

Educational Horizons

JULY 2014

pobschools.org PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
Administrative Offices • Washington Avenue • Plainview, NY 11803
pobschools.org

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Superintendent's Message



Dear Graduates:

This past June, three hundred and seventy of the finest graduates on Long Island received their POBJFKHS diploma as adoring faculty, parents and cherished guests beamed with pride.

Walking across the Tilles Center stage were incredible artists, musicians, writers, software creators, athletes and scientists. I have no doubt that we will be hearing about you as you blaze trails in your chosen fields of endeavors. After all, that is what the POBJFKHS diploma has prepared you to do.

When you entered our doors in September 2001, the world was a different place. Within a matter of seconds our notion of safety and security changed and we learned anew the importance of community. Perhaps it was for this reason that this class has remained so close knit. Class of 2014, you have worked together to leave behind a trail of accomplishments in all aspects of our school community. Whether it was in DECA, Robotics, All-County Athletics or Music, creating an app for the District, taking all categories in SING, Relay For Life, blood drives, food drives, Senior Citizen Prom, Senior Tea or astounding us with your musical and theatrical production of "Anything Goes," you have honed the skills that will allow you to conquer your next challenges. We are ever so proud of you.

I know that you have been inundated with many messages about your future and the obligation to continue to achieve and excel. All the messages you have heard have been valuable. But if I can offer just one piece of advice to you now, it is this: your future is up to you. No longer will someone else – a parent, guardian, teacher – be making life choices for you; it is your job to do that now. The beauty of getting older is that you can use this freedom to shape your future as you see it. All that matters is that you approach each choice with dedication and the intent to honor yourself. Do not settle for less than your potential. To quote Nelson Mandela, "There is no passion to be found playing small, in settling for a life that's less than the one you're capable of living."

If at any time over the next chapter of your life, you should find yourself needing "familiar shoulders," please never forget that the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District family will always be here for you. Your teachers, administrators and coaches do not vanish from your life simply because you are graduated. Stay in touch with us so we can revel in your successes and continue to offer support, if needed.

On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff, I extend my sincere congratulations to you, the Class of 2014, and thank you for the wonderful memories you have left with us. Our future is great because you were with us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorna Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

At the Head of the Class



Valedictorian Reva Butensky

The POBJFKHS Class of 2014 valedictorian Reva Butensky accomplished a tremendous amount over her four years in the high school. She was awarded a National Merit Commendation, received the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) Medal for mathematics and science excellence and was named an AP Scholar with Distinction.

In addition to enrolling in 12 Advanced Placement classes, Reva devoted her time to conducting independent science research at SUNY Stony Brook and New York University, as well as participating in the High School Honors Science Program at Michigan State University. She was named as a semifinalist in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search. Reva also excelled outside the classroom. She was vice president of the school's Student Government Executive Board, varsity captain of the Quiz Bowl Team, president of the POBJFKHS National Honor Society, and managing editor of the school newspaper, the *Hawk Eye*. She also was a member of the Robotics and Engineering Club, Science Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mathletes, and *Drastic Measures* a cappella group. She excelled in athletics as a member of the track and field and junior varsity cheerleading teams. Reva plans to study chemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall.



Salutatorian Nicolette Almer

Described by her teachers as a well-rounded and dedicated student, 2014 POBJFKHS salutatorian Nicolette Almer was named a National Merit Commended Scholar, and she was a recipient of the American Chemical Society for Outstanding Achievement in

High School Chemistry award. She conducted research at the prestigious biotechnology program at the Garcia Material Research Science and Engineering Program during the summers of 2011, 2012 and 2013. She was also named a semifinalist in the 2012 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

In addition to enrolling in 10 Advanced Placement classes, Nicolette held various leadership roles at the high school. She was secretary-general of the school's Model United Nations (MetMUNC) organization, president of the Science Olympiads, drum major in the school's marching band and public relations secretary for both the Peer Mentors Club and Science Honor Society. Nicolette is also a talented musician, serving as a member of the National Tri-M Music Honor Society, a flautist for the All-County Band and secretary for Band Officers Club. Nicolette plans to major in chemistry at University of Pennsylvania in the fall and aspires to pursue a career in dentistry.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School graduates will pursue higher education at colleges and universities across the country.

Adelphi University
Adelphi – 7 Yr. NYU College
of Dentistry
Albany College of Pharmacy
Alfred University
Allegheny College
Becker College
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Boston University
Brandeis University
Briarcliffe College
Central Oregon C.C.
Colgate University
Cornell University
CUNY Baruch
CUNY Hunter
CUNY John Jay College
CUNY Macaulay Honors
CUNY Queensborough C.C.
CUNY York
Dartmouth College
Drexel University
Duke University
Emory University
Endicott College
Florida State University
Fordham University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute
of Technology
Gwinnett College
Hartwick College
Hofstra University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
LIU Brooklyn
LIU Post
Loyola University
Marist University
Miami University – Oxford
Michigan State University

MIT
Molloy College
Muhlenberg College
Nassau Community College
NYIT
NYIT – 7 Yr. Medical
Program
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Pace University – NYC
Pace University –
Pleasantville
Pennsylvania State University
Pratt Institute
Quinnipiac University
Rider University
Rochester Institute
of Technology
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art
& Design
School of Visual Arts
St. John's University
St. John's University –
6 Yr. Doctorate Pharmacy
Suffolk Community College
SUNY Albany
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Brockport
SUNY Buffalo
SUNY Buffalo State
SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Farmingdale
SUNY FIT
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY New Paltz –
7 Yr. Medical Program
SUNY Old Westbury
SUNY Oneonta



SUNY Oswego
SUNY Plattsburgh
SUNY Potsdam –
Crane School of Music
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Stony Brook
Syracuse University
Temple University
Towson University
Tulane University
University of Arizona
University of California –
Berkeley
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Illinois –
Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland
UMass – Amherst
UMass – Dartmouth
University of Michigan
University of Nevada –
Las Vegas
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina –
Chapel Hill

University of Pennsylvania
University of Pennsylvania –
7 Yr. BA/DMD
Dental Program
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester –
5 Yr. Med. Program
University of South Florida –
Tampa
University of Tampa
University of Texas – Austin
Williams College

Save the Date!

Please join us for a community forum on September 13, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Topic: Planning for the Future.

Community Scholarships

Office of the NYS Attorney General Triple "C" Award

Alix Katz
Olivia Marlin

Office of the NYS Comptroller Achievement Award

Nicolette Almer

Office of the County Executive Community Service & Academic Excellence Award

Kimia Ziadkhanpour

Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos Achievement Award

Angela Bollettieri

Nassau County Legislature Citation – Community Service

Blake Kraus

Swimmer-Scholar Award

Isabel Ren

Jordan Abramowitz Memorial Scholarship

Gregory Kantor

Brian Harley Assa Memorial Scholarship

Maureen Bradley
Rebecca Gleeson

Baha'i Award for Race Unity

Giselle Hernandez

Janet Baumgarten Memorial

Alana Erkus

Leonard & Miriam Berkowitz Memorial

Kristen Wallach
Kimia Ziadkhanpour

Paul Rubin Memorial

Matthew Sussman

Brooke Zimmerman Memorial

Elana Laster

Class of '71 Unity Scholarship

Erica Koplitz
Samantha Strum

Concerned Citizens of the Plainview – Old Bethpage Community, Inc.

Alexa Cepeda

Harlean Cort Memorial

Reva Butensky

Crestwood Country Day School

Shaye Taylor

Dr. Scott DeMel Memorial Scholarship

Brian Coakley

Michael Eichenbaum Memorial Lacrosse Scholarship

Alexander Barsky

Kristian Rocks! Kristian J. Espenas Scholarship

Elena Rothenberg

Jonny Feinstein Memorial

Amanda Girschick

Philip Ferris Memorial

Tae Joon Lee

Ruth Gaipman Memorial

Matthew Goldman

Trio Hardware

Mustafa Ansari

Jason Kaplan Memorial

Catherine Towba

Mark Koehler Scholarship

Robert D'Alessandro



Long Island Blood Services Scholarship

Amanda Corbett
Rachel Hammer

Jeffrey Miller Memorial

Arielle Heiman

MSG Varsity Award

Scott Smith

Music Association of Plainview-Old Bethpage

Band Award

Andrew Hasher

Choir Award

Michael Clinton

Orchestra Award

Brian Lau

Continuing Music Study in College

Alyssa Lubrano

Community Service

Eunsaem Cho

Richard H. Hague Four-Year Music Award

Amanda Hedgecock

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Aaron Benowitz

Alyssa Lubrano

Matthew Goldman

Jaymie Lunt

Andrew Hasher

NEFCU – Making a Difference High School Scholarship

Hannah Stewart



North Shore University Hospital at Plainview Nursing Scholarship

Jenna Ruiz

North Shore University Hospital at Plainview Medical Scholarship

Andrew Detres

Francis L. Phillips P.E. Engineering Scholarship

Matthew Coleman

Plainview Baseball Association Scholarship

Jake Brancaleone

Brandon Rose

Jeremy Frierman

Harrison Roth

Erica Koplitz

Jesse Waxman

Michael Laykind

Plainview-Bethpage Lions Club

Ashley Hilfman

Plainview Diner Award

Jordyn Seri

Erica Talkofsky

Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce & Astoria Federal Bank

Scott Wolfe

Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School PTA Scholarship

Reva Butensky

Robert D'Alessandro

Rebecca Gleeson

Hana Goldstein



Amanda Gross

Ashley Hilfman

Alyssa Lubrano

Erin Norris

Alma Wang

Jesse Waxman

Steven Weiss

Bradley Wolff

Harold Yacker Memorial

Alexander Barsky

Marisa Corbett

Plainview-Old Bethpage Senior Citizen Club

Amanda Corbett

Nicole Hrvatin

Plainview-Old Bethpage Soccer Club

Joseph Stapelkamp

Ashley Stromberg

Kristen Wallach

Jesse Waxman

Plainview Unit of the Nassau County Police Activity League (PAL)

Max Bochner

Allison Butigian

Benjamin Chasan

Amanda Corbett

Marisa Corbett

Christopher Fasano

Maxwell Friedman

Anthony O'Shea

Brandon Rose

Scott Wolfe

Bradley Wolff

Steve Pollicino Memorial

Eric Azoulay

Rae Saltzman Scholarship

Amanda Gross

Ashley Hilfman

R.A.G.E. – Residents Against Garbage Expansion

Reva Butensky

Austin Kotler

Michael Secko Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Hilfman

Spencer Pokorny

SEPTA Scholarship Awards:

Prospective Education Award

Rachel Konel

Taylor Lee



Volunteerism/Community Service Award

Alana Erkus

Steven Weiss

Rising Star Award

Chance Dennis

Michael Saltzman

Most Improved &

Exceptional Effort Award

Andrew Detres

Miriam Schulman

PAL/SEPTA

Robert D'Alessandro

Benjamin W. Sofe Memorial

Marc Grossman

Spencer Cares Scholarship

Ashley Hilfman

Brett Pinsky

Brent Martinez

Matthew Scalia

Howard Weinstock Memorial

Alyssa Lubrano

Nancy Weisenfeld Memorial

Rukhsar Barakzay

Principal's Award

Amanda DeMel

Andrew Katz

Syed Majid

Anna Noreman

Eunice Park

Jeffrey Plotkin

What's Happening in Our Schools

Kindergarten Center

As the school year wound down, the children at the Kindergarten Center were busy getting ready for the first grade. Through the K-1 transition experience, all kindergarten students visited the elementary schools they would soon be attending.

At each of the four elementary schools, students met their soon-to-be principal, took a tour of the building and visited the first grade classes. During the principal's question and answer session, the children asked about homework assignments, recreation procedures, lunch and other pertinent topics. The students returned from their elementary school visits energized and excited about the year ahead. The best of luck to all of them as they enter first grade!



Old Bethpage Elementary School

Students at Old Bethpage Elementary School recently participated in a project called Tinkered with Our Thinking. The lesson was designed to reinforce their instruction in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) disciplines through activities on the playground. Fourth graders measured the perimeter and angles of playground equipment in order to create scaled models. Third graders designed butterfly habitats; they cut the wood, created scenery and constructed the habitats in pairs. Second graders predicted the quickest way to get to the playground from the different entrances of the school and tested their theories. They used standard units of measurement to identify how many steps it actually took to get from the schools' entrances to the playground. The projects were a fun and challenging way to demonstrate to students an integral component of STEAM instruction: integrating skills with ideas is essential to accomplish a goal.



Parkway Elementary School

With summer finally here, now is the best time for students to learn about the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle. Right before the end of the school year, 1st graders at Parkway Elementary School did just that, thanks to a visit from Hofstra University Medical students. The result of a partnership between the university and the POB School District, the program was designed to teach the young students the benefits of exercise, a good diet and a good night's sleep. One of the highlights of the visit was when students learned how to take their own pulse – an activity that the medical students used to reinforce how important it is to maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle, even at a young age.



Pasadena Elementary School

This year, Pasadena Elementary School students worked on a building-wide STEAM initiative focused on water conservation and protecting our environment. One of the highlights of the program saw fourth graders raise trout in the classroom; earlier this year, the fish were released into a stream in Oyster Bay.

Recently, visitors from the Tackapausha Nature Preserve in Massapequa stopped by Pasadena. Children in every class enjoyed a presentation of indigenous Long Island animals such as turtles, non-venomous water snakes, salamanders, opossums, kestrels and a great horned owl – an apex predator in our area. Other topics discussed included deforestation, endangered and extinct animals, animal adaptations, habitats and the food chain.

Stratford Road Elementary School

Recently, children at Stratford Road Elementary School participated in the school's eighth annual National Circus Project. An educational workshop program designed for students in every grade, the National Circus Project teaches age-appropriate circus skills to each grade. The skills, while ostensibly fun and entertaining, also build confidence, stamina and dexterity in a safe, stress-free environment. The weeklong program was a hit; students greatly enjoyed learning skills such as juggling, plate spinning, stilt walking, hula hooping and acrobatics. Congratulations to all involved!



Mattlin Middle School

Each year, Mattlin Middle School hosts a large-scale outdoor MAP event. MAP, which stands for Middle School Advisory Program, aims to help guide children into becoming caring, compassionate adults. Mattlin held this year's MAP program in mid-May, and called the event *Walk a Day in Their Shoes*.

All MAP groups walked a pre-determined route around the Mattlin property while carrying a non-perishable food item. All the food was then collected and donated to Island Harvest. *Walk a Day in Their Shoes* provided essential goods to families in need and instilled an important lesson about altruism to all students who participated.

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

Earlier this year, a team comprising students in the seventh and eighth grades at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School participated in the Odyssey of the Mind New York State Competition held in Binghamton, New York. The club members had been working diligently on their project from the start of the year, and at the state competition, their work paid off with a second-place finish!



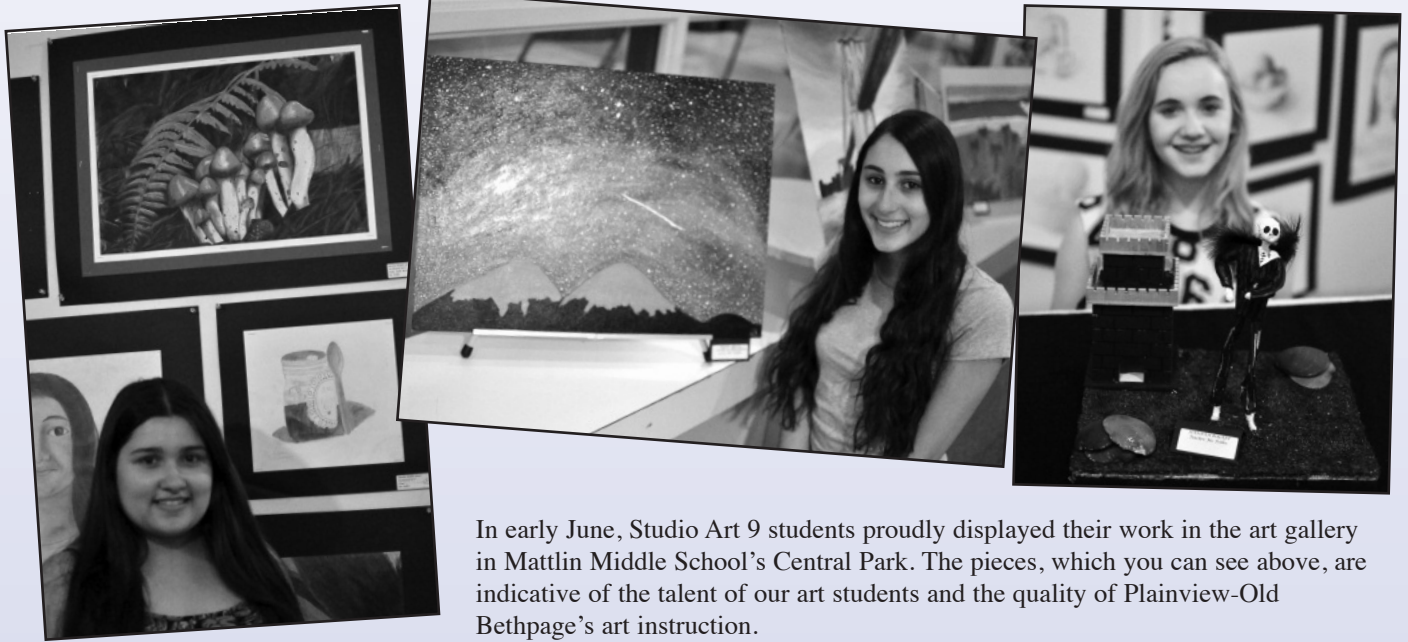
Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students in kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. The POBMS team – which consisted of Gabrielle Calderon, Sam Coleman, Vidushi Dugar, Briana Garil, Melanie Roth, Sydney Schmidt and Jenna Turini, along with Coaches Joanna Gentile and Paula Engel – combined technical and artistic ability to create a unique “haunted forest.” After impressing the judges and earning second place, the POBMS team competed in the world finals, held in Iowa.

POBJFKHS

A few weeks before graduation, seniors at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School took part in a brand-new school tradition. Dubbed *College Decision Day*, the event was created to celebrate the start of higher education for many in the Class of 2014. The day coincided with the deadline for students to make the final decision on which college they would attend. Participating students came to class wearing their new college shirts. They also filled out leaves for the school's “college decision tree,” which was displayed for all to see at the entrance of the school. The enthusiasm for the event was extraordinary; it was so gratifying to see so many students excited about the next step of their educational career!



MUSIC AND ART NEWS



In early June, Studio Art 9 students proudly displayed their work in the art gallery in Mattlin Middle School's Central Park. The pieces, which you can see above, are indicative of the talent of our art students and the quality of Plainview-Old Bethpage's art instruction.

Anything Goes a Hit at POBJFKHS

For several months, the POBJFKHS Drama Cadets rehearsed after school in preparation for their performance of the legendary Cole Porter musical *Anything Goes*. The weeks of hard work and determination paid off with three well-received shows in late April.

Singing, dancing and acting weren't the students' only responsibility; the high schoolers were involved in every facet of the performance. They designed costumes and props, developed and implemented sound design and stage lighting, and planned and constructed sets. Through this experience, the students gained an understanding of what it's like to stage a Broadway show.

Theatre arts is an essential part of a high school curriculum. Not only do productions such as *Anything Goes* support a district's music, art and technology curricula, but they also teach students valuable lessons on work ethic, teamwork and self-confidence, all the while exposing them to forms of literature and art they may not previously have had access to. To all those involved with the production of *Anything Goes*, we say *bravo!*



The Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District will be requesting an exemption from the school breakfast program. Please contact us at 434-3050 for any questions or concerns related to this matter.