

From: [POB Schools](#)
To: [Marion Pallotta](#)
Subject: September 16th Letter to Community
Date: Friday, September 16, 2022 3:59:23 PM

September 16, 2022

Good afternoon, POB Families.

I hope your children enjoyed their first full week of school. By the looks on the faces of our 5th graders at the Mattlin 5th grade barbecue today, it appears the year is off to a wonderful start.

The accolades and recognitions have already begun with POBJFKHS seniors Ryan Flood, Sophia Gu, Ethan Hsu, and Daniel Zhang have named semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students now have the opportunity to continue in the scholarship competition. Later this month, POBJFKHS expects to learn of seniors who have earned the Commended distinction.

Tonight is a special night at POBJFKHS as our Girls' Varsity Soccer team honors Rebecca Koltun, POB Alumna and former soccer player, who was seriously injured in a skiing accident. This *Rally for Rebecca* game supports the nonprofit organization *Help Hope Live*. The game begins at 6 PM.

It is always heartwarming when we hear about alumni who are making a difference in their work. Daniel Mendelsohn, Class of 1978, is a historian and collaborated on the new Ken Burns special, "The U.S. and the Holocaust" which will debut this Sunday on PBS.

For those who may not be aware, one social and emotional initiative implemented this year is Play in K program, with each elementary schools creating a play spaces where kindergarteners enjoy a new "special." This space has centers that permit free play, cooperation, and friendship building under the supervision of our elementary guidance counselors. Pictures of these play spaces and our students in them are streaming on our [website](#) at www.pobschools.org.

This afternoon, I stopped by the H.B. Mattlin Middle School 5th grade barbecue where I observed a good deal of energy, happiness and friendships. Also notable was the collaboration among our staff, administrators, custodial workers and PTA members. It is events like these and many others that highlight the importance of home-school connections. I encourage you to join your child(ren)'s PTA so you can participate in some of these events. The more families we can involve in our events, the more meaningful they become. [Here is a link](#) to the membership page that has both QR codes and links to each PTA's membership hub. The cost is only \$10.00, and the benefits to our children are great.

Lastly, I would like to thank our teachers and staff for all the work they have done to ensure this year's opening was successful. From colorful classrooms to welcoming

Back-to-School Nights, our staff are working to ensure that everyone “feels a sense of belonging”. A special congratulations to Ms. Vanessa Jackson, health teacher at POBJFKHS, who was a finalist in the New York State Teacher of the Year award. [Here is a link](#) to the NYS Education Department’s announcement.

Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary O'Meara

Superintendent of Schools

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

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