

Educational Horizons

FALL 2012

PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
pobschools.org

2012-13: Moving Forward Together



Dear Community Residents,

A chill may be in the fall air, but our hearts are warm, and we welcome you to join us as we **Move Forward Together** to accomplish the work of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District. The POB Hawks football team gave us an inspirational start to the school year with an amazing win for their season opener. I left that game feeling the promise

of a winning year for our students, staff and community, and each day I have had that feeling reinforced.

Accolades are already pouring in for members of the graduating class as they scurry to prepare their college applications. We have four National Merit semifinalists and 14 commended students. Seventeen students have submitted research papers for the Siemens competition, and 23 students are putting the final touches on their Intel submissions. Additionally, two of our students, Jackie Primack and Nicole Davidson, were among the elite Scholar-Artist Merit Award-winners recognized by Long Island Arts Alliance, and 17 students were selected to be All-State musicians.

During building tours with the Board of Education, we were all amazed at how quickly our students settled into their daily routine and began to work together as a team. There really is a great deal to be learned from kindergarteners. When we all focus our energies and work collaboratively, astounding things can happen.

We have completed our negotiations for the much-talked-about Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) for teachers and principals and

will most assuredly meet the deadline for submission to the State Education Department to avoid cuts in state aid. Negotiations with several units, including teachers, are about to wrap up, the results of which will shape our 2013-14 budget-planning process.

This year, the Board has identified goals to guide our efforts in maintaining Plainview-Old Bethpage as a premier district on Long Island:

- Maximize Student Performance
- Safe School Climate
- Enhanced Technology
- Updated Facilities
- Sound Financial Plan
- Improved Communication

We have already begun to work on improving communication districtwide by encouraging community members to utilize social media and the district's website as communications platforms.

Our Board of Education will be hosting a series of community forums to gain further input from members of the community on how we will best meet our vision of a challenging, world-class education for each child in our schools.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. Continue to stay informed by logging on to our district website at www.pobschools.org and send us a tweet!

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis

Superintendent of Schools

Homecoming 2012 was another wonderful testament to the enthusiasm of Plainview-Old Bethpage students, staff and community! Turn to Page 2 for a recap of the district's celebration!



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
Administrative Offices • Washington Avenue • Plainview, NY 11803
pobschools.org

**** ECRWSS ****
CURRENT RESIDENT
Plainview-Old Bethpage
Central School District

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Implementing the Common Core Standards

Plainview-Old Bethpage is actively preparing for the transition to New York State's new Common Core Standards for all students K-12, which include enhancements to the ELA/literacy curriculum as well as to mathematics. The core curriculum changes, adopted by schools across the United States, are aimed at ensuring consistency in education from one grade to the next, as well as among all schools. These changes will be fully implemented in the nation's public schools in the 2012-13 school year.

Plainview-Old Bethpage has been focused on preparing students to become college and career ready. We are, therefore, aligning our resources and curriculum to make certain we are providing our students with high-quality instruction aligned to the Common Core standards.

In the 2011-2012 school year, the district began its work in analyzing students' literacy and math performance which is consistent with the Board of Education's 2011-2013 goals to maximize performance in all subject areas.

In support of this goal, the District is working with Schoolwide, Inc. to provide faculty with effective teaching tools. This year and last, Schoolwide consultants have been helping teachers work with *Writing Fundamentals*, currently being implemented K-8. Through support, presentations and workshops, the consultants are helping teachers jump-start the program in their classrooms. District-wide rubrics and writing expectations have been developed at all levels.

Fortunately, we have also appointed a permanent Mathematics Chairperson, Kimberly Ferina, to assist the district in advancing our students' performance. She hit the ground running by meeting with teachers across all grade levels and has begun her research in selecting instructional materials at the middle level that are aligned to the Common Core curriculum.

During Superintendent's Conference Day, teachers and administrators will continue to develop Common Core lessons which could be integrated across all disciplines. These plans will allow our students to engage in rigorous and challenging work which will also be reflected in the New York State's assessments, as well as our local measures.

Join Us at the POB Community Forum

Maintaining Excellence in Challenging Times

The Board of Education invites all community members to participate in a roundtable discussion focused on continuing the tradition of excellence in the district. Join the Board, school leaders and your neighbors in shaping the future for your children and community on **Monday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **POBJFKHS cafeteria**. By working together, we can achieve our educational goals districtwide!

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR PRELIMINARY ONLINE SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to collect some important data from our community for the purpose of facilitating our community forum. The survey contains 10 questions, and it should take no longer than a few short minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous. Please respond by Friday, November 16 to ensure that your input is included in the discussion at the community forum. To complete the survey visit pobschools.org.

POBJFKHS Students Honored as National Merit Semifinalists

Four of our high schoolers were named 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists based on their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Congratulations to Robert Adelson, Adrian Kim, Amelia Ricketts and Sunny Zheng for their tremendous academic achievements!



(L-R) Front row: National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists Sunny Zheng, Robert Adelson, Amelia Ricketts and Adrian Kim; back row: POBJFKHS Principal James Murray, guidance counselor Jennifer Siegel, guidance counselor Domenick DiDomenico, Director of Guidance Laurie Lynn, guidance counselor Neil Lasher and guidance counselor Jessica Baker

Plainview-Old Bethpage's Got Spirit!

In October, current and former Hawks celebrated Homecoming, which began with a parade led by the marching band, Board of Education and central administration. The halftime show was filled with fun and excitement as we watched performances by the cheerleaders, kickline team and marching band prior to the crowning of Homecoming King and Queen. The stands were filled with parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members who came out to enjoy the Homecoming festivities!



POB Welcomes Fresh Faces this Fall

Dr. Timothy T. Eagen

*Assistant Superintendent
for Human Resources*

Dr. Timothy Eagen comes to Plainview–Old Bethpage from South Huntington, where he was the assistant superintendent for instruction and curriculum. Dr. Eagen is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Teaching, Literacy and Leadership at Hofstra University, where he teaches graduate-level courses in quantitative data analysis. He is also involved with the New York Schools Data Analysis Technical Assistance Group (DATAG), an organization that named Dr. Eagen *Educator of the Year* in 2010.

Dr. Eagen holds a B.S. in ceramic engineering and materials science from Alfred University. He attended Hofstra University to earn both his M.S. in secondary education and his Ed.D. in educational and policy leadership.

Kimberly Ferina

Math Department Chairperson

Kimberly Ferina's well-rounded education career includes teaching elementary, high school and college-level mathematics at schools on Long Island and in New York City. At Harborfields High School, she also taught computer science courses. Most recently, Ms. Ferina worked at the Challenge Preparatory Charter School in Far Rockaway, where she was a consultant for curriculum and instruction, operations, data and technology; chaired the Finance and Facilities committees; served on the Academic Accountability Committee; and was Board of Education treasurer.

Ms. Ferina received her B.S. in applied mathematics and statistics and B.A. in pure mathematics at Stony Brook University. Following her undergraduate career, she attended Brooklyn College and obtained her master's degree in educational leadership.

Kim Christ

Assistant Director of Special Education for Grades Preschool-4

Kim Christ joins us from Massapequa Public Schools, where she served as a school psychologist and special education administrator for the past 12 years. During that time, she also chaired both the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CSPE) and the Committee on Special Education (CSE).



(L-R) New administrators Kim Christ, Dr. Tim Eagen, Kimberly Ferina and James Bolen; not pictured: Rodney Olivero



(L-R) New teachers Kristin Sainola (POBMS-Math), Dena Mortell (Parkway and POBJFKHS-Art), Kyle Quenneville (Old Bethpage-Library Media Specialist), Grace Zhao (POBMS/POBJFKHS-Chinese), Jason Andrews (POBJFKHS-Business), Casey Boddy (POBMS-Math), Rosemarie Elder (POBJFKHS-Art), Robert Warren (Kindergarten Center/Stratford Road-Physical Education), Lanya D'Ambrosio (POBMS-Special Education), Domenick DiDomenico (POBJFKHS-Guidance), Samantha Axelrod (MMS-Districtwide, Blind & Visually Impaired) and Janese Pfeiffer (Kindergarten Center/Elementary)

Ms. Christ began her career as a psychology intern in the North Merrick School District in 1993. Her extensive background includes working as a school psychologist for the Association for Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities in Bay Shore and in the Great Neck Public School District. She also worked at the St. Charles Educational and Therapeutic Center in Port Jefferson.

Ms. Christ attended St. John's University to complete her master's degree in school psychology and earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at the State University New York at Plattsburgh.

James Bolen

Assistant Principal at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

James Bolen comes to Plainview-Old Bethpage after having served as an administrative intern to the

superintendent in the Herricks Union Free School District. His duties included analyzing and scoring exam data to be used in the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR). Mr. Bolen started his career as a social studies teacher at Herricks High School in 2003. During his nine-year tenure in that district, he served as a mentor to fellow educators and cooperating teacher for student-teachers. In addition, he advocated for more than 200 teachers as the union representative and was elected executive vice president of the Teachers Association earlier this year to negotiate and implement the new APPR plan. Mr. Bolen received his master's degree from Fordham University and completed his bachelor's degree at Boston College, where he graduated magna cum laude.

Rodney Olivero

Assistant Business Administrator

A licensed CPA, Rodney Olivero has extensive experience in finance and is highly skilled in budgeting, operations and cash flow. Most recently, he was a consultant for Jon-Mor Capital Partners, LLC, and worked as an administrative intern for the Smithtown Central School District. Formerly, Mr. Olivero was vice president of investment banking of the financial institutions group for Bear, Stearns & Co. and worked at Ernst & Young as manager for the assurance and advisory business services.

He received his MBA degree from Cornell University and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Hofstra University.

What's Happening in Our Schools

One of the main priorities at the **Kindergarten Center** is to promote safety and to teach students how to appropriately participate in a learning community. Since the beginning of the school year, kindergarteners have learned how to be responsible in school. Thus far, the children have learned that it is important to follow directions, keep hands and feet safe and use kind words. Research shows a direct link between clear classroom expectations and academic performance and behavior. As part of the social and emotional literacy learning program, all students are acquiring self-management and peer-interaction skills.



Students, parents, families, teachers and administrators gathered at **Old Bethpage Elementary School's** community-building movie night in September to celebrate the start of the school year. The meet and greet event showcased Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* and introduced the new school librarian, Kyle Quenneville. Mr. Quenneville reminded all families of the importance of reading and encouraged parents to read along with their children.

Principal Ronelle Hershkowitz discussed bullying during the students' lunch hour at **Parkway Elementary School**. Ms. Hershkowitz emphasized the school's intolerance for physical, social and verbal bullying, while reinforcing that there *is* a proper way to handle a bully. Students learned that it is important for victims and witnesses to report bullying incidents and say something to a teacher or principal. The children were reminded to treat each other with respect and to be nice to one another.



As part of **Pasadena Elementary School's** character education program, students interpreted the code of conduct guidelines into poster art. The students' artwork will be displayed on the walls of the school as a reminder to make good choices and be conscientious of their classmates. The children collaborated to design posters that reflected their designated topic. First graders created posters about being courteous, polite and fair, while children in the second grade focused on the essence of the Golden Rule. Third graders designed art that depicted trustworthiness; fourth graders illustrated citizenship in their artwork.

The first graders in Dee Dee Edwards's music class learned the **Stratford Road Elementary School** song, "It's a Great Stratford Day." Written by former Stratford music teacher Rocco Del Greco, the song became the school's anthem when Stratford first opened in 1993. It is school tradition for each class of students to learn the song; the lyrics encourage children to work hard, make friends and enjoy every day at school. Sung at all school assemblies and concerts, the song promotes a positive school environment where children can learn and grow together.



In September, **Mattlin Middle School** sixth graders in Amanda Maltese's class read *Math Curse* by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith and learned that math is involved in everything we do. Reading works of fiction and nonfiction in math class allows students of all learning rates and styles to understand that mathematics is important in everyday life. Upon finishing the book, the students conducted research to learn about the many ways in which math will factor into their future careers and adult life.

The **Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School's** Advisory Program has gotten off to a great start this year. At the Mix-It Up Advisory Program event in October, students discussed the district's anti-bullying theme, Not in Our School. The advisory program gives middle schoolers an opportunity to make connections to other students in the building across all grade levels in a structured environment. The event allowed students to discuss the problems and solutions of being bullied.



In October, 224 high schoolers were inducted into the **Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School's** DECA chapter. DECA is an international association of business students who partake in community service events and enter business competitions at the regional, state, and international levels. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who were initiated into this organization heard a speech from Scott Strenger, a former POBJFKHS DECA vice president who placed second overall in the 2008 international competition. At the event, club officers discussed the outstanding achievements the group made last year and their plans for this school year. Congratulations to the students who were inducted; we wish them success in upcoming competitions!

ART NEWS

POBJFKHS Artists Are Winners in Islandwide Competition

The Long Island Arts Alliance (LIAA) recognized three POBJFKHS students in the competitive Scholar-Artist program. Nicole Davidson (Music, Award of Merit), Adrian Kim (Visual Arts, Scholar-Artist Award) and Jacqueline Primack (Theater, Award of Merit) have represented the highest level of artistic excellence while maintaining unweighted grade point averages of 90 or above.

Nominated by teacher Warren Jacobson, Adrian Kim earned the LIAA's most prestigious award and was named one of 20 scholar-artist winners selected from 124 school districts across Nassau and Suffolk counties. She was one of two winners in the visual arts category and will be recognized for her talents by *Newsday* this January. Nicole Davidson and Jacqueline Primack received Scholar-Artist awards of merit and were among 20 students to earn this honor.



(L-R) Front row: Adrian Kim, Nicole Davidson and Jacqueline Primack; back row: Director of Music and Performing Arts Joshua Golbert, POBJFKHS Principal James Murray, Director of Art Judith Chen, Musical Director Richard Olivari, band teacher Jerry Loeb and art teacher Warren Jacobson

All three high schoolers were recognized at the Scholar-Artist kickoff at the Usdan Center for the Performing Arts in September, and they will be commended for their talents again at a reception at the Tilles Center in the spring.

The Scholar-Artist program is endorsed by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA), the Nassau and Suffolk chapters of the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) and the Nassau and Suffolk Art Supervisors Associations.

Congratulations to these talented artists and their teachers!

Music News

Making Their Musical Mark

Seventeen of Plainview-Old Bethpage's most talented musicians were selected to NYSSMA's All-State Conference. This honor recognizes POBJFKHS students as some of the finest musicians in New York State. Of the 17 total students selected, 12 will participate in ensembles and five will be alternates. This is an incredible accomplishment for the district and reflects a high level of student performance at the 2012 NYSSMA All-State Solo Festival. Students who have been assigned to ensembles will be performing at the NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, NY, this December. Congratulations to the district's musicians for their outstanding achievements!



(L-R) First row: Amanda Hedgecock, Alyson Sheehan, Allen Saltzman, Mai Kobayashi and Corina Kim; second row: Marissa Grill, Brittney Warner, Hallie Brown, Susana Kwon and Keith Weiss; third row: Jamie Lander, Andrew Hasher, Alexander Resnick, Jara Jacobson and Alyssa Lubrano; fourth row: POBJFKHS Principal James Murray, band teacher Jerry Loeb, Choir Director Adam Paltrowitz, orchestra teacher Glenn Rubin and Director of Music Joshua Golbert; not pictured: Reva Butensky and Jenna Ruiz

2013 Kindergarten Census!

Plainview-Old Bethpage Kindergarten Center

(516) 937-6339

Francine Leiboff, Principal
Hye Sook Kang, Assistant Principal

INITIAL KINDERGARTEN CENSUS INFORMATION

ALL CHILDREN BORN IN THE YEAR 2008 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2013.
IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR REGISTRATION PROCESS, WHICH TYPICALLY BEGINS IN JANUARY,
KINDLY RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

Kindergarten Student Name:

Last Name

First Name

MI

Date of Birth:

___ / ___ / ___

MM / DD / YY

Gender:

Male ___ Female ___

District Address:

Street

Town

Telephone Number:

Home

Work/Cell

Email Address:

Parent(s):

Father's Name

Mother's Name

Siblings in Household:

Last Name

First Name

DOB

Last Name

First Name

DOB

Last Name

First Name

DOB

Last Name

First Name

DOB

THIS FORM MAY BE MAILED AFTER SEALING. PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE.

Please Complete the 2013 Kindergarten Census!

If you have a child born in 2008, please take a moment to fill out and return our kindergarten registration census on the reverse side of this page. To mail the census, remove this page from the newsletter and fold it into thirds so that the mailing panel below is clearly visible.



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..... *Fold in thirds at dotted lines and seal with mailing panel facing out*

Return Address:

Affix
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**Plainview-Old Bethpage Kindergarten Center
33 Bedford and Stratford Roads
Plainview, NY 11803**