Superintendent's Highlight of the Week: June 20
POB Rallies For a Good Cause

This week we celebrate the generous hearts and kindred spirit of the Plainview-Old Bethpage community who came out for our 11th annual Relay for Life event this past weekend. The American Cancer Society Relay for Life is a life-changing event that joins us with communities across the globe in celebrating the lives of people who have battled cancer, *Remembering* loved ones lost, and *Fighting Back* against the disease.

The community has participated in this global phenomenon for 11 years and raised over 1 million dollars to fund research in the hope for a cure from cancer. This year's event raised $62,000 and was spearheaded by MMS guidance counselor Stephanie Ralton, social worker Aviva Sala and POBJFKHS Class of 2006 graduate Nicole Blumenthal.

Relay For Life events recognize and celebrate caregivers who give time, love, and support to their friends, family, neighbors and coworkers facing cancer. The event began with a survivors' dinner where our high school acapella students serenaded us. Our middle school family and consumer science classes made gifts and wrote messages of hope in goody bags which were presented to each survivor. Students from our Kindergarten Center demonstrated their skills at sign language by signing "God Bless America" once the event official opened to the community.

During the **Survivors Lap**, all cancer survivors at the event took the first lap around the track, celebrating their victory over cancer while being cheered on by the other participants who lined the POBMStrack. The **Luminaria Ceremony** took place after dark. This event is meant to provide a memorable way to honor loved ones lost to cancer as well as those who have fought cancer in the past, and support those whose fight continues. Candles were lit inside of personalized bags and were placed around the Relay track as glowing tributes to those who've been affected by cancer.

I left the event inspired and grateful to be in a community that cares so deeply