

Educational Horizons

FALL 2015

pobschools.org PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT FACILITIES UPGRADED

When the Plainview-Old Bethpage community went to the polls in December 2014 to approve the District's bond referendum, they made a long-term commitment to the education, safety and comfort of students and staff all across POB. That investment has started to pay dividends in tangible ways. During the Summer of 2015 alone, the District:

- Installed over 120,000 square feet of new flooring districtwide
- Installed complete roofing systems at Mattlin Middle School, Old Bethpage and Stratford Road; replaced part of the roof at Pasadena
- Installed baseball backstops and dugouts at POBMS and Stratford Road
- Replaced and expanded the tennis courts at JFK High School
- Created new tennis courts at Mattlin Middle School
- Replaced the existing running track at POBMS with a new rubberized track with drainage

The District is preparing for its next round of work beginning in December. We will be able to complete projects after school hours during the school year at great cost savings. Please reference the work timeline for the next 12 months below.

For full details on all new construction within the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District, visit the District website at www.pobschools.org and click the "under construction" icon on the left side of the home page.



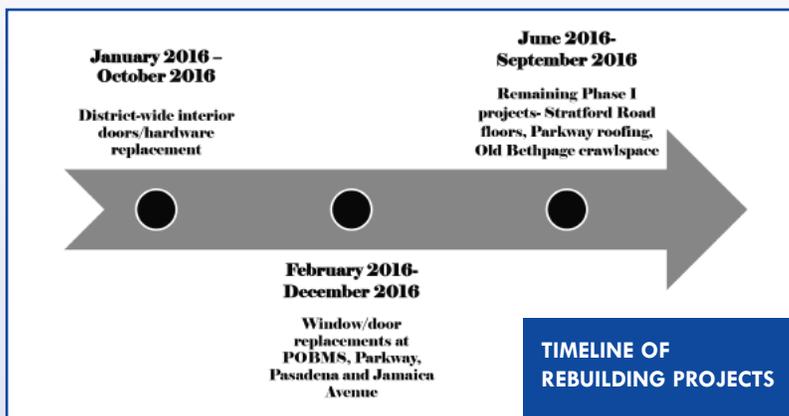
Mattlin student on the new tennis courts



New roof is finished on Mattlin Middle School



POBMS students enjoying their brand new track



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
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Superintendent's Message



Doors are open for the classes of 2016 to 2028, and I am bursting with excitement for the many wonderful and engaging activities we have planned for our students. Recently, I had the good fortune to open the new POBMS track with the 5th graders (class of 2023) and their enthusiasm reminded me of how lucky we are to be engaged in work that touches the future. We are off to a great start!

This summer we began the first phase of our bond and capital projects. Every school has had major repairs to either the roof, floor tiles or athletic facilities. When you enter Mattlin you will be impressed by the new tennis courts, skylights and bleachers. Soon we will be installing windows in most of the buildings and completing the air conditioning projects in all learning spaces. There is a lot to be done and you have given us the resources to do it. We are most appreciative.

I spent the early days of the school year pouring over the teacher and principal growth scores—as well as the assessment scores that were returned to me from the State Education Department—to try to make meaning of the data. Despite our 50 percent opt-out statistics, we are able to use the information received on students to guide instruction. The growth scores, however, have left me befuddled as there is no correlation between the numbers cited and great teaching. I will continue to advocate for an improved system that allows us to effectively identify and support engaged learning. We will provide the necessary resources to build the capacity of our teachers to meet the challenges of a rigorous, world-standard curriculum. In the meantime, the growth scores received have been tucked away until a more meaningful process that will make a positive difference in the lives of the children we serve can be revealed.

We have a dedicated staff ready to provide your children with those magical, engaging classroom experiences POB has come to be known for. Join us for a great school year!

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Proud Superintendent of POB Schools

Mattlin Club Fair Highlights Wonderful Extracurricular Opportunities for Students

Students at Mattlin Middle School don't have to wait until high school to enjoy a great after-school club, as evidenced by the school's recent Club Fair. Grandpals, Lego Robotics, Math Olympiad, Girl Talk, Student Council, and more—all highlighted at the annual fair. Clubs such as these provide students the opportunity to cultivate individual interests, hone talents and develop meaningful relationships. Participation in a club is a wonderful way to stay connected and contribute to our school community. Take a look at some images from the well-attended event!



What's Happening in Our Schools

K-Center Students Learn with Trees

Children at the **Kindergarten Center** took their lesson outdoors recently for a fun activity that taught them about the seasons, practiced their fine motor skills, and highlighted the similarities and differences among all creatures in nature. Under the direction of their teacher, Ms. Isaacson, children made tracings on tree bark, using the sketches to illustrate that no two trees have the same pattern or intricate designs. The lesson cleverly illustrated that trees—much like people—may look similar on the surface, but underneath, everyone is different. It was a powerful and important message for the students. Ms. Isaacson also used trees, with their changing foliage and appearances, to give a lesson on the changing of the seasons.



Local Firefighters Visit Excited Students

As a component of National Fire Prevention Week, local firefighters from the Plainview Fire Department visited first-and-second grade students at **Old Bethpage Elementary School** to give an informative and exciting presentation. Using colorful cartoon story boards, the firefighters taught students about what to do in the event of a fire emergency, either at their school or in their homes. The children also had the opportunity to explore a real fire truck and learn about the tools of the trade. In addition to the visit, students in participating classrooms read non-fiction books about fire safety, giving the program an English Language Arts component.

Special Arithmetic Lesson at Parkway Elementary School

During a recent lesson in Ms. Lippolt's first grade class at **Parkway Elementary School**, students worked with the teacher to create their own personal whiteboards, which they used to practice addition through a numerical game called "part-part-whole." The game enables students to determine parts of whole numbers and ways of breaking down numbers into parts in order to create number sentences. "Part-part whole" serves as a fun way to teach arithmetic competence in accordance with the Common Core State Standards.



Pasadena Students Awarded for Prolific Reading

Everyone enjoys a good book over the summer, and that includes the children of **Pasadena Elementary School**! Students there recently received the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library Summer Reading Award for having the most students participate in the Summer Reading Challenge. While the summer months will always be a time for play and adventure, summer reading programs encourage students to learn and expand their reading skills during the vacation months. After Pasadena lost its coveted title last year, students rallied to bring the trophy back to their school this year. A representative from the library presented the trophy to the elementary school students, along with a box of books for the library. Congratulations!

Stratford Students Learn to Play Classic Instrument

Learning to play the recorder is a rite of passage of sorts for elementary school students. Many of us have fond memories of learning to play the instrument in school. Third graders at **Stratford Road Elementary School** are taking part in the tradition, as they are learning to play the venerable wind instrument in their general music classes. This activity gives the students a hands-on, musical learning experience, and teaches them the valuable skill of reading music notation. In addition, the recorder will be used to enhance all of the conceptual skills that students learn in general music including melody, pitch, rhythm, dynamics and the other elements of music.



Mattlin Celebrates Back-to-School with Barbeque

Fifth graders at **Mattlin Middle School** recently participated in the school's annual barbeque—a fun celebration that kicks-off the school year. Mattlin's PTA organizes this event each year to provide students the opportunity to get acquainted with one another and discuss their first week at their new school. Students enjoyed classic barbeque treats, played games and danced. It was a wonderful time had by all, and it got the academic year off on the right foot!



POBMS Celebrates Athletes and Good Sportsmanship

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School ended September by coming together to celebrate good sportsmanship and our talented student athletes. On Friday, September 25, the students and teachers at POBMS met in the gym for the annual Pep Rally. In anticipation of the exciting event, students created posters and learned the POBMS Pep Rally chant during Middle School Advisory (MAP) classes. At the rally, athletes from the various teams were introduced and welcomed, including boys' and girls' soccer, football, swimming, track and tennis. Spectators applauded the teams and wished them a great season. The Pep Rally was a great opportunity for POBMS students to show their spirit and support of HAWK PRIDE.

Two National Hispanic Recognition Scholars at POBJFKHS

The National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) recognizes just 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the qualifying test. Aaron Meyers and Daniel Solnick, juniors at **Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School**, are two of those 5,000, having scored in the top 2.5 percent of the national average among students who took the PSAT/NMSQT test and earned a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year. They are now eligible to compete for prestigious National Merit scholarships. Congratulations to Aaron and Daniel. Every year, the NHRP recognizes United States citizens from the U.S., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Mariana Islands and the Marshall Islands, as well as other students attending schools abroad.



ARTS IN THE DISTRICT

POBJFKHS Students Win *Embracing Our Differences* Competition



Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School students Ellie Lee, Julia Costarella, Corinne Testa, Talia Blum, Aidan Spencer and Gurpreet Singh were all this year's winners of the 2015 *Embracing our Differences* art competition. The competition encouraged participants to create a world where differences are embraced and individuality is celebrated. Our talented winning students displayed an understanding of cultural diversity through their beautiful artwork, and in late October they attended a celebration with their teachers and families. Bravo!



Welcome Back!

Take a look at some images from the first few days of the 2015-2016 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!



First graders at Parkway Elementary School are excited to enter a fun-filled first day of the school year.



Students from the Class of 2016 at POBJFKHS celebrate the first day of their senior year.



Stratford Road Elementary School students get right to work in their science class.

POB Announces Four National Merit Scholars; Fifteen Commended Students

Though the year is just underway, students in Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School's Class of 2016 have already distinguished themselves. Four seniors—Zachary Goldstein, Aaron Meyers, Sabrina Song and Anna Vaynrub—have earned some of the highest scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and are among only 16,000 students nationwide who have progressed this far in the competition. This scholastic honor earns these students the consideration for 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

Additionally, 15 students from the class were named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program, an impressive number considering that few students earn such a distinction. More than 1.5 million students the nation over entered the 2016 program by taking the 2014 PSAT. Of those who entered, only the top-five percent—or 75,000—scored well enough to earn recognition as Commended Students. It's a high number that speaks to not only the quality of education at POB schools, but to the intelligence and work ethic of our District students.

Congratulations to Thomas K. Bak, Sherin George, Zachary Goldstein, Nicholas D. Illuzzi, Vishal John, Justin Koo, Rachel D. Kubrick, Evan J. Lander, Kristin N. Lunt, Ilana S. Luther, Aaron Meyers, Tal Moriah, Evan S. Peskoff, Daniel A. Solnick, Sabrina Song, Elizabeth Varghese, Anna Vaynrub, Joshua S. Wicker and Nicole E. Yuen. Congratulations to all 19 students from POBJFKHS! You have done this District proud.



POBJFKHS Principal James Murray and the school's guidance counselors Jessica Baker, Sara Schaffer, Domenick DiDomenico, Cristina Rivas-Laline and Jennifer Siegel congratulate the fifteen Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.

(L-R Back) POBJFKHS Guidance Counselors Sara Schaffer, Cristina Rivas-Laline, Jennifer Siegel, Neil Lasher alongside Principal James Murray pose with 2016 National Merit Scholarship Competition Semifinalists (L-R Front) Anna Vaynrub, Aaron Meyers, Zachary Goldstein and Sabrina Song.



2016 Kindergarten Census!

ALL CHILDREN BORN IN THE YEAR 2011 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2016. IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR REGISTRATION PROCESS, WHICH TYPICALLY BEGINS IN JANUARY, KINDLY VISIT

<http://www.pobschools.org/Domain/164>

AND CLICK ON THE 'KINDERGARTEN CENSUS FORM 2016-17' LINK IN THE RIGHT SIDEBAR TO COMPLETE THE CENSUS FORM AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.



POB Welcomes 21 New Hires to the District

One of the best parts of starting a new school year is getting to know the wonderful new faces at each of our schools. Everyone in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District is excited to welcome the following 21 new hires to the District. We can't wait to see what you do for our students.

From left to right, standing: Samantha Sgroi, Tara Finn, Anthony D'Angelis, Caitlin Cianfrocco, Saira Urena, Kimberly Muller, Sue Henn, Jenna Makuh, Lindsey Ednick, Ashleen Betts Macedonio, James Avila, Thomas Hahn and James Browning. From left to right, sitting: Gillian Candelaria, Angela Trapani, Evelyne LeGoupil, Catherine Tortoso, Gina Farrell, Sue Donohue, Kristin Morea and Alexandra Gentile.

