



EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District News

Fostering a Culture of Care

Plainview-Old Bethpage continues to live its mission to create an environment where all students feel a sense of belonging by creating and engaging them in Culture of Care lessons. These lessons aim to develop culturally responsive students and are a proactive way to combat the rise in hate in schools.

Culture of Care is cultivated across a district when we involve all students, faculty and staff. During the first days of school, teachers did not jump into curriculum; rather, they engaged students in lessons about being kind, empathetic and civic-minded citizens. Students in kindergarten read "The Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss and created kindness trees, while POBJFKHS students analyzed the persuasive techniques used in public speeches that promoted both peace and hate. These lessons, coupled with the District's Social-Emotional Learning curriculum, all have school-home connection activities that invite families to participate in this work.

During Spirit Week, Culture



of Care lessons were led by classroom and English teachers. In the spring, the District will use its student civic ambassadors from Rho Kappa, the Social Studies Honor Society, to deliver more Culture of Care lessons to elementary students.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage School District is proud to be at the forefront of this vital curriculum development; and we are seeing the benefits in our classrooms,

on our playgrounds and in the community. This work has spread to other Nassau County districts because of an initiative led by the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents' Curriculum Committee, where POB teachers worked alongside Nassau County teachers to create a catalog of Culture of Care lessons that address ignorance, bias, racism and hate, while encouraging civic empowerment.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear POB School Community,

The energy across our schools is observable and contagious. From the laughter filling elementary playgrounds to the dedication seen in secondary school clubs, our students are already thriving academically, in their activities and, most importantly, in their community service.

Though the year is just beginning, students are already receiving academic awards; and our teams are achieving remarkable results. Our faculty and administrators are actively collaborating with PTA members on District committees to enrich students' experiences in mental health and wellness and equity,

inclusivity and belonging, as well as ensuring a warm welcome for new families and students joining the POB school community.

Our District remains a place of connection and support. Please refer to the District calendar for upcoming events and sign up for ParentSquare to receive updates in your preferred language.

Thank you for partnering with us to make our District a place where *Every Student Matters and Every Moment Counts*.

Warmly,

Dr. Mary O'Meara

Superintendent of Schools



Message from the Board of Education

Dear Plainview-Old Bethpage Community,

We would like to thank the entire school community for its support in ensuring a smooth start to the year. As a Board, we had the privilege of participating in the District's homecoming celebration several weeks ago. It was great to see so many residents come out in support of our students and showcase the strong connections that make Plainview-Old Bethpage an exceptional place to live.

During Board of Education Appreciation Week, we engaged in interactive lessons with students, seeing firsthand the enthusiasm and curiosity they bring to their learning, as well as the dedication of our teachers and staff.

As we look forward, we want to share important information about an upcoming vote that will impact our schools' future. On January 14th, our community

will vote on a bond referendum to finance essential capital improvements across the District. These improvements are designed to meet the growing needs of our students and ensure that our facilities support the robust programs offered in our schools. The two propositions in the bond are informed by the work of the District's Bond Committee that included parents, teachers, administrators, and community members, along with the 2021 Building Condition Survey Report. We invite everyone to attend our upcoming informational sessions to learn more. Please visit the "Bond Project" webpage from the District's homepage www.pobschools.org

We wish all students, families, and faculty a rewarding 2024-25 school year.

Sincerely,

Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education

National Merit Honors

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School is proud to announce that five seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists. The students – Ryan Chin, Aadi Mehta, Dylan Reimer, Amie Yang and Jillian Zhang – are among approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who represent the top tier of academic excellence.

The District also congratulates the 20 students who have been named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. These seniors are recognized for their academic promise as demonstrated by their outstanding performances on the 2023 PSAT.



National Merit Commended Students



National Merit Semifinalists

The Commended Students are Jason Artyukhov, Matthew Eng, Sophie Hu, Alayna John, Ryan Katz, Ziyad Kazi, Claire Kim, Samuel Kim, Chloe Lee, Michael Lin, Tyler Luftig, Rebekah Meyers, Chloe Ng, Ramona Rathbun, Parshwa Shah, Abigail Sim, Shub Singh, Krish Totala, Max Tuomey and Jaclyn Xue.

All-State Musicians

Congratulations to this year's All-State musicians, who were selected based on their exceptional NYSSMA scores to perform in New York State's prestigious band, orchestra and chorus groups. Each group will perform at the NYSSMA Winter Conference this fall in Rochester, New York.

The All-State musicians are as follows:

Matteo Cosenza, Emily Gregori, Lauren Kang, Daniel Karp, Euan Kim, Kevin Liu, Cheryl Oberlender, Morgan Shishko, Shawn Tipiere and Viktor Vasic.

The All-State alternates are as follows:

Jason Artyukhov, Brady Bedell, Justin Bocian, Sophie Hu, Matthew Kaplan, Jacob Levenstien and Mingshen Shi.

Business Department Honors



Congratulations to the POBJFKHS Business Department for being recognized by the New York State Business Teachers Association as the Department of the Year! The department was honored at the NYSBTA annual meeting in Suffern, NY.

School Spirit on Full Display

Annual Pep Rally and Homecoming

The Plainview-Old Bethpage community celebrated a successful homecoming weekend filled with excitement and a 42-6 Hawks victory over the Valley Stream Central Eagles. Prior to the game on Oct. 19th, Mattlin Middle School, Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School and Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School held pep rallies to showcase their school pride and prepare for the weekend's game.

The POBJFKHS pep rally was the culmination of an enthusiastic Spirit Week. Students were greeted at the doors of the gymnasium with live music from the band, which set the tone for an exciting and eventful afternoon. Student hosts engaged the crowd with a trivia skit, which was followed by powerful routines from the varsity cheerleading team and kickline squad. All fall sports teams were announced, with athletes receiving cheers from the crowd.

Homecoming day began with the annual parade led by the Board of Education members, marching band and color guard. Close behind were the cheerleaders, kickline squad and athletes from several varsity sports teams. The parade also included members of the high school student government and students from middle and elementary schools throughout the District.

The parade concluded at POBJFKHS, where many activities had already begun. Several student groups spent part of their afternoon tabling for organizations such as Birthday Wishes and DECA, and the National Art Honor Society students sold

tie-dyed apparel and yarn pumpkins. A student-run photoshoot allowed participants to have their picture taken with a homecoming-themed photo frame and props.

The national anthem was performed by student-athlete Gavin Weisberg, and the intermissions between quarters featured performances from the kickline squad, cheerleading team and marching band. Seniors Daniel Karp and Emily Ralton were crowned this year's homecoming king and queen.

Dr. Heather Dvorak, Principal of POBJFKHS, considered the weekend to be a great success filled with "tremendous positive energy, great pride and genuine excitement from students and families." She is grateful for the "ongoing, intentional efforts from parents, students, school administrators and teachers," that ensured "spirit week and homecoming were welcoming, fun and, most of all, spirited!"

The homecoming festivities would not be possible without the tremendous efforts of the District's PTA, SEPTA, POB Athletic Boosters and the many POBJFKHS clubs for providing activities, food and refreshments to our POB community. In addition, the POBJFKHS band, cheerleading team, kickline squad, football team, guest announcer Mr. Rothman, and other athletes and students provided a great day for all.

The enthusiasm of our students, staff, community and Board of Education was a great reminder of how special homecoming traditions are to the entire POB community.



During coming Game





Around the District



Judy Jacobs-Parkway School

Fourth graders at Judy Jacobs-Parkway School immersed themselves in Native American history through a hands-on program, bringing traditional customs, storytelling and art to life. The students created Native American-inspired crafts, such as beadwork and pottery designs, and learned about the daily life of different tribes along with their cultural practices. The presenters explained the purposes of numerous artifacts that Native Americans used for hunting and gathering, and shared that above all else, a respectful, honorable relationship with nature was needed. Throughout the day's experiences and teachings, the students developed a deeper understanding and appreciation for Indigenous customs and cultures.



Old Bethpage School

Ms. Trotta's third grade class visited Safety Town, a community-based program managed by the Nassau County Police Department at Eisenhower Park. Safety Town features a miniature town filled with small buildings, crosswalks, traffic lights and sidewalks, each of which allow children to practice real-life safety scenarios. Ms. Trotta's students learned how to follow traffic symbols and allow pedestrians to cross, giving them essential safety skills and awareness in a hands-on environment.

Pasadena School

Pasadena's third graders have been busy learning about the weather. Not only are they identifying different kinds of weather through their reading and science curriculums, but they also participated in the John Marshall Weather Assembly.



John Marshall, whose weather forecasts have been seen by millions of New Yorkers over the past 25 years, visited Pasadena School and included the students as an active part of "John's Weather Tour!" The mobile weather studio, also known as a green screen, allowed the students to read the weekly forecast, jump into a tornado, and discover different weather patterns and phenomena.

Stratford Road School

On Sept. 6th, Stratford Road Elementary School celebrated the grand opening of its new adaptive playground with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Plainview-Old Bethpage School District recognized that traditional playgrounds often lack accessible equipment for



children with diverse needs and sought to create a space where every child can play and interact together. This state-of-the-art playground features a variety of outdoor activities intentionally designed to accommodate all ability levels, ensuring an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment for every student.



Around the District



Mattlin Middle School and Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

John Halligan visited Mattlin Middle School and Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School to share the story of his son, Ryan. Through John's presentation, students learned how to foster kindness, create a safer school culture and advocate for themselves and others.

John's message highlighted the four key lessons from Ryan's life: forgiveness is beneficial to both those who wronged you and your own mental health; you are loved beyond belief by those around you; always be an upstander if a friend is bullying someone; and it is never too late to apologize.

Following the assembly, teachers facilitated community circles with small groups of students to discuss the contents of the presentation through a prewritten script. The students from both schools left the day with an understanding of not only how to take a stand against bullying, but also how important, cared for and loved they are by their family, friends and school staff.



The Senior Citizen Club Hosts Spooktacular Halloween Celebration

On Oct. 25th, the Senior Citizen Club held its annual Halloween Party at Jamaica Avenue School. The day began with opening remarks by

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary O'Meara, and Lori Charletta, Director of the Senior Club. The event included live music, a costume parade and a catered lunch. More than 150 attendees celebrated, many dressed in festive Halloween outfits, with three participants receiving prizes for the best costumes.

"The Senior Club is a group of 200 people ages 55 and up," Charletta said. "On Fridays during the school year, we go on various trips like golfing and fishing, and host parties such as our December holiday party." The club also has upcoming plans to see a Broadway show and a five-day visit to Washington, D.C.

"The club does some really wonderful things," she said. "Our events promote cognitive and social interaction and allow members to form relationships... and it's really beautiful to see these relationships forming."



Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

Thank you to the Plainview-Old Bethpage community for supporting this year's Coaches vs. Cancer campaign! This nationwide program aims to raise cancer awareness and encourage healthy living through fundraising and advocacy efforts. With the support of the business department and the POBJFKHS DECA team, led by seniors Haley Eisenstein, Lena Hemmerdinger and Emily Ralton, the community has raised \$8,500 for the American Cancer Society. The proceeds were raised on behalf of Stacy's Warriors to support former POB employee and cheerleading coach Stacy Brennan in her ongoing battle against cancer.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Administrative Offices
Washington Avenue, Plainview, NY 11803
www.pobschools.org

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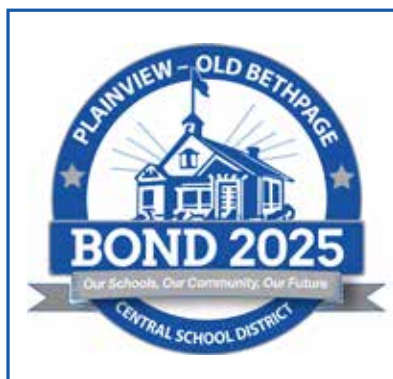
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Central School District

Our Schools, Our Community, Our Future

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District Board of Education has adopted a resolution to proceed with a community vote on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, on the financing of comprehensive capital improvements through a bond referendum.

"The proposed projects center on expanding building space for the steady increase in student enrollment the District has seen over the past several years, as well as making needed basic infrastructure upgrades throughout the District," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary O'Meara. The proposed work aims to create larger instructional spaces, learning environments that support our comprehensive academic and extra curricular programs, air conditioning to cafeterias and gymnasiums in all seven school buildings, and infrastructure improvements outlined in the District's building condition survey report.



Residents will vote on two propositions:

- **Proposition No. 1** funds projects across all schools, including an expansion of instructional and cafeteria space, new gym and cafeteria air conditioning, athletic field upgrades and a performing arts center. This \$99.5 million bond is estimated to cost the average taxpayer \$450 annually.
- **Proposition No. 2** funds improvements at Jamaica Avenue to accommodate instructional use. This \$14.4 million proposal requires the passage of Proposition No. 1. If both propositions are approved, the estimated cost to the average taxpayer is \$549 annually.

The District will provide more information including a special bond newsletter to all residents. Important dates are listed to the right. The District looks forward to your participation throughout this process.

Important Bond Dates

Monday, December 2nd
Board of Education Meeting –
Community Bond Presentation #2
7:45 p.m. @ 106 Washington Ave.,
Plainview

Monday, December 9th
Virtual Town Hall
7 p.m. (check website for login info)

Monday, December 16th
Board of Education Meeting –
Community Bond Presentation #3
7:45 p.m. @ 106 Washington Ave.,
Plainview

Saturday, January 4th
Guided Bus Tour
(more information to follow)

Monday, January 6th
Bond Workshop
6 p.m. @ H.B. Mattlin Middle
School Library

Tuesday, January 14th
Bond Referendum Vote
Polls Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. @ Jamaica
Avenue School and the Administration
Offices at H.B. Mattlin Middle School



Scan here
for more
information
related to
the bond
referendum.