

## Superintendent Highlight of the Week: June 5

### Odyssey of the Mind Team Takes on the World!

This week we celebrate the impressive performance of our POBMS Odyssey of the Mind team and their coaches, Paula Engel and Joanna Gentile, in the World Finals in Ames, Iowa.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and world level.

Our team began in September by choosing their problem from among five possibilities. They chose the technical one titled, "The Not So Haunted House." They wrote a script, created scenery and costumes, and built technical devices which would all be incorporated into an 8 minute performance. After earning the Nassau County Championship, they competed in Albany at the State level and were victorious. Then it was off to Ames, Iowa for Briana Garil, Sam Coleman, Melanie Roth, Gabby Calderon, Jenna Turini, Vidushi Dugar and Sydney Schmidt as they represented New York State in this competitive, international event.

They finished in an impressive tenth place from a pool of 67 of the best teams from around the world. In this competition, they were buddied with a team of students from Singapore and met children from all around the world, exchanging gifts that were representative of their cultures. The Odyssey experience captured their creativity and enhanced their spirit of cooperation. We know that this experience has given them a lifetime of memories and we salute them for their incredible efforts!!

