 Celebrates Thanksgiving

By:
Sofia Elsherif

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Some people think that Thanksgiving is all about the food. Well it's not. It can also be about the food, but you should also think on what you are thankful for. How did Thanksgiving start?

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgivings for more than two centuries. Days of Thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

In 1789, George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the National Government of the United States. In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday. Each state celebrated it on a different day. Abraham Lincoln scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939. That was the year that Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during The Great Depression.

Principal's Message:

November came and went with visible changes not only within nature but also within our learning environment. At IS 303 the key word is leadership! As you walk around the school there will be visible changes that you are all contributing to and that speak to each and every one of us finding leadership skills with ourselves. As I walked out quite a few nights ago, I saw the sign posted on a door that read "unleash greatness." Allow me to reiterate this message to all of you who make up my school community and extended family. I invite you all to think about how productive and powerful we can all be if we just thought about unleashing the greatness within us. As we continue to work hard, I want to share with you a quote from the book "From Good to Great" by Jim Collins: "The drive for progress doesn't wait for the external world to say it's time to change." At 303 we know greatness is preceded by effective change and embrace the opportunities to unleash greatness!



Info on The I.S.303 Thanksgiving food Drive with Diana Agbeyo

By: Diana Agbeyo 6-122

I.S.303 has held a food drive every Thanksgiving, people wish this could happen every month but that is just how things are. The thanksgiving drive starts from October to the day before thanksgiving, which is on Wednesday 22nd. This drive helps unfortunate people who are not able to provide for themselves or their families. Mr.Caggiano (our health / physical education teacher) has a club called The Builders' Club. This club travels to designated families in the community and gives out food and items for Thanksgiving. This is a wonderful thing that our school is doing because not many people eat dinner every night. This is why we bring turkeys to people who don't have food to eat. We also encourage people

to bring in non-perishable food and whoever brings in the most food gets a pizza party. There are thousands of homeless people who don't have a roof over their heads.



Teacher Feature, Ms. Cymbalist

By: Nelly Levin 6-122



Q: How long have you been a teacher at IS 303?

A: "I have been a teacher at IS 303 for 14 years."

Q: What made you want to become a teacher?

A: "As a child in school, I always liked science. I would pretend that I was a teacher when I was playing with friends outside."

Q: What are your interests outside of being a teacher?

A: "I enjoy spending time with my family and reading. One of my favorite authors is James Patterson."

Q: Do you have any life advice for your students?

A: "In order for students to be successful they have to work hard at all they do."

Q: Growing up, what sparked your interest in science?

A: "When I was in college, I knew that I wanted to become a teacher. After taking physics classes, I found my calling. My dad wanted me to go on and pursue my doctorate in education."

Teacher Feature, Mr.Dobin

By: Aameena Syed 6-122



Q: How long have you been the guidance counselor at IS 303?

A: "This is my 5th year as guidance counselor. I graduated IS 303 1992."

Q: What inspired you to become a Guidance Counselor?

A: "I was a paraprofessional and a teacher for 13 years. I always wanted to be able to work with students in small groups and help them with their problems."

Q: Do you have children ?

A: "Not yet. My wife and I were just married this past June."

Q: Do you love being a Guidance counselor?

A: "Yes I enjoy being Guidance Counselor."

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: "I enjoy spending lots of time with my wife and our dog. I also love watching movies and going to Broadway shows. The last Broadway show I saw was "A Bronx Tale"."

Top 20 Movies of November

Are you planning to out with friends, family, etc.? Well, you can go to the movies. You must be wondering what movie to watch. Here are the top 20 movies of November.

- 1. JUSTICE LEAGUE*
- 2. WONDER*
- 3. WONDERSTRUCK*
- 4. A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS*
- 5. THE LIGHT OF THE MOON*
- 6. FRANK SERPICO*
- 7. THOR: RAGNAROK*
- 8. THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER*
- 9. ROMAN J. ISRAEL, ESQ*
- 10. LADY BIRD*
- 11. BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL*
- 12. LAST FLAG FLYING*
- 13. THE STAR*
- 14. COCO*
- 15. DADDY'S HOME 2*
- 16. GENESIS: PARADISE LOST*
- 17. BAD GRANDMAS*
- 18. AIDA'S SECRETS*
- 19. POKÉMON THE MOVIE: I CHOOSE YOU!*
- 20. GOLD STAR*

Terrorist Attack in Lower Manhattan

By: Mitchel Storman 8-313

In Lower Manhattan, a man, Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbekistan nationalist, drove a truck he rented from Home Depot and drove onto a bike lane killing 8 people {6 foreign tourists and 2 Americans} and leaving 12 people injured. A note left in the truck claims that he “Did it for ISIS”. Witnesses report that Saipov said “Allahu Akbar” and he began planning for this about a year ago and chose Halloween to carry out his plan since more people would be on the streets. This attack may be the beginning of more attacks to New York or the rest of the country. Many people who agree with the logic of ISIS will try to hurt people and disrupt the peace.

Stuyvesant High School was kept on lockdown until 6:00 when teachers and police were sure the area was safe for the students to leave. He was caught when the truck hit into a school bus. Saipov then came out the truck and he was shot twice by Ryan Nash in a non-fatal way so they could question him. Police were already in the area due to a suicide threat from a student at Stuyvesant. Many of the injured people had mainly broken bones which left them in critical condition.

Problems a Middle Schooler Goes Through

By: Sajawal Wattoo 8-317[1]

As you pass through your years here in this school, you will notice that things work in an orderly fashion. Despite what you may be told, the years get harder and harder as they pass by. Sixth grade was by far the calmest year I've experienced in middle school and was a ton of fun. Seventh grade was the best; it was really the year that brought motivated me in terms of my education. Now in eighth grade, things are pretty tough with regents and even getting into a high school of choice has many kids worried and depressed. Just enjoy your time in whatever grade you are in because if you don't, you may never.

So far my life has been a raggedy mess this year with all of the homework and projects we receive within a millisecond of each other. I would like to thank my Social Studies and homeroom teacher, Ms. Messina, who acknowledges the work we receive and doesn't overfill us with pointless tasks. Students are given many assignments with very little time to complete them. It seems that teachers think that the only thing students do when they get home is their homework. This leaves very little time for student creativity and imagination, taking away our intelligence and motivation. I am not complaining or protesting anything in our school, for I have no reason to. However it would be nice to have a break and catch up on some things in my life which I find to be more important than homework - FAMILY. I haven't been able to visit my family in Long Island recently because of how tough and messy my schedule has been, and honestly I'm sick of it. I haven't seen my cousins, whom I share a very close relationships with, in a very long time and it would be rather illogical of me to name homework as the culprit. I think students need some type of a break or just something to lift their spirits.

As a school we are failing to address The 7 Habits properly because we do not have the attention of students. You can't just have an assembly and just expect everyone to take into consideration every detail. You need to inspire them, open them, leave them entertained and valued. We need COMEDY; we need ACTION; we need traditional CREATIVITY. I think it's time that maybe the people that are controlling our school see that not everyone has the same mindset. We all work differently and we don't like to be judged based on our ideas.

Leader in Me Award Ceremony

By: Mitchel Storman 8-313

For the past seven weeks our school promoted The Leader in Me, which is talking about The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. The habits are: BE PROACTIVE, BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND, PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST, THINK WIN-WIN, SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD, SYNERGIZE and SHARPEN THE SAW. Every Friday of each of the seven weeks, an assembly was held with a certain grade [in the order, 8,6,7,8,6,7,8] producing a skit displaying the respective habit. After the seven weeks were over, we held a ceremony awarding the hard work of the teachers and students involved in the skits just this past Monday. Each teacher and student got a certificate celebrating the work they did to make their presentation possible. We will still practice all of these habits even past our time in school and we will use them to help us in our lives.

