



### MESSAGE from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

In the South Orangetown Central School District, we understand that the future of our nation, and indeed our world, depends upon our ability to develop leadership skills in our students. We believe, as famously stated by Vince Lombardi, that "leaders are made, not born...They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile." All SOCSO students are encouraged to be citizens of strong character, to think creatively about solutions to real-world problems and to commit to meaningful projects that make our community better.

From the moment they enter kindergarten through high school graduation, our students are introduced to the values and attributes that shape their character as future leaders. We are increasingly focused on both intellectual and social emotional development, and provide opportunities for students to practice leadership skills through participation in our many honor societies, clubs and athletics teams.

Sometimes, students quietly distinguish themselves through exemplary leadership. Our Board of Education recently recognized 16 SOCSO New York Jets Upstanders who exhibit courage and compassion through their commitment to "Stomp Out Bullying"—just one example of our students contributing to a better world.

Please join us in supporting and celebrating all of our students' efforts to grow as leaders, to strive for greatness and to make our community an inspiring place to live, work and learn.

Sincerely,

**Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

## Educating Engaged, Informed Global Citizens



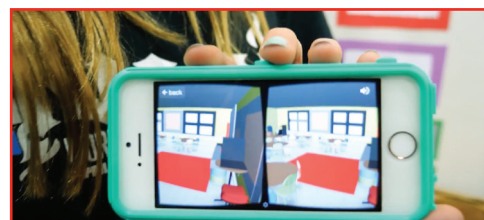
At left: Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai visited SOCSO on January 9 to discuss her life, advocacy for girls' education and her new book with students in grades 5-8 and the TZHS Social Justice Club. The club's officers met briefly with Yousafzai, who participated in conversations moderated by SOCSO Library Media Specialist **Kimberlee Landgraft** (pictured) and CLE WERLD teacher **Kristine Wagner**. At right: TZHS Model UN Club members and advisor **Martin Patmos** met with **Frederick Lee-Ohlsson**, a member of the Swedish Mission to the UN's Political Affairs and Security Council during the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition last month.



**Over the past few years, SOCSO has invested in intensive curriculum and professional development to ensure that students district-wide have the knowledge and skills to be successful in a competitive global economy.**

**Evidence-based instruction practices emphasize hands-on, problem-based learning to solve real world challenges:** From kindergarten through Grade 12, students build and apply content knowledge as well as creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills.

The highly-anticipated annual SOCSO School Maker Faire (pictured, right) provides students with the opportunity to present and discuss their work with an authentic audience. Last year, more than 400 students shared their science, technology, engineering, art and math projects with hundreds of parents, staff and community members.



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## GLOBAL CITIZENS *(continued)*



**A focus on developing emotional intelligence among students, staff and families:** We are working to create a healthier, more compassionate school community through efforts including the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence RULER approach to promote social emotional learning. Our administrative team and faculty members have been engaged in professional development and building-level initiatives to support positive behaviors, self-regulation and stress management.

On January 16, more than 100 WOS and CLE families participated in the first-ever Family Mindfulness Night (*pictured above*). The event offered parents an insider's view of the work happening in their children's schools every day, where school psychologists lead mindfulness exercises, physical education teachers lead yoga instruction and teachers use Brain Gym® PACE strategies in their classrooms.



**Cultivating engaged and informed global citizens:** SOCS students are invested in making a difference in their school and local community through dozens of service and outreach activities. It is equally important that students are prepared to engage in the world beyond our neighborhoods, whether by having the opportunity to hear the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner talk about advocating for girls education or partnering with virtual classmates in Barcelona to brainstorm solutions to problems we face at home.

In November, SOMS Debate Club members (*pictured above*) presented bills they had drafted on tobacco use/vaping, secondary school start times and expanded 911 access at the New York State YMCA Youth and Government Conference in Albany. Delegates debated bills with more than 200 peers on the Senate and Assembly floors, toured the State Capitol and met with government officials.

## We Achieve



■ TZHS sophomore **Olivia Steger** (*pictured left*) was selected as a National Center for Women and Information Technology Aspirations in Computing 2019 National Award Honorable Mention, placing in the top 10% of more than 4,300 applicants nationwide.

■ TZHS musicians **Cassandra Bartels** (soprano), **Palak Oza** (viola) and **Yena Shin** (piccolo), *pictured right*, were chosen to perform in the National Association for Music Education 2019 All-Eastern Honors Ensembles in Pittsburgh, April 4-7.



■ TZHS *Tones 2018* earned a Gold Empire State School Press Association Award and the following: Artwork/Illustration: **Natasha D'Amico** (Silver), **Jane Pritchard** (Bronze) and **May Bukowski** (Honorable Mention); Cover Design: **May Bukowski** (Bronze); Fiction: **Diana Mirakaj** (Silver); Non-Fiction: **Alexandra Thomas** (Gold), **Lois Kim** (Gold) and **Sophie Regina** (Bronze); Layout: **Jane Lee** and **Sarah Rivera** (Gold), **Jane Lee** and **Hannah Ahn** (Gold) and **Jane Lee** and **Hannah Ahn** (Silver); and, Poetry: **Hannah Ahn** (Bronze), **Chelzea Worrent** (Honorable Mention) and **Leigh Ann Sevastian** (Honorable Mention).

■ SOMS Debate Club members won awards at the New York State YMCA Youth and Government Conference for Outstanding Bill (**Ailish M., Matt T., Anna P. and Aine M.**), Outstanding Delegate (**Ailish M.**) and Outstanding Debates (**Sean M. and Thomas F.**).



■ Sixteen SOMS students (*pictured left*) were recognized as 2018 New York Jets Upstanders of the Week: **Lily L., Nate P., Julia M., Cade C., Jill H., Grace T., Helena K., Ciara H. Sarah K., Natalie B., Sofia C., Danny A., Ailish M., Anthony D., Katie B. and Jonathann M.**

■ SOMS sixth-grader **Kailey D.** won the local Patriot's Pen contest hosted by Raymond W. DeMeola VFW Post 1615 and advanced to district judging.

■ Coaching honors: **Jon Jacobs** (All-Section Coach of the Year, Boys Soccer), **Bill Lynch** (League Coach of the Year, Girls Soccer) and **Vincent Yonta** (Rockland County Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year, Football)

■ All-State: **Ciaran Shalvey** (Boys Soccer) and **Charlie Garrison** (Football, Honorable Mention)

■ All-Section: **Kelly Harris** (Girls Soccer), **Niamh Healy** (Girls Soccer), **Kennedy Outlaw** (Girls Soccer), **Ciaran Shalvey** (Boys Soccer), **Jorge Umana** (Boys Soccer), and **Dylan Shalvey** (Boys Soccer, Honorable Mention) and **Luke Sullivan** (Boys Soccer, Honorable Mention)

■ All-County: **Liam Hehir, Pat Castellano and Brian Curtis** (all Boys Cross Country, 2nd Team); and, **Jack Coffey, Paul Lee, Jack Dinnegan, Luke Donnelly and Dan Murphy** (all Football Honorable Mention)

■ County Champs: TZ Wrestling's **Paul Lee, Desmond Kivlehan, Paul Lee and Joseph Seltzer**; and TZ Track & Field's **Hillary Abankwa, Katelyn Lange, Tori Fears and Gabby Shea** (Girls 4x400 relay); **Tori Fears, Alexandra Thomas, Maddy Roth and Meghan Majewski** (Girls 4x800 relay); **Tori Fears** (Girls 600); and **Pat Castellano** (Boys 1000)



■ TZ Wrestling's **Paul Lee** named a Rockland Journal-News Scholar-Athlete



# STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

**Making bold moves requires strong community support. SOCSO is exploring new ways to enhance connections among school, home and community so that all students achieve to their fullest potential.**



**Expanding supports for K-12 families:** Since joining the district in November, Family Engagement Center (FEC) Coordinator **AJ Walker** has been developing resources and opportunities for SOCSO families. The FEC is hosting the Parent Safety Workshop series and providing 1:1 support for creating family emergency plans, collaborating with faculty on curriculum-aligned workshops, organizing a spring alumni panel to share college advice with high school students, and much more. Ms. Walker (pictured above left, with local business owner Fara Abramson) is also building community partnerships to support the FEC.



**Promoting mentorship experiences:** From guest speakers who bring lessons to life to community-based internships for high school seniors, our schools help students identify and explore their interests by engaging with local experts. On January 5, the TZHS FIRST Robotics Competition team, SO BOTZ, kicked off the 2019 competition season with Board of Education members **Christine Lee** and **Lonnie Jacobs**, and 17 engineers, technologists and business professionals who volunteered to spend the day brainstorming robot design and game strategy with students (pictured above right).



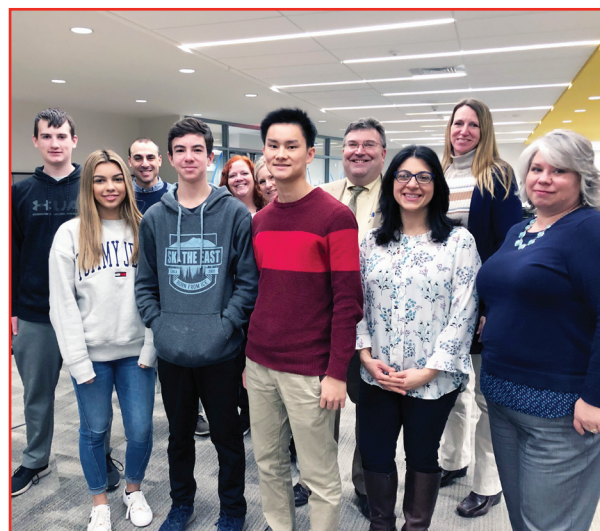
**Making it easier to engage:** SOCSO is working to meet the changing needs of our diverse community by making it easier for families and community members to access information and get involved. In addition to highlighting student and staff achievements and program news in the weekly e-News, we launched the *Wednesday Update* e-blast last year in collaboration with our PTAs and TZ Red & White to share information and volunteer opportunities. The *Wednesday Update*, among other school and district electronic communications, is produced in both English and Spanish. To better reach those who don't use or have access to social media, email or the internet, we have increased our publications from an annual budget notice to production of a quarterly school newsletter. We are also creating opportunities to connect with families and our community in person through a growing number of Family Nights and parent workshops held throughout the school year!

## Restructuring Learning Time and Spaces

**To support evidence-based instructional innovation and the changing needs of students, SOCSO is adjusting where and when learning happens.**

**Exploring alternative approaches to scheduling:** Since May 2018, a team of TZHS administrators, faculty, students and parents has been examining master scheduling options. "It's been an opportunity to take a collective look at what we are offering, how that affects student outcomes and how we might improve," says Principal Dr. Jennifer Amos.

TZHS Master Scheduling Inquiry Team members (pictured right) recently visited four local high schools with different approaches to scheduling to learn how their master schedules impact student choice, stress level and achievement; faculty instructional practices, collaboration and culture; and, facilities, food service and staffing requirements. The team aims to have a recommendation to present this spring.



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## LEARNING TIME AND SPACES *(continued)*

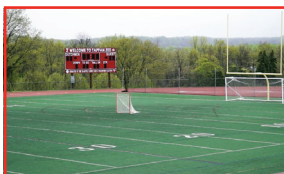


### Capital projects underway!

Thanks to continued community support, SOCSD is moving forward with capital projects to address critical system and infrastructure needs and to renovate physical spaces to match current and anticipated program demands.

**Major Summer 2019 projects, pending final New York State Education Department approval:**

- Bleacher replacement and floor refinishing in TZHS Main Gym
- Turf field replacement at TZHS
- SOMS Auditorium renovation including air conditioning, sound, lighting, seating and flooring
- Renovation of SOMS technology classrooms and Maker Space
- Renovation of WOS bathrooms
- Addition of egress doors in WOS Cafetorium and Gym
- Transformer replacements at CLE and WOS



Proposals for Summer 2020 work, to include the SOMS Library and TZHS field bleachers and pressbox, have been submitted for NYSED approval. Stay tuned for updates as capital project work progresses!

## Kindergarten Registration!



Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins this month! Parents of children who will turn age five on or before December 1, 2019 are encouraged to attend the Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation on February 13.

### Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation

- Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00pm  
William O. Schaefer Elementary School

**Online registration opens** on/about February 15

### Kindergarten Registration Assistance

- Wednesday, February 27, 6:00-8:00pm
- Tuesday, March 19, 6:00-8:00pm
- Friday, March 22, 9:15am-3:00pm  
William O. Schaefer Elementary School

## Upcoming DATES

### Pre-K Playgroup

- Wednesday, March 6, 9:30am & 10:30am | FEC @ SOMS

### Parent Safety Workshop: What to Do When...

- Monday, March 4, 7:00-8:30pm | SOMS Cafeteria

### 7th Annual SOCSD School Maker Faire

- Thursday, March 7, 6:30-8:30pm | TZHS Gym
- Register online at [blogs.socsd.org/makerfaire](https://blogs.socsd.org/makerfaire)

### Winter Community Blood Drive

- Thursday, March 14, 8:30am-8:30pm | TZHS Rear Gym

### TZHS Spring Musical: *George M.*

- Friday, March 15 & Saturday, March 16, 8:00pm
- Sunday, March 17, 2:00pm  
TZHS Auditorium

### SOCES Family Math Night

- Wednesday, March 20, 5:00-6:50pm | CLE Cafeteria

### SOMS Spring Musical: *The Wiz*

- Friday, March 29 & Saturday, March 30, 7:30pm
- Sunday, March 31, 2:00pm  
SOMS Auditorium



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