

## Superintendent's Highlight of the Week October 21, 2016

I always look forward to the student performances at the Newsday Marching Band Festival as they showcase the best in high schools across the island. This week the Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School Marching Band lived up to their reputation with a spectacular performance at the 54<sup>th</sup> annual event. Under the direction of Mr. Jerry Loeb, Band Director, the Marching Band performed beautifully and stood out as one of the finest groups of the evening. They performed three pieces, "Roll Over Beethoven", "Car Wash," and "Hey, Pachuco." The selections were chosen to highlight the greatest hits of the past 15 years of the Marching Band.



Mr. Loeb was assisted by Ms. Karen Bernstein, Band Director at POBMS, Mr. Neil Walowitz, a community member and music educator on Long Island, Mr. Glen Chiarello, a former student teacher of Mr. Loeb's and Mrs. Kerry Cavanaugh, alumni and color guard choreographer. This dynamic team did an exceptional job to ensure a performance of the highest caliber.



Accolades must be showered on the fine student musicians of the Marching Band for their dedication to rehearsals, individual practice, and teamwork. They impressively represented Plainview-Old Bethpage with their incredible talents. The drum majors, Eric Kovel, Nicole Schwartzberg, and Gaurav Sharma, all conducted with great skill.

The night ended with a trophy being given to the district and accepted by Mr. Michael Rodgers, Director of Music and Performing Arts, Mr. James Murray, Principal of John F. Kennedy High School, and the drum majors.

The final piece of the evening consisted of every Marching Band in attendance playing "American the Beautiful" together, under the director of Mr. Sal Somma, retired Director of Music in Plainview-Old Bethpage.

Yes, indeed Music is alive and doing well in our POB Schools!!! Check them out at <http://www.newsday.com/services/programs/marching-bands/plainview-old-bethpage-john-f-kennedy-newsday-marching-band-festival-2016-1.12473121>