

Educational Horizons

OCTOBER 2013

pobschools.org PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

JUST IN TIME FOR HOMECOMING

New Turf Field at POBJFKHS Donated by Town of Oyster Bay



When the POB Hawks took the field for their homecoming game against Syosset, they did so on a brand new, state-of-the-art field. Several major renovations were completed at the stadium. Some of the features include:

- a brand new turf field, replete with a new drainage system and the Hawks' logo in the middle
- a high-tech scoreboard
- a protective netting system for football and lacrosse
- new field-goal posts
- new sound and public-address systems
- new windscreen installed in the stadium
- a brand new lighting system
- field lined for football, soccer, and boys' and girls' lacrosse



As you can see in the pictures, the renovations of the POBJFKHS stadium have left our students and community members with a beautiful new field on which to cheer on our athletes. Go Hawks!

POBJFKHS Senior One Step Closer to National Scholarship



The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship program. Among the names of the academically talented students was Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School senior Kimia Ziadkhanpour. Kimia now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for one of the approximately 8,000 National Merit scholarships worth around \$35 million collectively. The winners of the scholarship will be announced next spring.

Launched in 1955, the National Merit program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. High school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and by meeting participation requirements. Nearly 1.5 million students take the test every year; less than one percent of entrants win scholarships. Congratulations to Kimia Ziadkhanpour for earning the distinction of being named a semifinalist. We wish her great success as she moves forward in the competition.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Administrative Offices • Washington Avenue • Plainview, NY 11803
pobschools.org

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Superintendent's Message

2013-2014: One Voice for Excellence



The beginning of the school year is a time of limitless optimism. We return refreshed by the summer break with a palpable excitement for the wonderful opportunities we have planned for our students. We had a wonderful opening of school with all members of our learning community embracing the *One Voice For Excellence* theme for the year. Our athletic teams have also embraced this theme as we played our first football game on our new turf field, donated by The Town of Oyster Bay, against Hicksville and won 14-0. It was certainly a great way to send the message of excellence for the new school year. Go Hawks!!!

This September, we welcomed our new kindergarten class of 2026 with the knowledge that what awaits them is a program tailored for their needs over the next 13 school years. Keeping them excited about learning throughout their years with us will be our priority. With the support of a dedicated staff, administration, Board of Education and families of this wonderful community, we are able to prepare our students with all the tools and skills necessary for their success in the world that they will enter upon graduation. We have a proven track record for our success in the accolades received by the graduating class of 2013. In a test-driven environment, it is important for us to keep the joy of learning integral in our planning. The nurturing and care of our learners have been entrusted to us by a caring community and we must be ever vigilant of the tasks that distract us from our support for creative and engaged learning.

Our overarching goal of having every child ready for tomorrow's opportunities is the driving force in our Strategic Plan for the district. The Board of Education adopted goals for the 2013-14 school year:

- **Student Performance:** Establish clear standards of performance aligned to 21st century skill demands that engage students in becoming life-long learners.
- **Safety & Security:** Provide resources to support a safe learning environment for all students and staff.
- **Integrated STEAM:** Ensure that every student, teacher, and administrator is proficient with current and appropriate technologies to support 21st century expectations for student learning.
- **Infrastructure Upgrade:** Ensure that our facilities are safe and function to support the work of 21st century learners.
- **Fiscal Planning:** Provide an educationally sound and fiscally responsible budget that supports students in achieving the mission of the district.
- **Communication & Advocacy:** Engage the community and legislators in productive ways to ensure support of district efforts.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) focus identified by the Board of Education will further our work in making all of our classrooms 21st century learning environments. This summer we made significant strides in our efforts to bring a wireless environment to the high school. We have done a great deal of work to align our curriculum to meet the demands of the new state assessments and to ensure that the work provided to students remains rigorous and challenging. This year we will focus on Common Core Mathematics, Research, College Writing and Technology. We will have reports of our progress throughout the year at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings.

We speak with *One Voice for Excellence* in our schools when we support the work of students, teachers, families and our neighbors. In our students' hands hold the future of our community, and in turn the nation. We are all comforted by that thought.

As always I extend to you a personal welcome to our schools and encourage you to continue to offer your suggestions and feedback. Log on to the District website at www.pobschools.org to stay informed and give your insights for improvement. Thank you for your continued support of our schools and the students we so proudly serve.

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

Common Core: Focus on Math, Research and Technology

As our society becomes increasingly dependent on technology, it's critical that our students develop their knowledge and skill in math, research and technology. The Plainview-Old Bethpage School District is taking several actions to ensure that they do.

Math

Preparing our teachers to fully utilize the theories of Common Core mathematics is a primary goal of the District. To this end, POB will be working with Larry Farrell, an independent consultant from BOCES. Mr. Farrell will work directly with our teachers, as well as host seminars on progressive teaching methods. A primary focus of Mr. Farrell's work will be the Common Core's 8 *Standards for Mathematical Practice* (SMP). The SMP describes varieties of expertise that mathematics educators at all levels should seek to develop in their students. They place an emphasis on students doing mathematics and demonstrating learning.

A central component of the 8 *Standards* is the importance it places on real-world math applications. For example, under the old curriculum, a student might have been given an example of an equation representing the transitive property, and then asked to identify it as such. Under the Common Core, students are given one equation, and then tasked with finding its transitive equation and showing all work.

It's essential that parents have access to resources that will enable them to assist their children with math acquisition. To that end, POB is using several progressive technologies, including www.mathrightnow.com (for high school students), FASTT Math and www.IXL.com – an exciting program for building math skills through fun, challenging online exercises. Many students will now have access to **the complete** math curriculum from pre-K to Algebra 2, and parents can get detailed reports on their children's progress. IXL helps parents learn math functions and provides answers – an invaluable resource for assisting with school work.

Research and Technology

In Plainview-Old Bethpage, we *are* committed to preparing all of our students for future success by providing them with the foundation to pursue careers in emerging industries as well as traditional professions. We recognize, in this struggling economy, that there are still many professions that lack the skilled professionals to fill certain positions. Many are in the areas of health care, life sciences and engineering. Last year, POBJFKHS started a Health Related Career Academy in conjunction with the NSLIJ Health System. Students are exposed to the wide variety of professional avenues they can pursue as a possible job in the future. This year we will be developing an Engineering Career Academy through a partnership with Cameron Engineering, a local firm.

As we continue to update our curriculum, we will be integrating computer-aided drawing and design to our Middle School Technology courses. We have recently purchased 3D printers for use in each middle school and the high school, enabling students to generate 3-dimensional scaled models of their creations in our technology courses.

Research students who participated in summer internships or in-house research are actively working on reporting their findings for the Siemens competition and Intel student talent search and our underclassmen are beginning their background for the Toshiba and DuPont challenge. We have also embarked upon a K-12 research articulation plan that will enable us to identify and map out proficiencies at each grade level with specific research tasks occurring at various levels.

Plainview Old-Bethpage CSD & PTA Present...

FAMILY NIGHT

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

In today's increasingly fast-paced world, it can be very hard for families to spend a night together unencumbered by seemingly endless obligations. The Plainview-Old Bethpage School District and the PTA are offering a night of reprieve. It's called Family Night. On Tuesday, November 12, there will be no afterschool activities, meetings, sporting events or homework in the entire District. Instead, families are encouraged to take a night off from the hustle and bustle and spend some quality time together. Teachers have also been instructed not to hold tests the following day.

We know how busy everyone involved in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District is. Take advantage of the opportunity Family Night will provide. Dine-in and take-out restaurant discounts will be made available. If you are a Plainview restaurant owner, we would love to have your help in celebrating Family Night. If you could offer our families discounted dinners or other promotions, we would greatly appreciate it. Any questions, please contact PTA Council President Cheryl Dender at 516-935-9211.

What's Happening in Our Schools

Learning Through Playtime at the K-Center

Teachers at the **Kindergarten Center** are making sure that children get the most out of playtime. That's because playtime at the K-Center revolves around structured activities that provide children with opportunities for creative play through free-choice centers. Children are given the choice of how to spend their playtime. Some activities include working in the art center, completing puzzles, playing cooperative games, using building blocks, or even role playing games such as a shopping list in the school's dramatic play center. These activities offer a fun diversion for children, while also reinforcing important developmental and social skills. Structured play time can foster problem-solving skills, develop character traits such as patience and resilience, strengthen social and motor skills, improve linguistic competence and support children's cognitive and academic development.



A Day of Remembrance at Parkway

This past September, the nation paused to reflect on the 12-year anniversary of September, 11, 2001. It's one of the few moments when the whole of the country is unified in thought, even those citizens who weren't yet born when the terrible day occurred. Students at **Parkway Elementary School** gathered on September 11 to honor the Plainview Fire and Police Departments, Veterans of American Wars, and Christopher Levi, a wounded warrior. It was a moving ceremony that reinforced character traits such as respect for others and civic duty. Legislator Judy Jacobs and Principal Ronelle Hershkowitz both spoke, and students placed small flags around the school's flagpole and presented the veterans with thank-you letters. "I'm overwhelmed at the number of firefighters, police and veterans here today, and by the presence of Chris Levi," Principal Hershkowitz said at the memorial, telling them, "words will never be enough to commend and thank you for putting your lives on the line for us."



Pasadena Students Improve Mental Math

Reflecting the shifts in mathematics as outlined in the Common Core curriculum, **Pasadena Elementary School** teachers have been using the Math Sprints program in the classroom. The Math Sprints program provides fun and quick activities that improve students' math fluency. This effective tool challenges students to develop math skills as it presents them with creative problem-solving tasks. The activities accommodate the learning styles and competence levels of individual students. Each grade completes different math sprints: first graders improve number sense and basic counting, and second graders focus on addition and subtraction with regrouping. The sprints become more sophisticated as children progress through the school year. Plainview-Old Bethpage's new math chairperson, Christian Bowen, is pictured here working with first graders in the classroom.



A Love for Reading and Writing Is Cultivated at Stratford Road

Reading comprehension was the focus at **Stratford Road Elementary School** as the school year began. Teachers are using a structured reading program called The Daily 5, which helps students improve daily habits of reading, writing and working independently. During The Daily 5, children can work on one of five different areas: reading to themselves, reading to a friend, writing, focused listening and word work. Students can choose from any teacher-recommended book available in the school library. The Daily 5 is a versatile and important program; while students are working in groups or independently, teachers can pull a child aside for individual instruction. Many teachers have elected to utilize The Daily 5. By allotting a short amount of time each day to structured reading and writing, teachers at Stratford Road can help foster a lifetime of literacy.

OBES Students Apply Common Core Standards Through Art

Children in **Old Bethpage Elementary School** classrooms are participating in hands-on lessons that put the new Common Core Standards into practice, providing the opportunity for artistic expression. First and third grade social studies students read about natural landforms, including valleys, mountains, plateaus and plains, and then used clay or shaving cream to create models. Children in second and third grade held mock elections by creating campaign posters and voting with ballots. Fourth graders constructed cells using gelatin and common household items to identify vertebrates and invertebrates. These activities represent a great way to incorporate the Common Core Standards while allowing children to be creative and have fun.



Club Schedule Kicks Off at Mattlin

After-school clubs are an invaluable part of the public school experience. Clubs provide children with opportunities to cultivate individual interests, hone talents and develop meaningful friendships. **Mattlin Middle School** recently held its annual club fair to introduce students to the variety of clubs available to them. On September 24, over 400 Mattlin students gathered in the cafeteria to speak with club advisors and student members. Some of the clubs represented at the fair were the Grandpals, the Drama Club, the French Club and Kids in the Kitchen. The event was a great way to kick off another year of after-school enrichment for middle school students. All students are welcome to join one or more clubs.

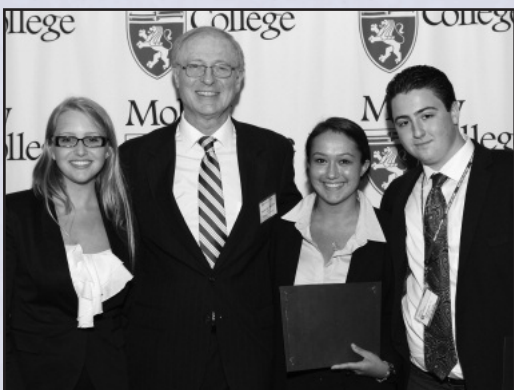
New Students Feel Welcome at POBMS

The beginning of fifth grade is an intimidating time for students. In order to facilitate a comfortable transition during this phase, the staff at **Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School** hosted a fifth grade orientation in late August. Fifth graders gathered in the school's gym, where they were separated into their new home-base classes. Each group was assigned an eighth grade MAP leadership student, who helped the new students generate a list of questions and concerns they had about middle school. Each group presented the questions to the assembly, and everyone discussed the issues together. One highlight of the orientation was a create-an-acronym contest, in which students selected five random letters and competed to see which group could come up with the best acronym. The orientation concluded with each group taking a tour of the school with their MAP leaders, and it ended with a bagel breakfast in the cafeteria. The event was organized by staff members, guidance counselors, school administrators and fifth grade teachers. The orientation displayed the cooperative and inviting environment at POBMS, and made the challenging transition to middle school a little easier for the new students.



POBJKHS Students Attend Business Boot Camp

When you think of boot camp, what comes to mind is probably soldiers crawling through the mud or climbing up a rope. Three students from Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School attended a boot camp this summer, though they had a



decidedly different experience. Ashley Hilfman, Angela Bollettieri and Richard Sadick participated in Molloy College's Business Boot Camp, a five-day program for high-achieving juniors who are considering a career in business. Throughout the week, Ashley, Angela and Richard learned about current events in the world of business and business career paths. They attended lectures on how to hone their skills in fields including entrepreneurship, accounting, business etiquette and the stock market. Prestigious professors from Molloy College and Columbia University led many of the lectures. (No word on whether or not they had to crawl through the mud as well.) The Business Boot Camp is an informative and inspirational event, one that provides participants with the tools they need as they embark on a successful business career. Congratulations to Ashley, Angela and Richard for completing this program.

MUSIC AND ART NEWS

POBJFKHS Music Students to Put Talent on Display at Statewide Music Festival

Selection into an All-State music festival distinguishes the finest student-musicians in New York State. This year, Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School will send an impressive 23 students to the Winter Conference. Their selection was based on a strong showing at the 2013 NYSSMA All-State Solo Festival.

This is an incredible accomplishment for our District, and it speaks to both the high quality of our Music Department and to the talent of our students. Eighteen musicians selected to ensembles will perform at the NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, NY, in December. In addition, five students were chosen as alternates. Congratulations to each of these students and their music teachers, Jerry Loeb, Glenn Rubin and Adam Paltrowitz.

The 23 selected students are Amanda Goldstein, Grace Kim, Elana Laster and Julie Tsvyakh (Women's Chorus); Crystal Kim (Symphony Orchestra); Aaron Knoll and Gabriel Salzman (Symphonic Band); Amanda Hedgecock (String Orchestra); Nicole Brenner, Michael Clinton, Irene Constantinidis, Emory



Granat, Andrew Hasher, Jara Jacobson, Alyssa Lubrano, Andrew Miller and Alexander Resnick (Mixed Chorus); Benjamin Ozur (Wind Ensemble); Alexandra Baker, Matthew Goldman and Dana Osborn (Chorus Alternate); Harrison Hahn (Percussion Alternate); and Maxwell Naftol (Orchestra Alternate).

Three POBJFKHS Student Artists Named Among the Best on Long Island

Three Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School students were recently honored for their accomplishments in academics and the arts. Isabel Ren (artwork pictured) received a Scholar-Artist award. Also receiving an Award of Merit was Anna Lin. In addition, Haley Nemeth received the award for dance.



The Scholar-Artist Awards program, administered by the Long Island Arts Association, recognizes students judged to be at the top of their class on Long Island in both academics and the arts. LIAA partners with area universities to offer full scholarships to qualified honorees. The LIAA Scholar-Artist Program is presented by the New York Community Bank Foundation and is produced in cooperation with *Newsday*.

Congratulations to Isabel, Anna and Haley for this wonderful achievement, and to their teachers, Karen Smith and Richard Olivari.

EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES



Congratulations to POBJFKHS students Derek Ash, Julia Costarella and Elizabeth Roth, whose artwork was selected for the 2013 Embracing Our Differences art exhibition. Their artwork was displayed at Suffolk County Community College for two weeks during October.

POB Welcomes Fresh Faces This Fall

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District is very excited to welcome the following new staff and administrators to the District. Their experience, dedication and skill are a wonderful addition to Plainview-Old Bethpage schools.

Christian Bowen

Chairperson for Mathematics

Christian Bowen comes to the Plainview-Old Bethpage faculty with a wide range of educational mathematical experience. Prior to assuming his new position, Mr. Bowen was the chairperson for mathematics in the Rocky Point School District, where he led staff in a successful transition to the new Common Core Mathematics Learning Standards. Additionally, Mr. Bowen spent nine years as a secondary mathematics teacher and data specialist at the School for International Studies in Brooklyn. Christian Bowen is skilled in using data to pinpoint students' academic successes and challenges, and his experience will be instrumental in successfully implementing the new APPR process.

Dr. Carmen Campos

Chairperson for World Languages

Dr. Carmen Campos brings to POB the wealth of knowledge that comes with over 20 years of educating. Before she joined our staff, Dr. Campos served for six years as the language department chairperson for Cold Spring Harbor School District. Prior to that, she was director of world languages and ESL in West Islip. Dr. Campos is distinguished for bringing the latest technologies into language and ESL classrooms. In an increasingly technological world, it is essential that our students become proficient with these tools. Dr. Campos earned her doctorate from St. John's University, and she is actively involved in the Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons and Supervisors.

Jennifer Hoffman

Assistant Principal at Parkway and Old Bethpage Elementary Schools

Not truly a new face in the District, Jennifer Hoffman joined Plainview-Old Bethpage as the reading coordinator and assistant principal at Old Bethpage Elementary in 2011. Prior to coming to POB, Ms. Hoffman was an elementary teacher and staff developer for 17 years in the Lawrence School District. Here in our District, Ms. Hoffman has worked diligently with staff in all buildings to improve our writing program and advance the Common Core ELA Standards. Jennifer Hoffman's work has increased communication between schools and, most important, has improved the quality and consistency of instruction for students.



(L-R) Jennifer Hoffman, Paul Romanelli, Dr. Carmen Campos, Regina Talento, Christian Bowen and Suzanne Sugarman. Not Pictured: Andrew Ward.

Paul Romanelli

Assistant Principal at POBMS

Mr. Romanelli was previously with the Harborfields Central School District, where he served as both a sixth grade mathematics teacher and the dean of students for ten years. In the latter role, he created a safe and productive environment for students to thrive. As a sixth grade mathematics teacher at Oldfield Middle School,

Mr. Romanelli was recognized for creatively incorporating SMART Board technology in his daily lesson plans. Among his many accomplishments, he was instrumental in aligning instruction to the Common Core Standards.

Suzanne Sugarman

Assistant Director of Special Education (Grades 9-12)

In her capacity as POB's new Assistant Director of Special Education, Suzanne Sugarman brings extensive experience teaching and supervising in all special education settings. Most recently, she was the assistant director of pupil personnel services for the Wantagh School District. Prior to that, she worked for nine years as a special educator in the Half Hollow Hills and North Shore School districts. Ms. Sugarman is a member of the National Council of Special Education.

Regina Talento

Assistant Principal at POBMS

Joining Mr. Romanelli as a new assistant principal at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School, Regina Talento come to us from the Sachem Central School District. At Sachem, Ms. Talento taught middle social studies, global history and U.S. history and government for five years. Since 2010, she served as the chairperson for social studies at Sagamore Middle School in Sachem. In that role, she supervised 12 department members in grades 6-8.

Andrew Ward

Director of Facilities & Operations

Overseeing the facilities and upkeep of our buildings and grounds this year will be our new Director of Facilities and Operations Andrew Ward. Mr. Ward held the same position with the Seaford School District for the past seven years, and earlier served in that capacity for Hempstead Public Schools. Mr. Ward began his career as a cleaner, and worked his way up to head custodian prior to his recent appointment. He currently serves as the president of the Nassau County Superintendents of School Buildings and Grounds Association.

2014 Kindergarten Census!

Plainview-Old Bethpage Kindergarten Center
(516) 434-3479

Francine Leiboff, *Principal* • Hye Sook Kang, *Assistant Principal*

INITIAL KINDERGARTEN CENSUS INFORMATION

ALL CHILDREN BORN IN THE YEAR 2009 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN IN SEPTEMBER 2014. IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR REGISTRATION PROCESS, WHICH TYPICALLY BEGINS IN JANUARY, KINDLY VISIT

<http://www.pobschools.org/Domain/164>

AND CLICK ON THE 'KINDERGARTEN CENSUS FORM 2013-14' LINK IN THE RIGHT SIDEBAR TO COMPLETE THE CENSUS FORM AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

