



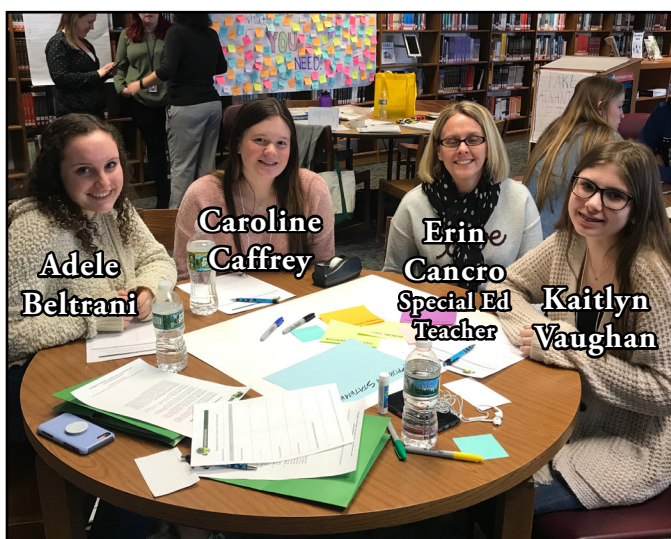
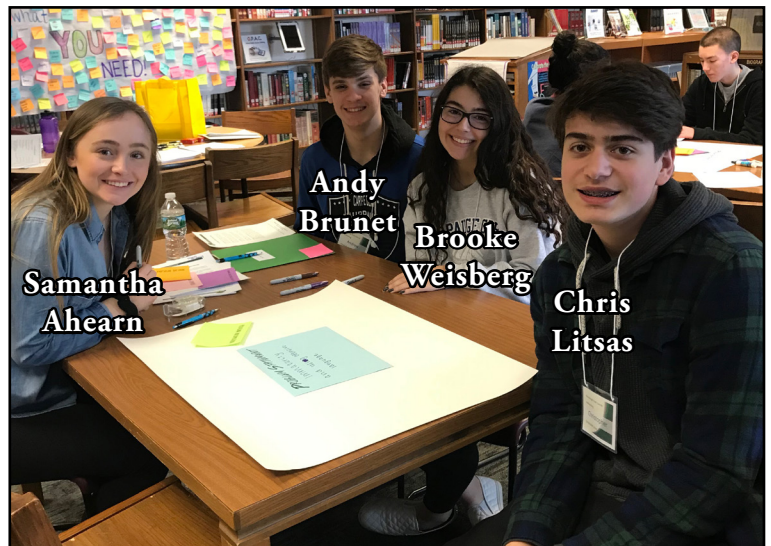
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HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT “EMPOWERING CHANGE AGENTS”

On Friday, February 1st, Hauppauge High School held a Youth Leadership Summit. This summit was in conjunction with several agencies; *Horizons of Smithtown, Town of Islip Youth Empowerment Services, Long Island Prevention Resource Center and Smithtown Youth Bureau.* Also part of this day were several of our high school teachers.

The students who participated in the summit were selected by teachers to participate. They took part in many events throughout the day. First was a breakfast and an icebreaker “meet and greet.” After that, a presentation on “The Burdens We Carry.” From a basket of rocks, students selected a rock and on a post-it they were instructed to write their burden or burdens. They then attached this post-it to the rock and were asked to carry it with them throughout the day. At the end of the summit, they would take what they had learned in the summit and try to alleviate the burden they carry. This would mean for them, “Turning stumbling blocks into stepping stones.”

After hearing from their high school principal, Mr. Cook, and their high school assistant principal, Ms.



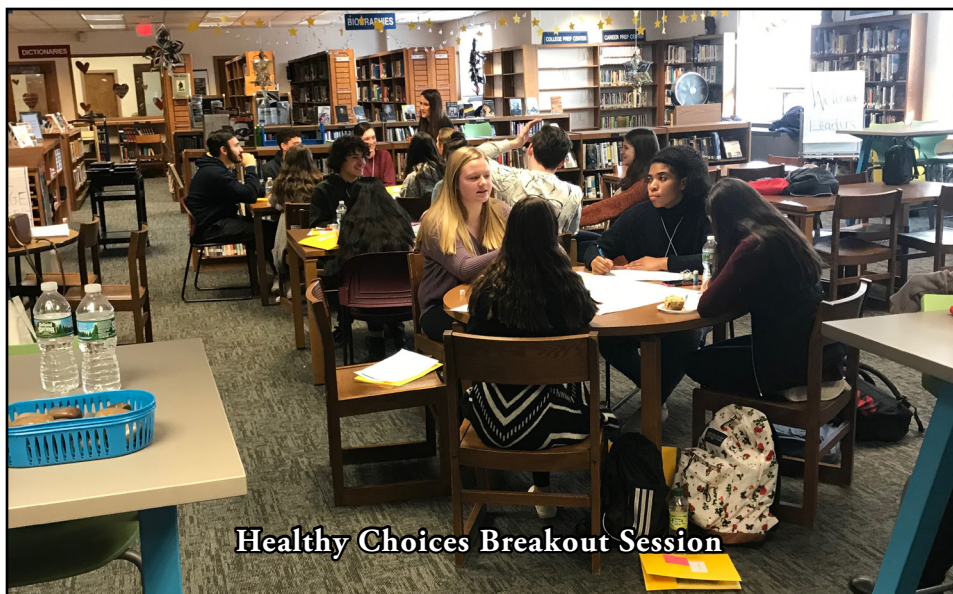
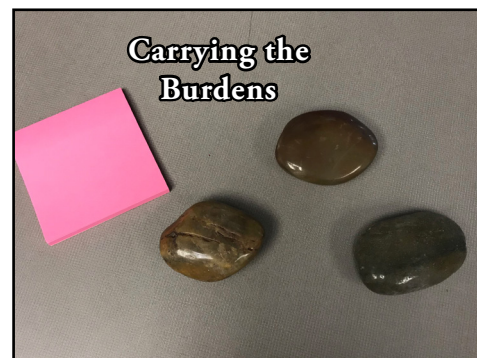
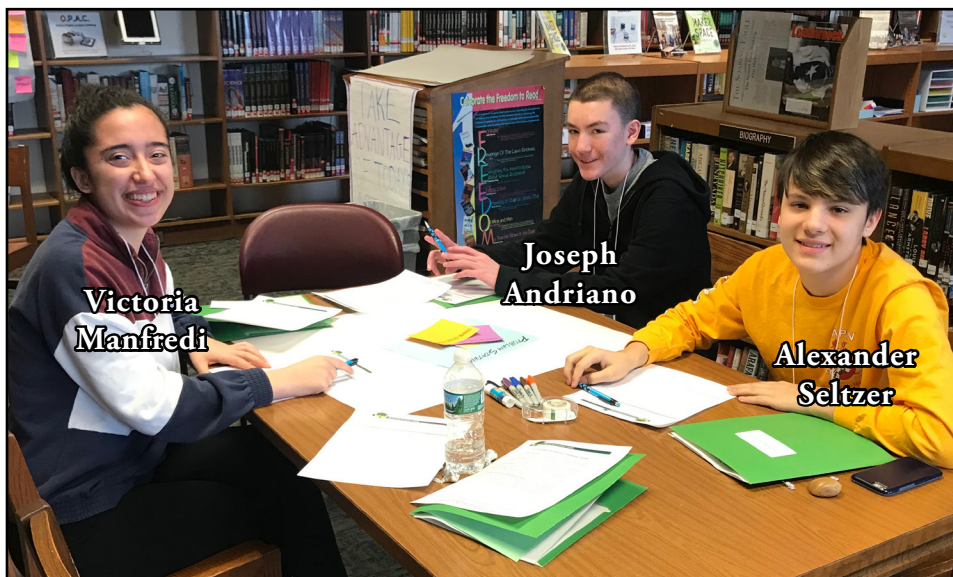
Ferrara, about what they would be working on throughout the day, students heard from the Key Note Speaker of this event, Lisa Ganz, a Hauppauge graduate. Lisa is also the Director of THRIVE. THRIVE’s mission is “to help individuals and families find, maintain and strengthen their recovery through peer-based support, navigation assistance and referral services; provide interactive educational programs that promote wellness, economic prosperity and civic engagement; and maintain a safe, welcoming haven for substance-free recreational and social activities.” THRIVE was launched in response to our community’s need for a safe, substance-free space. It is the first and only one of its kind on Long Island. Members of the recovery community and their families can pursue better skills, better relationships and ultimately better lives.

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Next, break-out sessions included: Mindfulness/Stress Reduction, Healthy Choices and Relationships. After lunch, students took care of their burdens and stones. They debriefed and formed their action plans.

Summit guidelines asked students to suspend judgment, actively listen, share ideas, make new friends, wear their nametags, take some risks, be respectful of presenters, participate, ask questions, stretch thinking and be present.

A quote listed on the student program which was by William James read, "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." This summit has equipped the participants to do just that and "make a difference."



Healthy Choices Breakout Session



**SMITHTOWN
Youth Bureau**



"TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

Briana Becker
Physics and Computer Science
Hauppauge High School



Why did you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to become a teacher because I think it is one of the most rewarding jobs out there. I had some very influential teachers while I was in school who truly helped to shape me into the person I am today. I enjoy building relationships with students each year and seeing the success they have after leaving High School.

Where did you go to college?

I went to SUNY Cortland for my Bachelor's degree and Dowling College for my Master's degree.

What did you like about college?

I enjoyed being able to focus on the subjects that truly interested me. I also enjoyed all the different clubs that were out there. While I was a physics and math education major, I was still able to participate in club sports and other club activities. I was the president of the dance company which allowed me to be involved in dance even though it wasn't my major. This is also where I met some amazing friends who I am still friends with today.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is seeing the futures of my students beginning to unfold. I am one of the lucky teachers who gets to teach juniors and seniors who are just beginning their journey towards college and beyond. It is great to see students beginning to decide what they want to do in the future and working towards their goals. I look forward to the email updates and visits I get from former students who share their current status.

How long have you been teaching?

This is my 6th year at Hauppauge and 8th year overall teaching.

Do you have any traditions or superstitions regarding the first day of school?

On the first day of school, I do my best to get to know my students right away. I always start with a lab activity so that the students are collaboratively working in groups and problem solving from the start. This allows the students to feel comfortable within my classroom and for me to get a chance to walk around and have conversations with the students from the start. My goal is to learn one fact about each student before they leave my room on that first day. This creates a great foundation for my classroom and we continue to build upon these relationships throughout the rest of the year.

What makes a good day at school for you?

A good day at school for me means my students are making progress on something. Whether that means that they are pushing themselves to get a new level of questions correct, or learning from previous mistakes, they are moving forward within their education.

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

I am extremely honored that I was asked to go on the Natural Helpers retreat with the students this year. This program is a great opportunity for our students and I learned so much from that weekend. I was able to get to know so many students that I don't normally interact with and it helped show me the strength and compassion of our students at Hauppauge High School. I also am extremely proud of our High School Science Olympiad team. I have been working with them since I first started at Hauppauge and their dedication and determination this year has really shown. They have grown so much and were able to be the 5th place school at our regional competition, earning them the right to compete at the state level this year for the first time!

How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

I use technology within all of my classes on a pretty regular basis. I am one of the lucky ones who has a set of chromebooks within my classroom so we use them to collect data using sensors, to type lab reports and in computer science to complete programming projects. Even when technology doesn't work like it is supposed to, we are able to learn from this and constantly adjust our plan.

If you could sit in on another teachers class for a day, who would it be and why?

One of the classes I would love to sit in on would be Kelly Barry's Theory of Knowledge class. I think this class really pushes students out of their comfort zone and encourages them to question what they know. It would be fun to just listen in on one of their debates that they have within this class.

Is there a piece of wisdom you would pass on to your students?

I would tell my students to never stop learning and reflecting. I believe these are the most important values you can have and they apply to every situation. I try to constantly reflect on how things turn out and learn from my mistakes for next time. This applies to school, jobs and life in general.

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would it be?

This is a tough one because I am still exploring the world myself. However, I think it would be awesome to bring my students to CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) for them to see where new scientific discoveries are currently happening.

What is one of your best memories of being a student?

One of my best memories of being a student was being a part of the marching band. I went to a large high school so this was a great community to be a part of and I met some of my best friends through marching band. It was definitely my favorite part of high school and the thing I miss the most from it.

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

My favorite thing about my classroom is all of the fun physics toys I get to play with. I constantly get to launch rockets, use Van de Graaff generators, demonstrate waves using slinkys and other fun things!

What advice would you give to new teachers?

My biggest advice would be to never underestimate your students and always get to know them for who they are. Each student is unique and may have some hidden talents you never knew. Our students are capable of more than we know and never cease to amaze me when I see the success they have in a multitude of areas. I would also remind them that you are not in this alone. Sometimes the answer is just down the hall and all you have to do is ask.

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

I am currently learning how to crochet from Ms. Heck!

What word would describe you best when you were a student?

I would describe myself as a diligent student. I always worked hard to get done what I needed to at a level I was proud of. I took a lot of pride in my work being a representation of myself.

Do you have any favorite books you would recommend to students to read?

One of my favorite books of all time is Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam. It's a great story of a student who had a passion and wouldn't let anything stand in the way of it.

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

I was lucky enough that Hauppauge was hiring when I was searching for a job and I am so happy I ended up here. The collaboration and dedication of my department, the support of the administration and the talented, hardworking students are just a few reasons I find myself lucky to work here.

Thank you Ms. Becker for a wonderful interview!

HAUPPAUGE CHEERLEADERS PLACE FIRST IN CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

The Hauppauge Varsity Cheerleading Team hosted a cheerleading competition this past weekend. The team placed first in their Division, Small Varsity!

On Wednesday, February 6th, the team headed to Orlando, Florida for the Cheerleading Nationals in Disney World.

Congratulations to the team on an awesome job and Good Luck at Nationals in Disney!



HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM WINS LEAGUE 5 CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the Varsity Wrestling Team! The team won the League 5 Championship Tournament this past weekend. Individual champions are Luke Smith, Anthony DiBartolo, Danny Mauriello and Mike Tyrell.

The team will now move on to the Suffolk County Championships! We wish them luck!



HIGH SCHOOL ART CLASSES PARTICIPATE IN “LOVE YOUR MELON” CAMPAIGN

High School art classes recently participated in the “Beanies for Nat - Love Your Melon” kindness and strength campaign. This campaign centers around 12 year old, Nathalia, who was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer.

“Love Your Melon” is a company that was formed by two friends while attending college at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota. They wanted to start a business and make a meaningful and positive social impact. They have been on a mission to improve the lives of children battling cancer since October of 2012. “Love Your Melon” began with the simple idea of putting a hat on every child battling cancer in America. After achieving their original goal of 45,000 hats, they set a new goal of giving one million dollars to pediatric cancer research and providing immediate support to children and families. To date, they have given over 6.1 million dollars to fight against pediatric cancer and over 160,000 hats to children battling cancer.

The company started “Beanies for Nat” after Nathalie made handmade, mini beanies for the team at “Love Your Melon” to thank them. The team asked for community support to make as many beanies as possible for Nathalia. They were to be made into one large art installation in their headquarters for her and her family. Hauppauge High School art classes took up this challenge and made and sent in their beanies to be a part of it. Teacher, Beth Lavelle and student teacher, Lisa Sacco decided to join the campaign and thought it would be an important lesson for students to think of others with compassion and understanding, mixed with a little simple creativity. Their beanies have been sent to Minneapolis.

We wish Nathalia well. If you would like to visit their website, [click here](#).



VOTE TO HELP BRETTON WOODS WIN OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT!

Bretton Woods Elementary School is a finalist for a "Project Fit America Grant" sponsored by Shoprite and Dannon! This grant will provide our school and community with an outdoor fitness center worth over \$25,000. The students and Physical Education staff at Bretton Woods need your help though. The three schools with the most votes will receive the outdoor fitness equipment as well as other funds to evolve their Physical Education program.

Project Fit America (PFA) is a national non-profit organization that creates and donates exemplary fitness in education programming to elementary and middle schools. They address self-esteem, fitness and exercise as fun, understanding the body, as well as leadership, sportsmanship and character development. They strive to reverse the lack of fitness in youth by giving teachers the tools they need to help children take responsibility for their fitness and embrace healthy lifestyle choices with enthusiasm. Working with schools provides the opportunity to build programs that can serve generations of children. Project Fit America creates the opportunity for all kids, not just the already gifted athletes, to discover, explore, improve and be recognized for their physical and mental fitness efforts and performance. To visit Project Fit America's website, [click here](#).



Please vote for Bretton Woods! [Click here to vote!](#) Every vote counts!

Voting ends February 28th, 2019.

"TWELFTH NIGHT" CAST, ORCHESTRA AND CREW ARE GETTING READY FOR A GREAT SHOW!

The cast, crew and orchestra of the upcoming high school musical production of "Twelfth Night" are hard at work. The musical will be performed at Hauppauge High School on Friday, March 1st and Saturday, March 2nd. Both performances will begin at 8:00 pm. The show is under the direction of Hauppauge High School Theater Educator, Ruthie Pincus.

"Twelfth Night" is a comedy by William Shakespeare. It takes place in the kingdom of Illyria and revolves around a nobleman, Orsino, and his pining for his lady love, Olivia. Another woman, Viola, is swept onto the Illyrian shore and masquerades as Oliva and this is where the play takes off. You won't want to miss it!



FOREST BROOK STUDENTS HELP TO HEAR “VETERANS’ VOICES”

On Monday, February 4th, Forest Brook 4th and 5th grade students traveled to the Arbors West for a presentation which was the culmination of their “Veterans’ Voices” project. Students personally delivered biographical booklets which they constructed and crafted from the residents there who had served in the military. This is their second year and eleven students participated in the club this year and they produced 6 books. The veterans included four World War II veterans, one from England and two combat veterans.

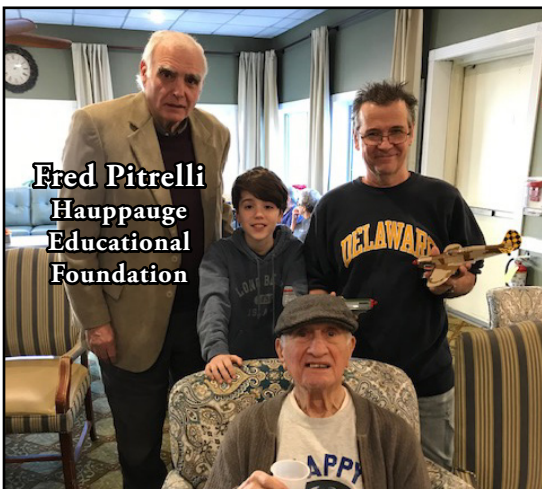


This project was born from the “Veterans’ Voices Club.” The club was originally formed by Forest Brook Elementary School Nurse, Deborah Wissmann, in conjunction with Forest Brook Principal, Kristen Reingold. Ms. Wissmann said that the idea stemmed from a project her son had done in 6th grade. His class had to videotape an interview with someone who was a hero to them. Her son chose her father. Ms. Wissmann said, “A few years

later when my father passed away, this became a cherished keepsake.” When her son was in college, Ms. Wissmann said he formed a club called “Heard at Geneseo.” They had recorded the history of residents living in the town for decades.

These ideas, along with Principal Kristen Reingold’s dedication to honor Veterans became “Veterans’ Voices.” Over the course of 15 weeks, 4th and 5th grade students interviewed and created keepsake chat books for veterans. Through a grant from the Hauppauge Educational Foundation, the club was able to purchase recorders and record interviews. HEF also donated cameras for students to take photos. HEF President, Fred Pitrelli was present at the presentation.

The veterans and their families will certainly benefit from this written history. They very much enjoyed the companionship of the students over



the course of this project. The students were able to learn from this project how to carry on the tradition of oral history. They learned how to communicate, ask appropriate questions and appreciate the stories of previous generations. These keepsake books will be a priceless memento. They have now made some life-long and unexpected friends.



BOOK AUTHOR PRESENTS AT BRETTON WOODS FACULTY MEETING

Bretton Woods Elementary School Teachers recently had a special guest at their February faculty meeting. On Wednesday, February 6th, author/illustrator Lauren Gallagher of The Hard Hat For Kids, presented at their faculty meeting.

As stated by Danielle Sukoff, grade 4 teacher, "The Hard Hat for Kids" is an inspiring story that teaches children how to be a great teammate. An engaging tale that resonates with all children, the "10 Ways to be a Great Teammate" and the "We before Me" philosophy, make this book an enjoyable read and an invaluable teaching tool for coaches, teachers, and parents. The Hard Hat for Kids presents practical insights and life-changing lessons that are immediately applicable to everyday situations, giving kids—and adults—a new outlook on cooperation, friendship, and the selfless nature of true teamwork. Lauren led a few team buildings exercises with our staff. It was a great way to bring everyone together and to develop new relationships amongst each other. It also provided the staff the time to just be together, enjoy working together, communicating with one another and respecting each other through these hands-on activities. We had a lot of laughs and much excitement filled the room. The next step will be to have Ms. Gallagher come visit our classrooms, read aloud her book and teach the students a lesson on teamwork. Her goal in writing this book was to help students develop cooperation skills, compassion for others and problem solving skills in order to be successful in life. We are very excited for this opportunity. Ms. Gallagher is coming in courtesy of PTA, and as always we would like to thank them for all they do."

Bretton Woods teachers look forward to Ms. Gallagher's classroom visits in March!



FOREST BROOK ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES “P. S. I LOVE YOU DAY”

Forest Brook Elementary School Celebrated this week in a very lovely way. Today was “P.S. I Love You Day!” The students and staff all dressed in purple and the hallways throughout the school were decorated with purple hearts everywhere!

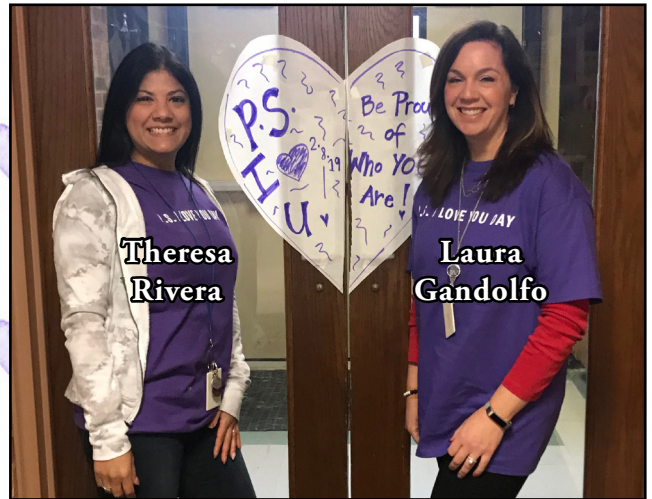
Laura Gandolfo is a third grade teacher at Forest Brook and brought this program to the school. Laura said, “This is our second year doing this and it was a joint effort by the amazing faculty here at FB! I first heard about “P.S. I Love You Day” from my son’s school. I researched it a bit and knew that Mrs. Rein-gold and the rest of the faculty would love to have FB take part in a day filled with such a positive message for our students!”

The story of “P.S. I Love You Day” is part of a mental health awareness campaign that started in West Islip High School. It has spread and schools across the country have joined in to participate. Their Mission is as follows:

“Our mission is to spread love in order to decrease bullying and promote mental health awareness.

We strongly believe that by educating students earlier about mental health, this difficult conversation will be easier to discuss. On the second Friday of every February, we encourage communities to wear purple in order to foster kindness and a welcoming environment.”

Ms. Gandolfo said, “Our District’s belief in the ‘Growth Mindset’ and having mindfulness go hand in hand



**Theresa
Rivera**

**Laura
Gandolfo**

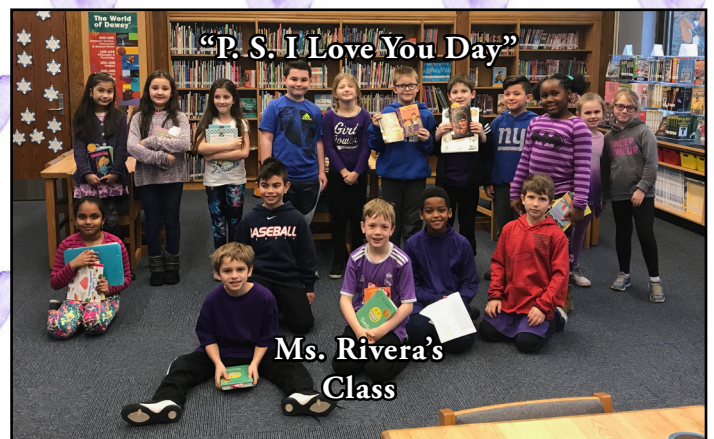
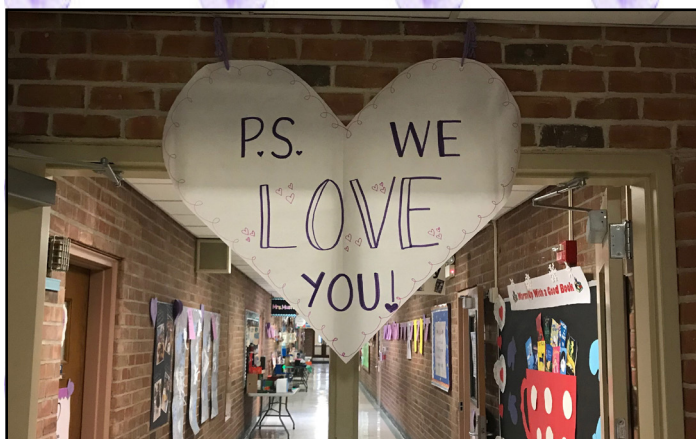
with this Mission Statement! The theme this year is to, ‘Be Proud of Who You Are!’ This day celebrates friendship, love, and acceptance... not only of others, but of yourself! We are looking forward to making this a long standing tradition here, at FB!!”

If you would like to learn more about “P. S. I Love You” [click here](#).

Thank you to Mrs. Gandolfo and the faculty and staff at Forest Brook for making this such a wonderful and important day of celebration for their students!



**Mrs. Govits and Her
First Graders**



**Mrs. Rivera's
Class**

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