



Winter 2025

# EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District News

## A Message from the District

Dear Plainview-Old Bethpage School Community,

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to all residents who participated in the recent bond vote. While the project did not pass, we appreciate our community's engagement and involvement throughout the process.

As we move into the budget planning process for the 2025-26 school year, advocacy to ensure POB receives its equitable share of resources remains a priority. We recently participated in a legislative breakfast to engage directly with our elected officials. These conversations allow us to highlight the needs of our schools and ensure the voices of our students, staff and families are heard by those who represent us.

We encourage residents to stay engaged in the budget process. Visit the District website for virtual and daytime workshops in addition



to those mentioned on the back page.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Plainview-Old Bethpage a place where students thrive.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Mary O'Meara  
**Superintendent of Schools**

### Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education

Debbie Bernstein, President  
Seth Greenberg, Vice President  
Gary Bettan, Trustee  
Jared Goerke, Trustee  
Ginger Lieberman, Trustee  
Dr. Karen Reiss Medwed, Trustee  
Tara Rock, Trustee

### Bond Survey

We value your feedback in response to the January bond vote. Use your phone camera to scan the QR code below to share feedback and suggestions to help inform next-step decisions regarding facilities, upgrades and space solutions.





# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

## Chloe Lee Named a 2025 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar Semifinalist

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School senior Chloe Lee has been named a 2025 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar semifinalist for her project, "Exploring the Effects of Cannabidiol-Medium Triglyceride Oil on Locomotion and Tap Withdrawal Response Using *Caenorhabditis elegans* as a Model for Alzheimer's Disease." Chloe was selected as one of 300 students out of nearly 2,500 applicants from almost 800 high schools across the continental United States, American Samoa, Guam, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and 14 other countries.

Chloe conducted her behavioral science research project in-house under the direction of lead research coordinator Mr. Raymond Tesar and research lab facilitator Ms. Rohe Sheikh. Her project focused on finding a novel pharmacological treatment for Alzheimer's, the world's leading cause of dementia that impacts more than six million individuals in the U.S. alone.

Chloe's research offers the opportunity for advancements in the treatment of Alzheimer's, keeping in mind the goal of offering diverse and affordable options for all affected by this disease.

"Chloe is the epitome of what a



Regeneron STS Scholar should be," Mr. Tesar said. "She is one of the most well-rounded students I have ever worked with and has all the virtues of an excellent future leader in the scientific field."

"Chloe's success was made possible by the continued support of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education, Central Administration, and Plainview-Old Bethpage community at large," Mr. Tesar said.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search recognizes and empowers the most promising young scientists who are generating innovative solutions to solve significant global challenges through rigorous research and discoveries.

Chloe and POBJFKHS will each be awarded \$2,000 to celebrate Chloe's hard work and new discoveries.

## College Bound!

POBJFKS Class of 2025 is proud to announce early college acceptances to:

**Binghamton University**

**Clemson University**

**Cornell University**

**Dartmouth College**

**Emory University**

**High Point University**

**Indiana University**

**New York University**

**Ohio State University**

**Penn State University**

**Princeton University**

**Stony Brook University**

**Syracuse University**

**Tulane University**

**University of Maryland**

**University of Michigan**

**University of Delaware**

**University of Georgia**

**University of Tennessee**

**Yale University**

**University of Pittsburgh**

## POBJFKHS Seniors Named as Coca-Cola Scholar Finalist and Semifinalist

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School students Jason Chen and Parshwa Shah were named as semifinalists for the 2025 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. They were selected as 2 of 1,366 semifinalists from over 105,000 applicants from across the country based on their academic excellence, leadership and service throughout their school and community.

Parshwa has also been named as 1 of the 250 regional finalists who will move on in the selection process by completing a 20-minute interview with the Coca-Cola Scholars Regional Interview Committee. Following these interviews, 150 students will be named Coca-Cola Scholars-select and receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.







## Student Recognition Ceremony

The District recently hosted its annual Student Recognition Night, celebrating the achievements of students across various academic and extracurricular disciplines. The event highlighted excellence in academics, research, business, music, mathematics and the arts, showcasing students' hard work and dedication. Among the honorees were National Merit Scholarship Competition semifinalists, recognized for their outstanding academic achievements, as well as talented students who advanced as semifinalists in the Moot Court Competition. The District also applauded the creativity of students who excelled in the Shanti Fund poster and calendar contest and the Plainview Fire Department Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The evening was a true celebration of student success, reflecting the District's commitment to fostering excellence in every field.



## Mattlin Eighth Graders Participate in Career Day

Parents and family members of students, along with professionals from law, health sciences, finance, business, STEM, education and government, brought their expertise and energy to Mattlin Middle School for an exciting career day. Eighth graders had the chance to explore the world of work, alternating between small group chats with individual professionals and engaging in larger group sessions led by panels of experts.

The speakers shared insights about their daily responsibilities, what inspired them to pursue their careers and the journeys they took, leaving students inspired by their new knowledge about diverse career paths.



## POBMS Holds Annual Book Talk

POBMS hosted its annual Book Talk where parents, students and teachers participated in different student-led competitions revolving around the book "Shine!"



by Chris Grabenstein and J.J Grabenstein. In a unique twist, participants were judged not by performance alone but by the values they demonstrated. Similar to the book, students posed as secret judges who visited each station to reward those who exemplified good character rather than competitive success. The day served as a reminder as to how literature can be related to real-life scenarios, allowing all to make a difference in the community. Through this shared reading experience, participants were reminded that who they are is more important than what they achieve.



# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL

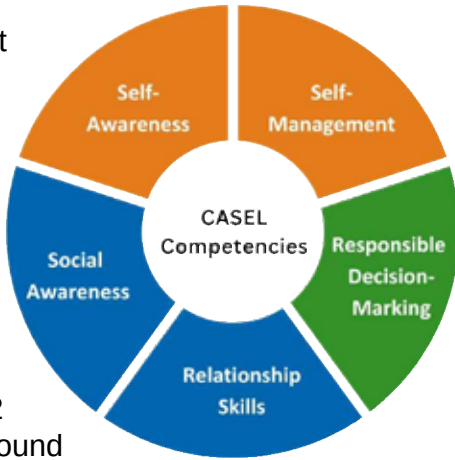
## Social-Emotional Learning

POB's commitment to creating a Culture of Care continued in February with three days of lessons in grades 5-12 centered around

the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Framework. Lessons were created by our teaching staff, including our school counselors, focusing on the five areas of competency which include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

As students become aware of these key competencies, they will begin to not only become more empathetic and understanding, but also recognize their own processing and better grasp their own executive functioning.

For more information regarding the CASEL framework, please visit their website at <https://casel.org/>.



## POB Parents Participate in Mental Health Lunch and Learn

POB school psychologist and licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Jessica Macklin launched the monthly "Mental Health Lunch and Learn" three years ago to provide support for parents with children in the POB School District. These sessions aid parents with the emotional tools and education to assist their children who may be struggling with mental health issues. They also create a place where parents can connect with others who may be undergoing similar challenges.

Recent presentations led by Dr. Macklin include Social Media and Mental Health, Managing Anxiety, and Preventing Parental Burnout. Dr. Macklin will also often adjust topics based on what parents are asking to learn about.

"These sessions have been a place for parents to talk about struggles they are having either emotionally or challenges their children have had and how that impacts them," Dr. Macklin said. "It has been validating to talk about their own experiences and relate to others in the group who have been through similar issues."

**Scan for  
More Info  
on Lunch  
and Learn!**



These monthly meetings are open to all parents and guardians throughout the POB District. Those interested are encouraged to join the Mental Health Parent Support Group via ParentSquare where Dr. Macklin shares information about mental health workshops and resources. The sign-up Google Form can also be found on the Lunch and Learn flyer included in the helpful links section of POB website or on the POB homepage.

## Mental Health Committee

In January, members of the POB Mental Health Committee conducted walkthroughs of four District schools to assess how the physical environment in each school supports mental wellness for students and staff. Specifically, the committee sought to determine if the environment is welcoming (and how that is evidenced), how students seek help, whether signage supports mental health and wellness, and how students and staff communicate and interact. The next meeting will be dedicated to developing recommendations based on the observations and various perspectives of the committee.







# OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS



## 'Annie JR.'

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School's winter musical was a success! Directed by Ms. Andrea Martin, middle school students performed "Annie JR." Bravo to the cast and crew for a wonderful performance!



## Athletic Successes at POBJFKHS

The POBJFKHS athletic teams are having a successful winter season thus far.

Gymnasts Josophina Casvikes and Marisa Schlossman were named 2 of Newsday's top 10 Nassau gymnasts for the 2024-2025 winter season. Josophina made Nassau County's state tournament team in beam after earning a new personal best of 9.6, and Marisa recently earned her 3rd consecutive Nassau County Championship.

Winter track athlete Ethan Kaufman was named 1 of Newsday's top 25 winter track athletes and won the conference championship in the weight throw with a 61' 8 1/4" toss, making him the 5th ranked thrower in New York State.

Divers Justin Bocian and Joe Meder placed 2nd and 3rd at their division's meet with scores of 382.85 and 310.95. Swimmers Linus Lin set a new school record time of 54.43 in the 100 backstroke and Issac Chen in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:00.63, and both are state qualifiers. The swim 200 medley relay also qualified with a time of 1:39.97 with Linus, Issac, Kevin Hertel and Michael Lin.

The wrestling team earned a major victory on their senior and alumni night. Congratulations and good luck to all athletes on the rest of the winter season!



## Celebrating Musical Excellence at POBJFKS



The District is thrilled to announce that musicians from the band, orchestra and chorus at POBJFKHS have been recognized for their outstanding dedication and achievements this year. Congratulations to POB students who earned recognitions from NYSSMA.

### NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensemble Finalists

**Treble Chorus:** Emily Gregori, Cheryl Oberlender

**Mixed Chorus:** Matteo Cosenza, Daniel Karp, Kevin Liu, Morgan Shishko, Shawn Tipiere, Viktor Vasic

**Symphonic Band:** Euan Kim

**String Orchestra:** Lauren Kang

### NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensemble Alternates

Jason Artyukhov

Brady Bedell

Justin Bocian

Sophie Hu

Matthew Kaplan

Jacob Levenstien

Mingshen Shi

Bravo to all on their hard work and accomplishments!





# Connections and Collaboration

## Stratford Road School: Students Leave Their Legacy

Third grade students at Stratford Road completed this year's legacy project by crafting separate pieces of clay that will be glazed together to create one bumblebee. The craft, which was guided by Cathy Russell, will be displayed inside Stratford Road for all to enjoy. When completed, the bumblebee will become a lasting part of Stratford's legacy and represent the school's hard work and creativity for years to come.



## Judy Jacobs-Parkway School: Mural Project

JJP students had the opportunity to work with Leslie Sattler on a collaborative mural project as part of the PTA Arts in Education program.

The mural features vibrant hot air balloons, symbolizing JJP's message of RISE—Respect, Inclusion, Safety and Empathy. The process of working together also taught students an important lesson: just as each brushstroke contributes to the bigger picture, every individual plays a vital role in their school. This piece will be permanently displayed at JJP, serving as a lasting reminder of creativity, unity and the welcoming environment we strive to cultivate.



## Old Bethpage School: Yogi Beans

Students at Old Bethpage had an exciting opportunity to learn yoga, a fun and engaging way to build strength, flexibility and mindfulness. Throughout the interactive session, students explored calming breathing techniques and playful poses that promote relaxation and focus. Beyond the physical benefits, yoga supports mental health by helping students manage stress, improve concentration and develop a sense of calm.



## Pasadena School: New Year, New Me

Members of POBJFKHS's Youth Outreach Council visited Pasadena's fourth graders for their annual New Year, New Me event. During the visit, the high school students introduced the concept of wellness and guided the younger students with identifying healthy habits they can use to ensure they stay physically healthy and mentally well.

A highlight of the event was a game of Wellness Bingo. Students marked off boxes representing healthy habits. Instead of spelling "bingo," students won by spelling "peace," reinforcing the event's message.







# Connections and Collaboration

## POB Athletic Boosters

The mission of the community-led Booster Club is to promote and support athletic opportunities in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District for all students, foster a positive attitude toward physical activity by hosting various events in the District, and encourage families to become active participants in sports, as well as advocate for every child to ensure that they have the best equipment, safe playing fields and recognition for their athletic achievements. Become a member!



## Parent Teacher Association

Founders Day is an annual commemorative event celebrated by POB PTA and the community to honor individuals who play pivotal roles in improving the home-school connection.

Congratulations to this year's honorees who will be recognized at the Founders Day Celebration on March 18.

<u>Judy Jacobs Parkway Elementary School</u> Rachel Kirschner Margaret (Maggie) Coakley, RN.	<u>POB Council</u> Alex Goldberg Christopher DiPierri	<u>Pasadena Elementary School</u> Jillian Maneri Lisa Pearson
<u>Old Bethpage Elementary School</u> Valerie Bertram Marci Jaskowiak	<u>POB Middle School</u> Sharon Sakhichand-Kishundat Allison Whitacre	<u>Stratford Road Elementary School</u> Colleen Kousiaris Dr. Stefani Coulton
<u>POB JFK High School</u> Karen Horowitz Caryn McCarroll ★ Domenick DiDomenico	<u>Mattlin Middle School</u> Samantha Goldstein Andrea Lynn Luzzi	<u>SEPTA</u> Jodi Kunz Kristin Durante Christine Quinones

## Senior Citizens Club Plans Exciting Winter and Spring Activities

The Senior Citizens Club recently hosted a series of successful events including bingo and yoga sessions, live performances by bands and vocalists, and captivating shows from magicians. With an exciting winter and spring ahead, members are looking forward to lively meetings, festive parties and engaging events.

In March, the club will participate in memorable trips including a visit to Li Greci's in Staten Island for a Saint Patrick's Day celebration and a visit to Washington, D.C. While there, members will enjoy guided tours of historical monuments, a visit to the Smithsonian Institution and a tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery.

The Senior Citizens Club serves as an excellent opportunity to engage community members and create connections throughout the District, and the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District is proud to support these meaningful relationships both within the club and throughout the community.

The Senior Citizens Club meets each Friday throughout the school year at Jamaica Avenue School.





## Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Administrative Offices

Washington Avenue, Plainview, NY 11803

www.pobschools.org

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Hicksville, NY  
Permit 156

### Board of Education

Debbie Bernstein, President  
Seth Greenberg, Vice President  
Gary Bettan, Trustee  
Jared Goerke, Trustee  
Ginger Lieberman, Trustee  
Dr. Karen Reiss Medwed, Trustee  
Tara Rock, Trustee

Dr. Mary O'Meara, Superintendent of Schools

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
Plainview-Old Bethpage  
Central School District



# Finance and Facilities

## Facilities Committee: Call for Members

The District Facilities Committee assesses the current state of District facilities, enrollment trends, and financial realities, to support future capital improvement decisions. Comprised of Board members, administrators, teachers, students and community members, the committee is seeking additional members to contribute their perspectives and expertise. Interested residents can use their phone camera to scan the QR code above to submit a letter of interest and a resume.



## Upcoming Events

- March 18: PTA Founders Day
- March 22: District Band Festival
- March 25: BOE Meeting & Budget Workshop
- April 2: Power of Belonging
- April 7: BOE Meeting and Budget Workshop
- April 23: BOE Meeting and Budget Adoption
- April 29: Celebration of Diversity

## Holocaust Remembrance

Theater Three presented "From the Fires: Voices of the Holocaust" to POBMS students. The production traces the life of Rachel Gold, a Berlin teenager, and her experiences from 1937 to 1945. This enriching program is accompanied by a study guide and includes a question and answer session with the performers.

