



## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of August 21, 2017

Soon, the children of our community will begin yet another year of school. While I'm sure that many of them will long for lazy summer days, we can reassure them that there are plenty of opportunities ahead. There are new friends to meet, new teachers to learn from and most importantly, a fresh start.

Here in Hempstead there are several events leading up to the school year that I wanted to make you aware of. On Saturday, August 26 the Able Body of Believer's Alliance will be hosting a Back to School Celebration. The event will be held from 12- 3p.m. at the Bethlehem of Judea Church, located at 83 Greenwich Street. There will be family entertainment, food and games along with free backpacks and school supplies for children who are accompanied by parents and pre-register. To sign up in advance, please contact Evangelist Reginald Benjamin at 516-398-7484 or Deandra Moss at 516-493-9840.

Also on August 26 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Friends of the Academy, in affiliation with United Health Care, is hosting Influence Day 2017. That event will offer a variety of family and senior related services along with complimentary school book bags for youngsters. The location for Influence Day 2017 is Parking Field 5, directly behind 78 N. Franklin Street.

On Sunday, August 27 the Islamic Circle of North America will be distributing free book bags and some school items to local youngsters starting at 2 p.m., until supplies last. The giveaway will take place in front of the Hempstead Bus Station between Jackson and West Columbia Streets. For more information, please contact Habeeb Ahmed at 516-581-5893.

The new school year also offers parents an opportunity to get involved with their child's education. While this may be difficult to do because of job or time restraints, it is still important to make an effort for the youngster's sake. For example, when your child arrives home from school, ask them what they learned that day and make yourself aware of any homework assignments or upcoming tests they may have. Then, follow up by inquiring about the results of those tasks. Studies show that family support outside of the classroom further strengthens teacher's efforts inside.

But parents or guardians are not the only ones who should be making an attempt to solidify the scholastic experience. The student should take responsibility to better their educational career by taking challenging courses. It has been proven that students who take academically challenging high school courses are more likely to attend and complete college, and increase their chances of obtaining a good job once they graduate

As parents, grandparents and guardians, it is our responsibility to help our children learn. If we work together with our educators, we can all watch our youngsters grow up to be successful and accomplished. I encourage all family members to make a personal commitment to help our kids achieve all that they can.

Adults should also use extra caution when driving during school hours, so make a mental note to reduce your speed in a school zone. Adhering to these rules will help ensure the safety of our youngsters.

Best wishes to all parents and children in the coming school year.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Dashawn Meadors, also known as "Boobie" to his friends and family, gets the honors as this week's Best of Hempstead. Entering his senior year at Hempstead High School this fall, Dashawn is a football and basketball superstar, with football being his true passion, a sport he's been excelling at since he's been five years old. A top running back, Dashawn is currently being recruited by a number of colleges for 2018. Among his top three possible college choices are LSU, the University of Alabama and Penn State University. And Dashawn is not the only family member who bleeds Hempstead Tigers blue. His Dad played Tigers football and his older brother who is currently on a full scholarship playing fullback at Central State University in Ohio did as well.

Academics are also an important part of Dashawn's life. He maintains an 85-plus average and plans to study sports management in college. Currently Dashawn is working for the Hempstead Parks and Recreation Department as part of the Village's Summer Youth Employment Program. As a former coach of Dashawn's when he played basketball with the Hempstead Dons, I've never seen a young man with a better attitude. And in the words of Trustee LaMont Johnson, "We expect Dashawn to be recognized many times in the future for his continued achievements and we want to be one of the first to do so."

Congratulations to Dashawn for being one of Hempstead's best. "Boobie" is a Tiger for life!

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead