

Rochelle Park News and Events

February 2026

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

January marked a natural moment of reflection and renewal in our school community. As we returned from winter break, it was a time to reset routines, set goals, and recommit to the values that help our students grow both academically and personally.

The month also invited meaningful reflection through Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Dr. King's legacy reminded us of the importance of courage, service, and striving for justice and equality. His message inspired conversations about character, leadership, and how each of us can make a positive difference in our communities.

Across classrooms, January served as a time for fresh starts - whether through setting personal goals, strengthening study habits, or building new connections. These small steps helped students build confidence, responsibility, and resilience.

We are grateful for the continued partnership of our families, staff, and district community. With shared commitment and optimism, we look forward to continued growth, learning, and opportunity for all students at Sage.

SURVIVOR TESTIMONY LEAVES LASTING IMPACT

Our students were given a rare and meaningful opportunity to hear directly from Holocaust survivor Ninetta Feldman, who spoke through a live Zoom broadcast from Bergen Community College. The event allowed our students to witness her powerful testimony in real time and learn firsthand about one of history's darkest chapters.

The presentation was sponsored by the Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation, in partnership with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Through this collaboration, our students were able to connect with a survivor's lived experience - an opportunity that is becoming increasingly rare as time passes.

The timing of the event held special significance, as January 27 marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This day is dedicated to honoring the memory of the six million Jewish victims and the millions of others who were murdered during the Holocaust, while also ensuring that survivors' voices continue to be heard.

Listening to Ms. Feldman's story helped bring history beyond textbooks, allowing our students to better understand the human impact of the Holocaust. Experiences like this promote empathy, deepen historical awareness, and reinforce the importance of remembrance, education, and standing up against hatred in all its forms.



STUDENTS GLIDE INTO FUN ON ANNUAL ICE SKATING TRIP

Students enjoyed one of our favorite traditions—our annual ice skating trip to Mennen Sports Arena! From beginners wobbling on the ice to experienced skaters showing off their moves, students challenged themselves, cheered one another on, and shared plenty of laughs along the way.

It was wonderful to see confidence grow as students tried new skills, friendships strengthen through teamwork and encouragement, and so many smiles both on and off the rink. Teachers and chaperones joined in the fun, helping students feel safe and supported as they explored the ice. Many students discovered new skills they didn't know they had, while others embraced the chance to try something outside their comfort zone. The energy, laughter, and excitement filled the arena and carried back to school, sparking conversations and stories that lasted well after the trip ended.

The trip offered more than just skating - it was a day of movement, fun, and community-building that brought everyone together in a joyful and memorable way. This tradition continues to be a highlight of the school year, leaving students excited to return to the ice next year and creating memories that will last well beyond the rink.



ADVISORIES TURN UP THE HEAT IN COOKOFF COMPETITION



This month's advisory challenge brought the heat with a full-on cookoff! Each advisory showcased their creativity with a themed dish to share with the whole school, along with eye-catching table decorations that helped earn extra votes. Students and staff sampled the delicious creations, cast their votes, and cheered on their favorites as advisories competed for top-three bragging rights and advisory points. From sweet treats to savory surprises, the energy was high, the flavors were amazing, and school spirit was on full display. Everyone had a blast tasting, judging, and celebrating each advisory's unique approach.

It was a fun (and delicious) day that left everyone smiling, full, and already excited for the next advisory challenge.

MIDTERMS WRAPPED UP!

Students completed their midterm exams last month, putting their knowledge and skills to the test. Teachers were impressed with the focus, effort, and determination shown across all classes. These assessments offered a valuable chance to reflect on learning so far and set goals for the rest of the year. Many students felt proud of their hard work, and the experience helped highlight areas for growth before the second half of the school year. Overall, midterms were a successful opportunity to celebrate effort, build confidence, and prepare for what's ahead.

MEAN GIRLS MUSICAL SHINES ON THE SAGE STAGE

Our school's recent production of Mean Girls: The Musical was a hit, showcasing the incredible talent, dedication, and teamwork of our students both onstage and behind the scenes. From the opening number to the final bow, the performance highlighted months of hard work and passion for the arts. The cast delivered energetic and memorable performances, bringing humor, heart, and confidence to every scene. Our stage crew played a vital role in the show's success, managing set changes and props with professionalism and precision. Thank you to Mr. Maggiore for managing lights, sound, and music to support the action onstage.

The biggest shout out, however, is for Mr. Feliciano, whose leadership as director and choreographer helped bring this production to life. His vision and commitment guided students through rehearsals and inspired their best performances. For some students, performing on the Sage



Stage felt like coming home, while for others it was their first time in the spotlight. Each student rose to the occasion and contributed to a show our school can be proud of.

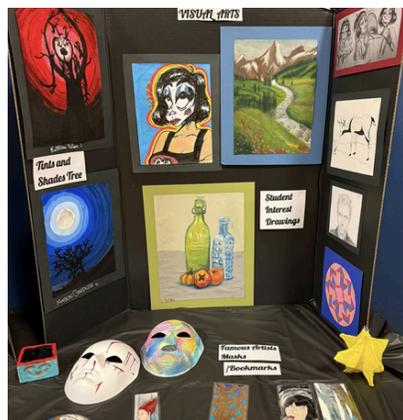
We were also thrilled to host a special encore performance for visiting 8th graders from Mahwah, featuring a Q&A with the actors, a behind-the-scenes look, and a campus tour. Congratulations to everyone involved in Mean Girls: The Musical - your talent and teamwork truly stole the show!

STUDENT CREATIVITY ON DISPLAY

Last month's Winter Arts Festival was a joyful celebration of creativity, talent, and community spirit. The evening highlighted the impressive work of student artists, clubs, organizations, and musical performers, all of whom showcased their dedication and passion through a wide variety of exhibits and performances.

Families filled the venue with energy and encouragement, as many parents and guardians came out to support students and enjoy the festivities. Their presence added to the warm and welcoming atmosphere that made the event so special. The festival was also a meaningful opportunity to reconnect with alumni who returned to join the celebration. Their attendance created a sense of continuity and pride, bringing together past and present members of the school community.

Special recognition goes to Mr. Maggiore for his leadership in organizing the event and thoughtfully bringing all of the elements together into a memorable night for all who attended.



BASKETBALL TEAM SECURES BIG WIN

Congratulations to our basketball team on an awesome win against Banyan High School last month, finishing strong with a 47-26 victory. The team showed great teamwork, effort, and determination from start to finish, and it really paid off on the court. Every player contributed, whether it was through strong defense, smart plays, or cheering each other on. It was great to see how well everyone worked together and supported one another throughout the game.

A huge thank-you, as always, to Coach Preston and Coach Stolerman for their dedication, leadership, and continued support of our students. Their hard work and commitment make moments like this possible.

Way to go, team - we're so proud of you! Keep up the great work!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MR. MILON, DEPARTMENT HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

Mr. Milon is beginning his 26th year as a dedicated and deeply valued member of the Sage community. He serves in many roles, including Department Head of Mathematics, Mathematics Teacher, Head Track Coach, Academic Advisor, and Voting Member of the National Honor Society. In addition, Mr. Milon is the Chief Officer and Founder of the Self Defense and Fitness (SDF) Program, Chief Investigator and Founder of the Mythbusters Club, and Chair and Founder of the Activities Development Team (ADT) - a reflection of his tireless commitment to enriching student experiences both inside and outside the classroom.



What inspired you to join the Sage team?

Mr. Milon shares, "I come from a family of teachers, and I always knew I wanted to make a difference in students' lives. I truly believe in the Sage mission and what we do here every day. That belief is so strong that I drive 75 miles one way, every single day, just to be at Sage."

What do you enjoy most about working with our students?

"What I enjoy most is showing students that it is possible to accomplish anything," Mr. Milon says. "Nothing is impossible. Everything is possible."

If you weren't working in education, what job would you be doing?

If he weren't working in education, Mr. Milon says he would likely pursue one of three very different careers: a scare actor, a doctor, or a maintenance worker. He also lives by a motto that reflects his authenticity and approach to life: "Don't be fake. Be real. Be you."

We are incredibly grateful for Mr. Milon's decades of dedication, passion, and belief in our students. His impact on Sage is immeasurable, and we are proud to celebrate him in this month's Staff Spotlight.



STAY CONNECTED

Want to see more of the moments that make Rochelle Park special? Follow our Facebook page, Sage Alliance, for daily glimpses into classroom activities, student achievements, and community events.

SUPPORTING EVERY STUDENT'S JOURNEY

Every student's path is unique. Our flexible intake and onboarding ensure a smooth transition through:

- Individualized support – Plans tailored to each student's needs
- Collaboration – Partnership with families, leadership, and districts
- Inclusive environment – A welcoming community from day one
- Strong foundation – Supporting academic, therapeutic, and personal growth

For out-of-district referrals or consultations, please contact our Clinical Director, Margo Adelsberg, at madelsberg@sageday.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Random Acts of Kindness Week

February 14 - 20



Sage Alliance Schools

ROCHELLE PARK FAMILIES Parent and Caregiver Support Group

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Zoom link will be provided)

This virtual group is for **new and current** parents and caregivers of Sage Rochelle Park students to connect, share experiences, and support each other in a welcoming space. We encourage all parents and caregivers to join!

Email Tara Fries at: tfries@sageday.com for the link!



Mark Your Calendar - 2026 Upcoming Dates

*2nd Tuesday of each month

March 10th | April 14th | May 12th | June 9th



Sage Alliance Schools

Save the Date!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

SAGE ROCHELLE PARK



Join us for a fun evening with:

- Therapy Dogs from Operation K9 Beethoven
- Pizza and Salad
- Hot Chocolate Bar



Learn more about Operation K9 Beethoven:
<https://operationk9beethoven.com>