

Educational Horizons

WINTER 2016

pobschools.org PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUR POB STUDENTS MOVE ONTO FINAL ROUND IN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Recently the District announced that all four of its National Merit semifinalists advanced to the finals in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The students—Zachary Goldstein, Aaron Meyers, Sabrina Song and Anna Vaynrub—will all be considered for National Merit Scholarships that will be offered later in 2016.

Zachary, Aaron, Sabrina and Anna represent 15,000 finalists out of an initial applicant base of approximately 1.5 million—an accomplishment that puts our students in the top one percent of applicants in the country! Of the 15,000 finalists, approximately 7,400 winners will receive a scholarship. We couldn't be more proud of these talented and hardworking students, and best of luck to them in the finalists stage!



(L-R) Ms. Lynn, POB's Director of Guidance; Ms. Siegel, School Counselor; Aaron Meyers; Mr. Lasher, School Counselor; Anna Vaynrub; Ms. Rivas-Laline, School Counselor; Sabrina Song; Zachary Goldstein; Ms. Schaffer, School Counselor; and Mr. Murray, Principal of POBJFKHS.

POBJFKHS Football Team Named State Champion Scholar-Athlete Team!



In the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, it's incumbent upon all of our student-athletes to put academics before athletics. Therefore, it is with intense pride that we are able to announce that our Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School football team was named the Fall 2015 Scholar-Athlete Team Champions by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSA). With a collective GPA of 97.15, the POB Hawks had the highest collective GPA of any football team in the state. It is not easy to balance the demands of the classroom and the playing field, and this award is indicative of the maturity and discipline of the student-athletes on the POBJFKHS football team. Congratulations to every member of the team and their dedicated coaches and teachers.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
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Superintendent's Message



Our schools have just celebrated the 100th day of a school year that has been filled with daily celebrations of outstanding events and accomplishments of Plainview-Old Bethpage students. By their efforts, our talented musicians, athletes, scientists and artists provide us with a working knowledge of excellence in all areas of their educational experience. We bring you news in this newsletter of some of our POB students

winning awards, teaching financial literacy, helping out those in need, and achieving world records. Whether it is being first chair in the All Honors National Orchestra, or being nominated as a finalist for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program or being a member of our State Champion Scholar Athletes Football Team, these students are making a mark that will long be remembered in the District. During the recent holiday season, students across the District made important connections with our community with such activities as food drives, charity sporting events and volunteer fairs. Giving and caring are special brands of our POB community.

You have already seen evidence of the work done through the bond referendum, with the new tennis courts and updated fields. Soon you will see the windows replaced at Parkway, Pasadena and POBMS. Our work to bring a nine-period day to the high school is almost complete and will be included in the academic program for 2016-17. The Board of Education and administration are working diligently to prepare a fiscally responsible budget for the 2016-17 school year. We anxiously await the final allocation of State Aid and hope that we are able to finally have the GEA funds, loaned to the State, fully restored. With the CPI set at 0.12%, this will be a particularly challenging year for budget preparation. Nevertheless, we move forward with a pledge to continue to find the right balance between meeting the educational needs of our students, while minimizing the impact of the budget on our taxpayers. Your input as engaged community members is essential to achieving this balance.

Now is the perfect time to become an active participant in your school district. The Board of Education will hold several budget meetings between February 22 and the budget vote on May 17. These meetings are an opportunity for every member of the Plainview-Old Bethpage community to give voice to your ideas. Dates for these meetings can be found in our calendar and on our website www.pobschools.org. All budget meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

POBJFKHS Students Join Junior Academy of Science

Jeff Hwang, Safia Mirza and Julia Park were selected to join the Junior Academy of Science, a globally based, virtual program for students around the world who excel in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Through their membership in the academy, they will have access to community of student peers from across the globe and mentoring from leading STEM practitioners.



Jeff Hwang, Safia Mirza and Julia Park

Each year, Junior Academy students compete in global challenges to solve real-world problems with the chance to win cash prizes and an all-expenses paid trip to New York City for a two-day summit. Once accepted into the program, participants in The Junior Academy become *Junior Members* of The New York Academy of Sciences, which entitles them to free access to selected Academy content and a digital Membership Certificate. As part of their membership, Jeff, Safia and Julia will be expected to dedicate approximately two hours per week to the Junior Academy. Congratulations to Jeff, Safia and Julia! We are all excited to see where your talent and intelligence takes you.

Congratulations to Dr. Guy Lodico, Newly Inducted Into the NYSCATE Hall of Fame



During the 2015 New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE) Conference Dr. Guy Lodico, an 18-year veteran of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, was inducted into the New York NYSCATE Hall of Fame. The honor was testament to Dr. Lodico's 15 years of service as President, Executive Board Member and Regional Director of Long Island/Conference Chair of NYSCATE. "Throughout his years of hard work and dedication to our District, Dr. Lodico has proven that this recognition is much deserved, and

we could not be more proud of his achievements," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lorna Lewis. On behalf of everyone in the Plainview-Old Bethpage community, congratulations Dr. Lodico on the well-deserved achievement!

What's Happening in Our Schools

Holiday Activity Teaches STEAM Lesson

Recently, children at the **Kindergarten Center** took part in a delicious wintertime tradition, while also learning valuable Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) lessons. After learning fairytales and reading *The Gingerbread Man*, the students built gingerbread houses, incorporating simple STEAM principles such as design, measurement, physics and more. Children were tasked with figuring out the best way to construct a sturdy house in addition to creatively designing and decorating their houses. The creation of gingerbread houses allowed students to celebrate the culmination of their unit on fairytales and other legends while enjoying the holiday season and exercising their critical thinking.



Music and Festivities at Old Bethpage

Third and fourth grade students at **Old Bethpage Elementary School** celebrated the holidays in style last December. Under the guidance of music director Jeanne Candal, young student musicians played various seasonal songs on their recorders for a delighted and enraptured audience. Students also celebrated the holiday season with music, costumes and crafts. The celebration didn't stop there however; other students celebrated the holidays in their classrooms by dressing in holiday attire or creating their own elf hats in accordance with holiday-themed lessons. The festivities were a warm reminder that, during the holiday season, what's most important is enjoying the time spent with people you care about.

Former Parkway Student Returns

It's always exciting when an adult from the professional world visits students, even more so when the professional happens to be a former student! That's exactly what happened recently when former **Parkway Elementary School** student Emily Stern visited Parkway classrooms to talk about her career as an engineer. Using LEGO's to guide a hands-on building project—and a PowerPoint presentation to provide further details about engineering, including what engineers build and design—Emily enlightened the children on the fascinating and essential world of engineering. Who knows; after the presentation, perhaps we have a few more future engineers at Parkway!



Pasadena Elementary School

Students at **Pasadena Elementary School** recently took time out of their days to show their gratitude to the Pasadena Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in a most creative way—by making giant puzzle pieces! Each class was given one blank puzzle piece, and each puzzle piece was decorated by the students in the class. Using creative imagery, children highlighted their favorite PTA events. After the work was complete, the puzzle pieces were collected and placed on display on the bulletin boards in the main lobby, where they were revealed to the PTA at their meeting in early February. The PTA was extremely touched by the efforts of the students.

Star Wars Game Day at Stratford Road

With *Star Wars* taking over the cultural conversation (not to mention our cinema screens) last December, fourth graders at **Stratford Road Elementary School** put an outer-space spin on their annual Game Day. Gathered in a gymnasium decorated like a galaxy far, far away, fourth-grade classes took on their respective teachers in short *Star Wars*-themed games, while being accompanied by songs from the famous film score. It was all designed to put a fun spin on teaching an important life lesson: the value of good sportsmanship and teamwork. Everyone involved had a great time while enjoying each other's company before heading home for the holidays (or straight to the movie theater to see *Star Wars*, of course.)



Mattlin Students Come Together for a Good Cause

When North Shore-LIJ Plainview Hospital was looking for students to create get well cards for the hospital's patients, the TAG Club at **Mattlin Middle School** sprang into action. They decided right away that their club would not be able to produce enough letters, so they opened up the project to the entire school. Soon, the TAG Club had collected more than 200 cards of well wishes to deliver to patients in the hospital. Such a simple act can bring such joy to people who need it most, and we are proud of TAG members for the initiative and humanity they displayed during the course of this project.

Schoolwide Spelling Bee a Hit at POBMS; Winner Headed to Hofstra

Spelling bees are one of the more venerable, exciting public school traditions, and students at **Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School** recently got into the fun. On the line for the winner? A trip to Hofstra in March to compete in an island-wide spelling competition. Students in fifth through eighth grade went head-to-head in a fast-paced, intense spelling competition that challenged students to spell words escalating in complexity and difficulty. After multiple rounds, sixth grader Emma Kimmel won the competition, taking first place and winning the right to challenge the best of her peers on Long Island. Congratulations to Emma, and good luck at Hofstra!



Senior Citizen Tea Brings Together Different Generations of Plainview-Old Bethpage Residents

Members of the community service club at **Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School** recently hosted the annual Senior Citizen Tea event, serving approximately 100 local senior citizens coffee, tea and baked goods. All the while, the school's a cappella groups performed holiday songs. And in the spirit of giving that highlights the season, members of the community service club also collected gift cards and other prizes donated by local vendors which were raffled to the guests.



This annual event is the first of two scheduled events this year aimed at supporting the senior citizen community of Plainview-Old Bethpage. In March of this year, the Senior Citizen Prom will be held at the high school. Both the prom and the senior citizens tea give students an opportunity to give back to those that have given their community so much over the years.

Banner Season for POB Gymnastics!

Undefeated Hawks Win 17th Conference Championship; Individual Accolades Abound

The girls' gymnastic team at POBJFKHS won their second straight conference championship with a 164.7—163.6 victory over Massapequa. The Hawks went undefeated on the season, posting a 10-0 record; this marks the 17th conference championship title in the program's history! Congratulations to all of the student athletes, Coach Deb Rut and Coach Ali Ruggiero on this outstanding achievement. Sophomore Miranda Lund was also crowned the Nassau County Gymnastic Champion; she finished first in the All-Around competition at the Nassau County Individual Championship. Renee Vulin finished third in the county and Jamie Simon also qualified for the state team on beam.



Additionally, In February, Jamie Simon, a six-year varsity letter winner in gymnastics at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School, was named one of News 12's weekly Scholar Athletes. The announcement comes only a few months after another POBJFKHS student, Evan Landers, won the prestigious designation last fall. Jamie's award is a tremendous honor for the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, of course, but it's even more so for Jamie; her sterling 96.425 GPA, earned while simultaneously handling the responsibilities of being a successful and disciplined athlete, speak volumes about Jamie's character and determination. Jamie was awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship from Bethpage Federal Credit Union, and she was interviewed and photographed for a segment with News 12. Congratulations Jamie!

DECA Students from POBJFKHS Teach Financial Literacy to Fifth Graders in Mattlin and POBMS



The 50 or so DECA students comprising Plainview-Old Bethpage's JFK High School like to call themselves High School Heroes, and like any good collection of heroes, it's their duty to help others whenever they can. Luckily, the POBJFKHS High School Heroes know that well; recently they visited fifth-grade classrooms at both Mattlin and Plainview-Old Bethpage middle schools to teach the young students a valuable lesson in financial literacy. The DECA students spent the day covering topics such as responsible ways for saving and spending money, making smart consumer decisions, and using tools for budgeting. They designed lessons—disguised as games—to teach the fifth-grade classes strategies to foster and maintain life-long financial security. The games consisted of two different challenges: one for keeping track of personal finances, while the other required students to set up a mock business and maintain its finances.

SWOOSH FOR SECKO:

THIRD ANNUAL MEMORIAL BASKETBALL GAME HONORS BELOVED BUSINESS TEACHER



Recently, hundreds gathered at the gymnasium at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School for the third annual *Swish for Secko* game, an event that honors the memory of beloved POB business teacher Michael Secko. It was part of the students' *No One Fights Alone* campaign and was aimed at spreading awareness of cancer research. The basketball tournament is one of the multiple fundraisers that occurred throughout an awareness week as part of the DECA students' *No One Fights Alone* campaign. All funds raised from the campaign will contribute to the Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to two POB seniors who embody the values and the love for business education Mr. Secko possessed.

POBMS Join Fellow French Horn Players to Set Guinness World Record

Among their myriad other accomplishments, Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School student musicians can now add *Guinness World Record* holders to that list. Joining teacher Karen Bernstein, POBMS students set the world record for most French Horn players performing in one French Horn ensemble at one time! The record was set during the Suffolk County Music Educators Association's (SCMEA) Day of Horn. Ms. Bernstein was a clinician at the event as part of the Suffolk Horn Club; she brought with her fifth grader Bradley Nanoo, seventh grader Emily Howell, freshmen Derek Futterman, sophomore Russell Kim and junior Matthew Costanza. Matthew also performed with the High School All Star Ensemble.



SCMEA's Day of Horn is an event devoted to the celebration of French Horn players in fourth grade through adulthood. The conference consists of workshops, rehearsals and clinics during the day before an evening concert. Concert performers included the Suffolk Horn Club, High School All Star Ensemble directed by Linda Kimball, Hofstra University Horn Ensemble and Northport Community Horn Club as well as performances by Professional French Horn players Julie Landsman, Eric Reed, Eric Davis and Eric Huchins. At the conclusion of the concert all participants, 278 total French Horn players, took to the stage to make the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

MMS ARTISTS CREATE STRIKING SELF-PORTRAITS

Art students at Mattlin Middle School recently learned to sketch their own self-portraits after exploring artist Chuck Close and the grid technique. Students learned about Close's photorealism style in which he created bold, intimate and up-front portraits. The students created their own portraits and presented them to their classmates. The sketches are on display at the District's central office, and three are pictured below.

