

Week of August 20, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

While I'm sure many of us wish summer would never end, soon the children of our community will begin yet another year of school. And that means 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 a number of back-to-school events that I wanted to make you aware of as you and your children prepare for the coming school year.

On Sunday, August 26 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Friends of the Academy, in affiliation with United Health Care, is hosting Influence Day 2018. This event will offer a variety of family and senior related services along with complimentary school book bags for youngsters. The location for Influence Day 2018 is Parking Field 5, directly behind 78 N. Franklin Street.

Jackson Memorial A.M.E. Zion will be hosting it's Back to School Giveaway on Sunday, August 26 starting at 11:30 a.m. The event will take place at 60 Peninsula Blvd. For more information, please call 516-483-2724.

The WORC Program in conjunction with Children's Hope India 3 presents their Backpack Giveaway event on Friday, August 31, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at 250 Fulton Avenue, Suite 355. Children MUST be present to receive their backpacks. Parents will also have an opportunity to register children for WORC's afterschool tutorial and homework assistance program.

On Saturday, September 1, 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.

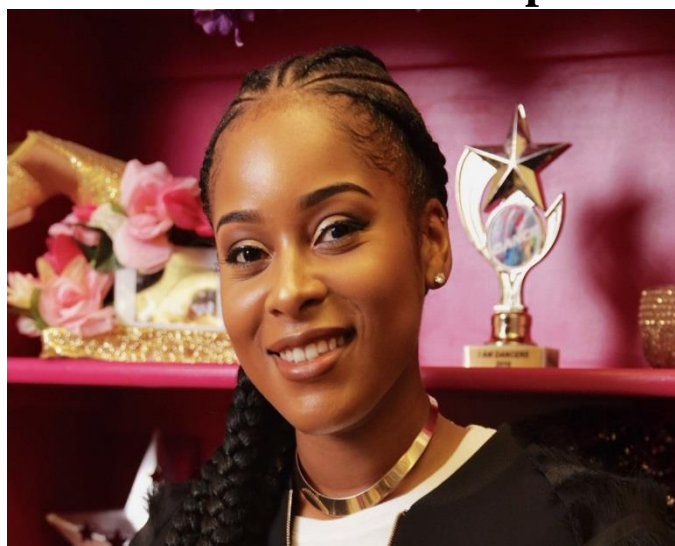
Also on September, 1, Peace Valley Haven, Inc. is having their Back to School Event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m at Parking Field 14 (Next to Village Hall, 99 Nichols Court). They will be distributing free school supplies for children in all grades. For more information or to donate supplies, please call 516-223-2355.

The Empire State After-School Program will be having a backpack giveaway, food, fun and sign up for all 2018-19 programs on Saturday, September 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Joseph A. McNeil School (formerly Franklin School) located at 335 South Franklin Street. For more information, please call the Empire State Office at 516-434-4141.

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.

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

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



Best of Hempstead honors this week go to Tiara Adams. Born and raised in Hempstead Village, Tiara is a product of Hempstead schools, graduating high school in 2009 and recently earning a degree in American Studies from SUNY Old Westbury. Passionate about serving children in the community, Tiara dedicates almost every waking moment working with our youth through a variety of endeavors. For the past five years, Tiara has worked as a teaching assistant at David Paterson Elementary School and also serves as the elementary cheerleading coach with the school district. In 2017, inspired by her love for dancing she became a director and co-founder of I Am Dancers, a dance studio in West Hempstead that primarily caters to giving kids, mostly girls, ages 3-19 an opportunity to dance that might not be able to afford it otherwise. The June recital featured 50 girls and enrollment is currently underway for the new program that will start in September. Through the Empire State Program, I Am Dancers is bringing dance to the A.B.G.S. Middle School and Hempstead High School this fall as well. For more information about I Am Dancers programs visit [www.iamdancersli.com](http://www.iamdancersli.com).

In addition to her dance related activities, since 2015 Tiara has partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in running a Toy Drive during the holiday season that gives away more than 500 toys to children in the Hempstead community. Last year, on Halloween, Tiara organized Trunk-a-Treat, an event that was enjoyed by over 400 kids and included free food, candy and activities in a safe and fun environment. Trunk-a-Treat will be held again on Halloween this year as well.

Tiara, your commitment to giving back to the community, particularly working to inspire, motivate and empower the youngsters that will form our next generation truly warms my heart. Your myriad efforts help make Hempstead Village a better place for all of us. It gives me great pleasure to recognize you as one of Hempstead's best. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead