

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week March 9, 2018



Last week I was visiting with a Project Challenge class as they were acting out scenes from Romeo and Juliet with such passion and flare that I decided to stay a while. During the class Ms. Engel, their teacher, surprised the students with the exciting news that one of their projects was accepted by Toshiba as the Northeast Regional Winner. Three of our sixth grade Project Challenge students from POBMS were selected from among thousands of entrants as Northeast Regional Winners in the Toshiba ExploraVision Research Competition. Lauren DiPierri, Lindsay Hamburger and Johanna Kim demonstrated the highest level of diligence, maturity and team collaboration. There are only 6 finalists in the entire country and our Grade 6 team is one of them!!

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition invites students K-12 to think ahead 20 years into the future and propose an idea for a new technology based on a challenge or limitation of what exists today. They are then challenged to simulate real scientific research to outline how they plan to test their idea and create a mock website to illustrate their concept.



Participation builds on the students' problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills that are central to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This year, Plainview-Old Bethpage District was fortunate to have 8 teams recognized for their future innovation: seven teams recognized as Honorable Mention (2 Project Challenge teams in the grade 4-6 Division and 5 POBJFKHS' 11th grade Independent Research students in the Senior High Division) and the grades 4-6 Northeast Regional Winners.

Their project, called CFAST: Cystic Fibrosis Absorbent Sponge Technology is designed to battle Cystic Fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease afflicting 30,000 people in the United States. CFAST is a medical patch containing nanosponges. The nanosponges will travel to the vital organs and absorb the correct amount of mucus. This will leave a healthy balance lining the patient's organs. A software application on the patient's phone monitors and records the functioning of the nanosponges. This will keep the patient informed, safe, and healthy. With the CFAST you can "C the mucus fast!"

Now, they go forward and prepare for the final leg of the competition by creating an impressive video and website. As Regional Winners, the District has been awarded a Toshiba laptop. If the students win the national title, they will be awarded college savings bonds. Can you imagine what they are going to create as seniors? Best of luck to this amazing team of young scientists!