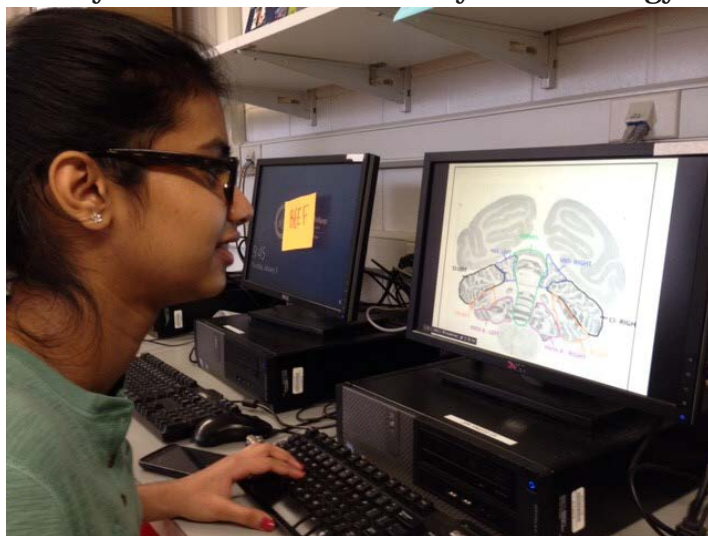# Superintendent's Highlight of the Week
January 6, 2017

We have started the new year off on a spectacular note as the POBJFK Independent Research Program student Vincy Mathews was named Regeneron First Round Prizewinner. The prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search, formerly known as the Intel, is the most competitive science research competition in the country. Vincy was named as one of 300 finalists nationwide and will be awarded $2,000 with a matching amount going to the school. In addition to being named a 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search scholar, she is also a finalist in the 2017 Neuroscience Research Prize sponsored by the American Academy of Neurology.

Senior Vincy Mathews, arrived at POB JFK HS in January of her sophomore year. New to the country, she immediately impressed her guidance counselor and teachers with her previous science and research experiences. The transition to a new school and culture was challenging, but Vincy quickly assimilated through her work on various engineering and math research projects. She began her study during her junior year with Dr. Jeroen Smaers of the Anthropology and Sociology Department of Stony Brook University.

In her project "A Comparison of Cerebellar Lobules across Primates Reveals the Evolutionary Seeds of Human Intelligence", Vincy reviewed over 7,000 MRI scans of cerebellums from 20 different species of primates. She was able to observe that the volume of certain lobules of the cerebellum correlated positively with the level of intelligence of the species. Her professor was most impressed with her level of attention to details and her seriousness of purpose.

Vincy is quick to acknowledge the assistance of her teachers, Mrs. O'Donnell, Mr. Tesar, Dr. Rauch and Ms. Fallon and her guidance counselor, Mr. Izzo. She plans to study medicine in the future and is eyeing several programs that would allow her entrance from high school into the medical program. I can affirm that they would be lucky to have a student of her caliber in their program.