

Editorial

Schools must invest in Web sites

Perhaps the most important relationship in the success of a student is between teacher and student. If so, the next most important connection that determines student achievement is the relationship between teachers and parents.

Parents must be informed of how their children are doing in school. That's the primary purpose of progress reports. As all parents know, children aren't born with the innate ability to do homework and book reports. That's why most parents help their children with homework every night.

Many public schools have created district and school Web sites to allow parents and community members access to more information about how schools function. But local school districts are missing a wonderful opportunity to help teachers connect with parents by not giving every teacher an individual Web site to post homework and

projects.

Even the best student is at times forgetful or even lethargic about schoolwork. Many teachers sign students' planners to help them remember what to do for homework that night. An even better idea is for school districts to allow teachers to post homework on the district Web site so parents and students can easily find out what work needs to be done.

Local public schools have Web sites that allow parents to look up bus schedules, board of education members' e-mail addresses and phone numbers for school buildings. That's great information, but so much more could be done. Think of it: If every teacher posted on a Web site what the homework was due for that week, then every student and parent would know what was expected of them. The student who forgot to write down the homework or left a book in school

would simply be able to log onto the Web site and find out what to do for homework.

School districts could expand on the idea by allowing teachers to post students' grades online. To maintain confidentiality, a password would be given to each parent and student, and students would be identified by number, not name. This way, parents would be able to monitor their child's progress daily instead of waiting for progress reports to arrive in the mail.

Creating individual Web sites for every teacher is not cost-prohibitive and would greatly increase communication between the school and parents. There's reason to believe it would also improve student performance. We hope our local boards of education will take this seriously and implement Web sites for every teacher, if not this school year, then certainly next school year. ■

LETTERS

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Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime telephone number for confirmation of authorship. All letters must be 300 words or less, in good taste and not libelous. Please submit all entries in typewritten form. All submissions will be considered by the editor.

Powered by volunteers

I am truly amazed at all that the Patchogue Arts Council has achieved in just over 18 months. Long Island's Only Art Event of its kind is right here in Patchogue. The Patchogue Arts Biennial features the works of 44 artists in six galleries in a 12,000-

square-foot exhibit hall. The closest example of an exhibition like this is the Whitney Museum in NYC. If you haven't visited the exhibit you must. It runs Oct. 3-24, Sun. 12-4 p.m. and Monday through Saturday from 12-7 p.m. at 225 W. Main St. For more info visit www.PatchogueArtsBiennial.com. How did this happen? It happened with the support of fantastic sponsors like Briarcliffe College, St. Joseph's College, TD Bank, Patchogue BID, the fine eateries and pubs of Patchogue, Knapp/Swezey Foundation, Clare Rose, Kelly Development, Blum's, Tritec Real Estate,

Arthur & Concetta Fuccillo and all our wonderful ad sponsors that took an ad in our four-color artist catalog whose design was also donated. It happened because it was powered by 100 percent hardworking, dedicated, tireless and self-sacrificing volunteers. I want to express my deep appreciation to all of you for your dedication, time and energy.

Here is a list of just some of the folks who volunteered many months and hours to make this happen. Thank you John Cino (chairman), Beth Giacommo, Dan Lachacz, Jess McAvoy, Daryl McAvoy, Lori Devlin, John Devlin, Karen Ferb, Tom Ferb, Nancy Duncan, Joel Peck, Debra Rodman-Peck, Dawn Lee, Kathy Seff, Tom Krieger, Jo Miller, Paula Murphy, Karl Guyer, and so many more. I will have a complete list at the Web site shortly and will sing your praises for a very long time.

And while all this was going on, a special thanks to Beth Giacommo and Jess McAvoy, who installed the 2nd Walking Arts Tour in Patchogue Village. This will be up until Jan. and will have its Artist Reception at Patchogue's Autumn Arts Festival

Please turn to the following page



Lennon in the Lobby

The band *Gathering Time* performs the song "Julia" from the *White Album* during the Lennon in the Lobby concert at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts. The four-hour concert featuring the music of John Lennon drew a record-breaking audience and number of musicians.

Photo by Walter Petrule

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Advance

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