

Educational Horizons

FALL 2016

PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Plainview-Old Bethpage School District: *Great Happens Here*

If ever we needed a theme to express how we all feel about the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, “Great Happens Here” says it perfectly. Children emerging from buses with well-stocked backpacks of supplies, parents holding back tears of joy to wave goodbye, resplendent sounds of excited students making grand plans for the months ahead and teachers eagerly welcoming their students back. The start of *any* school year is a moment of grand anticipation and a percolating eagerness—the start of the 2016-2017 school year at POB even more so, as it heralds long-awaited changes throughout our District.

The most visibly apparent change? On the first day of school, students in first through fourth grades welcomed the first group of kindergarten students to their school buildings (many of whom are siblings). This year marks the first year that our youngest students are integrated into the elementary schools. This process will diminish long transportation routes as well as streamline and improve the transition into elementary school for kindergarten



students for years to come. Another major academic change: Students in ninth through twelfth grades at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School will be the first class to experience a nine-period day, a schedule that will enable students to take an additional elective, select a lunch and participate in more after-school programs.

In addition to new academic changes, students and community members experienced the benefit of completed renovations in buildings throughout the District. These renovations included new windows at both Pasadena Elementary School and Parkway Elementary School; a new playground at Old Bethpage Elementary School; and a new gym floor and new carpeted library and music spaces at Stratford Road Elementary School.

“We look forward to having another successful year of learning, working together and proving that, at Plainview-Old Bethpage, great happens here,” said Superintendent Dr. Lorna Lewis

SEE POB'S NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS ON PAGE 5!

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Lauren Sackstein • Susan Stewart
Dr. Lorna R. Lewis, *Superintendent of Schools*

Superintendent's Message



We opened the 2016-17 school year with joy and enthusiasm for the promise of great things happening in and around our district. Just watching the Kindergarteners emerge from the yellow buses and quickly settling in to their elementary classrooms, as if they had always been there, sent the signal that this was indeed a year when our selected theme, Great Happens Here, has nailed it. Our high school students are moving through their nine-period day for the first time in our District's history and many have remarked on the opportunities this new schedule has provided them.

Negotiations with all bargaining units are coming to a close. We have settled contracts with the PCT, representing teachers, substitutes and clericals. This new contract brings with it an expanded school year, adding two additional days to the calendar and guaranteeing that our schools will be closed for students on election day. We also have added more opportunities for students K-12 to receive extra help. Elementary extra help sessions have already begun and the middle schools now have three days of remedial. A retirement incentive for teachers was included in our new contract, and the Board of Education has already acted upon the 2016-17 retirements.

It has been a busy year for the facilities department. We have completed more than 12 million dollars' worth of capital projects, including new windows at Parkway and Pasadena,

new playground equipment at Old Bethpage, new gym floors at Stratford Road, boilers at Mattlin, and a new parking lot and roof at the High School. We anticipate new windows being installed at POBMS and Stratford Road in the near future. The Smart Schools Bond Act proposal has been approved by the Board of Education and is awaiting NYS approval. These funds will be used to upgrade our technology infrastructure in the elementary schools as well as address additional security upgrades.

Each year, we factor in feedback from you, the community, to be able to respond to the kinds of changes you want to see in your schools. I have posted a community survey to gather your feedback as we seek to plan for the next five years of the District's direction. Please consider going on to www.pobschools.org to respond to the survey. Results will be posted once the survey is closed. Please continue to stay involved with your District by attending Board of Education meetings and show your support at athletic events, concerts and theatrical performances.

Our dedicated staff stands at the ready to provide your children with those magically engaging classroom experiences POB has come to be known for. Join us for another great school year!

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Proud Superintendent of POB Schools

Welcome Back!

Take a look at an image from the first few days of the 2016-2017 school year. Students all over the District look forward to another year of academics, art, athletics and more. We are excited to see what wonderful accomplishments they have in store for us this year!



Greetings from Your Board of Education!

We would like to welcome you to a new feature from the Board of Education in our Educational Horizons newsletter. Our hope is to use these short messages as an additional line of communication between the Plainview-Old Bethpage community and its Board of Education. One of the roles of the Board is to help shape policies and adopt regulations, and we feel that we can do our best work for our students when our relationship with our community is strong. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Board meetings (which are listed on our website: pobschools.org), plan to attend our meetings and keep your eye out for upcoming newsletters to get an inside look on the happenings in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District and beyond.

Thank you,

Debbie Bernstein, President
Ginger Lieberman, Vice President
Trustees: Jodi Campagna • Seth Greenberg
Ronelle Hershkowitz • Lauren Sackstein • Susan Stewart



CHECKING IN AROUND THE DISTRICT

A New Playground Helps Welcome Newest Students to Old Bethpage Elementary

There are big changes at Old Bethpage Elementary School, where not only is the school unveiling a new playground that will greatly improve physical education opportunities, but students also welcomed kindergarteners to their school for the first time. To help with that transition and acclimate the youngest students into the school, teachers have instituted various programs, including one such activity in September that saw older students at Old Bethpage Elementary teaching the kindergarteners how to use the new playground equipment as a way to break the ice and get to meet their newest classmates. The older students also worked with them in the school's libraries to help them learn the ways of their new school.



Parkway Elementary School Students Stop, Drop and Roll with Local Firefighters

What child doesn't love getting a visit from local heroes like firefighters? Kindergarten, first grade and second grade students at Parkway Elementary School recently welcomed Plainview Fire Department (PFD) firefighters David Halper and Parkway alumnus Brent Martinez to learn what to do in the event of a fire emergency, how to prevent a fire emergency, and the importance of planning a safe meeting place with their families. As part of Fire Prevention Week, students were able to ask firefighters questions, and they were even able to tour fire trucks, hold equipment and learn the function of each. The fun and informative presentation will help the students familiarize themselves with a firefighter's uniform and learn to trust firefighters in the event of an emergency.



Musician Visits Pasadena to Deliver Powerful Message

As part of its Cultural Arts program, Pasadena Elementary School recently welcomed Jared Campbell, a musician that visits schools all over the country teaching a powerful, anti-bullying message. Through song, Mr. Campbell encourages students to walk away from his concert "feeling awesome about themselves" and understanding that each of them has value. Pasadena's Cultural Arts program, which is sponsored by the PTA, brings fun, diverse programs to the school. Past events have included Chinese acrobats and the National Circus Project. Jared Campbell's visit was one of the best and most powerful. Thanks for coming, Jared!



Stratford Road Gives Back Through Art

The Stratford Road Elementary School recently began its second year of "Pay it Forward," a program that gives every class in the school the opportunity to pay it forward to their school and community with some form of kindness. To kick off this year, Ms. Boehm's second grade class is creating a responsibility quilt to highlight the different roles and responsibilities within the school community. The quilt will be displayed in the lobby for everyone to enjoy. Stratford Road students are learning and showing that a little kindness can go a long way.



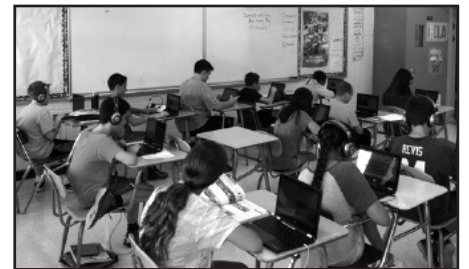
Middle Schoolers Celebrate Mattlin Pride!

PRIDE Week is one of the highlights of the early school calendar at Mattlin Middle School, and 2016 was no different! A week-long event that celebrates the spirit of Mattlin Middle School, PRIDE Week opens with a pep rally during the day and is followed by a week of exciting activities that captures the character and culture of the school. Activities included theme dress days, showcase design, hallway decorations, and an exciting "shark tank competition" held during an extended MAP class. The week concluded with PRIDE Night, at which students competed in various games to win points for their grade. The energy and excitement brought by all students during the 2016 PRIDE Week helped make it the best one yet!



Language Learning Goes Digital at POBMS

Students at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School are taking advantage of new technology to help learn new languages. Seventh grade Spanish classes are using their Google Chromebooks in conjunction with the new textbook series, *Describe*, and its corresponding online site to record video dialogues, listen and watch conversations, and practice their pronunciation to improve their language skills. The technology provides the opportunity for students to differentiate and monitor their learning from all areas of language acquisition, including listening, reading, writing and speaking.



POBJFKHS Proudly Announces Ten Commended Students

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School recently announced that 10 members of the Class of 2017— Alec Ash, David Cheng, Joanna Cheng, Jason Getzler, Daniel Gulotta, Brent Hong, Sun Woo Kang, Paul Lee, Maxwell Schulman, and Casey Urban—were named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. More than 1.6 million students across the United States entered the 2017 competition by taking the 2015 Preliminary Student Aptitude Test (PSAT). Of those students, only five percent earned the recognition of commended student—a clear indication of the magnitude of the accomplishment. Congratulations to all 10 of you; your academic achievements make the entire District proud.



ARTS IN THE DISTRICT

POB Celebrates Long Island Scholar Artists!

Two POBJFKHS Students Were Honored At Award Ceremony

Ellie Lee and Schuyler Young, talented student-artists at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, were recently named Long Island Scholar Artists. The students received the Visual Arts Honor and Award of Merit in Theater, respectively. Ellie was one of just 10 students in Nassau County to receive a Scholar-Artist Recognition and Schuyler received one of only 20 Awards of Merit. The students were honored at an award ceremony at Half Hollow Hills High School East in Dix Hills, NY, and they will participate in an end-of-the-year reception at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts next June. Congratulations Ellie and Schuyler!



Ellie Lee, Scholar Artists Recognition, Visual Arts



Schuyler Young, Award of Merit, Theater Arts

Long Island Arts Alliance (LIAA), in collaboration with *Newsday*, the New York Community Bank Foundation, and Long Island's school art administrators, have hosted this award ceremony since its inception in 2007. The LIAA Scholar-Artist Awards Program is designed to honor Long Island students considered to be "the best of the best" in both academics and arts. All Long Island high schools—private, public and parochial—are invited to nominate up to five students, one in each of the judged disciplines: Music, Visual Arts, Media Arts, Theater and Dance. Ten students each from Nassau County and Suffolk County are chosen as winners.

John F. Kennedy High School Choir Performs At 9/11 Memorial Dedication Ceremony

To commemorate the 15th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001, the Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School Choir performed at a ceremony where a sculpture that was created out of debris from the World Trade Center was installed at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library's Alma Craib Memorial Garden. The high school choir performed *The Star Spangled Banner* and "Siyahamba" in honor of the fallen heroes and victims who lost their lives 15 years ago.

The sculpture was designed and created by Long Island artist David Haussler, but separately, inside the classroom, students were challenged to sketch designs for the sculpture. Graphic arts students were shown the pieces of debris they needed to incorporate in their design, and they submitted these sketches to the Chamber of Commerce.



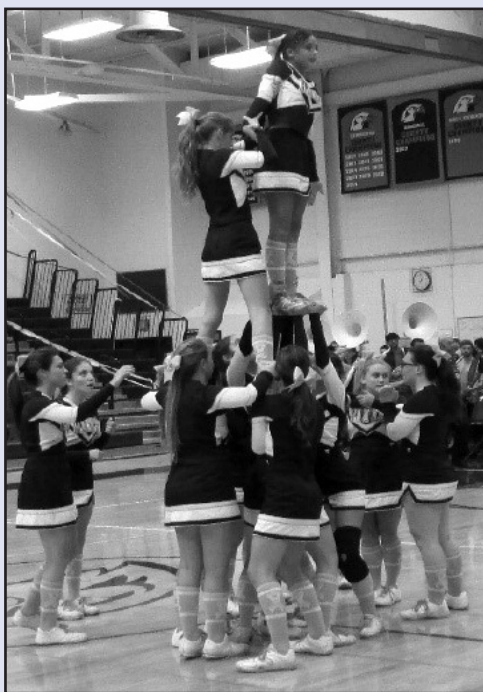
POB Announces Quartet of National Merit Semifinalists

Not a month into the school year, and the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District already has some impressive academic achievements to highlight. POBJFKHS is proud to announce that four academically talented seniors have qualified as semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition. **Talia Blum, Phillip Danziger, Max Kuster and Jina Yom** are among only 16,000 students *nationwide* who have demonstrated stellar scholastic aptitude in the competition, having earned some of the highest scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The semifinalists will work alongside their



academic counselors to continue participating in the competition. Out of these students, 7,400 finalists will be considered for an opportunity to receive National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$32 million. Additionally, the school announced 10 commended students; you can read about them on the POBJFKHS section on page three.

The Smurfs and Looney Tunes Help Lead POB's Homecoming Parade



On October 15, Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School held its annual homecoming parade, bringing together the Plainview-Old Bethpage community, students and alumni to rally the school for its big football game that afternoon against Valley Stream Central High School. And though the Hawks would come up short in a close, well-fought game, the day was a rousing spectacle of school unity and pride—as well as a display of the imagination of our student body.

Ever the creative spirits, students at POBJFKHS this year looked toward classic television cartoons for inspiration. Each grade was designated a team name represented by a “throwback” television show—names like “Sophomore Smurfs” and “Looney Junes.” Students designed and decorated elaborate banners based on their respective grade’s themes to showcase their school spirit, and the best and most creative banners were awarded Homecoming Champion.

In addition to the Homecoming football game and halftime show, spectators enjoyed the talents of the POBJFKHS band and cheerleaders and coronated its Homecoming King and Queen. Homecoming is a fun event every year, and it’s all the more exciting when the ingenuity and imagination of our students are at the forefront. Thank you to everyone who helped make this fun-filled day possible.

New Members of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District Family

District Welcomes 35 New Teachers and 6 New Administrators



Plainview-Old Bethpage welcomed 32 newly hired teachers to the District for the 2016-2017 school year. Not Pictured: Julia Fizzinoglia, Gloria Ramirez and Joseph LeRea.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District not only welcomed new students to the District this September, but also 41 new staff members. This consists of 35 new teachers and six (6) new administrators. In addition, the District is also proud to announce that six (6) returning members of staff have gained new positions. This includes:

- Ms. Lynn Winters, Assistant Principal, Stratford Road Elementary School (SR)
- Ms. Nicole Ziccardi Yerck, Assistant Principal, Parkway Elementary School (PKWY)
- Mr. Christopher Donarummo, Assistant to the Superintendent
- Ms. Eileen Annino, Chairperson-Literacy K-6
- Dr. Michael Yannucci, Assistant Principal, Old Bethpage Elementary School (OB)
- Ms. Regina Talento, Assistant Principal, H.B. Mattlin Middle School (MMS)

NEW ADMINISTRATORS INCLUDE:

- Mr. Michael Rodgers, Director of Music
- Dr. Joseph Coladonato, Principal, Mattlin Middle School
- Ms. Jodi Marchese, Assistant Principal, Pasadena Elementary School (PAS)
- Ms. Dorothy Drexel, Assistant Principal, Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School (POBMS)
- Ms. Vanessa Schack, Assistant Principal, John F. Kennedy High School (JFKHS)
- Ms. Genevieve LaGattuta, Chairperson-Math

NEW TEACHERS INCLUDE:

- Alyssa Carroll, POBMS
- Melanie Checkla, PAS
- Christine Christiansen, OB
- Thomas DeMartinis, JFKHS
- Ilana Diener, PKWY
- Laura Eifert, JFKHS
- Gina Farrell, JFKHS
- Jennifer Fitzpatrick, POBMS
- Amanda Jacovina, JFKHS
- Christine Vanni, JFKHS
- Elizabeth Lopez, OB

- Tara Marcone, PKWY
- Joan Moore, POBMS, PKWY, SR
- Staci Palacino, OB
- Tricia Reehil, PKWY
- Michelle Reinke-Soria, JFKHS, POBMS
- Robyn Rosenbloom, SR
- Karen Roveto, MMS
- Aileen Sharkey, PKWY and Hebrew Academy of Nassau County
- Nicholas Tomasulo, OB and JFKHS
- Brianne Yannotta, JFKHS
- Colleen Cho, MMS and JFKHS
- Idyle Hartofylakas, MMS and JFKHS
- Derek Madden, MMS and JFKHS
- Teri Polis, PAS
- Michael Schumacher, POBMS
- Jillian Williams, MMS and JFKHS
- Philip Caputo, JFKHS
- Matina Christodoulou, MMS
- Christine Echausse, PAS and OB
- Colin Jones, POBMS
- Jessica Winter, JFKHS
- Julia Fizzinoglia, PKWY and JFKHS
- Gloria Ramirez, JFKHS
- Joseph LeRea, PAS

2017 KINDERGARTEN CENSUS

INITIAL KINDERGARTEN CENSUS INFORMATION

All children born in the year 2012 are eligible for Kindergarten in September 2017. In order to be included in our registration process, which typically begins in January, kindly visit <http://www.pobschools.org/kindergartencensus2017> to complete the census form at your earliest convenience.