

# Educational Horizons

SPRING 2016

pobschools.org PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE: POBJFKHS STUDENTS AWARDED SECOND PLACE IN NATIONWIDE TOSHIBA 'EXPLORAVISION' STEM COMPETITION

*Philip Danziger, Samantha Frucht and Grace Smith are the School's First National Finalists*

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School students Philip Danziger, Samantha Frucht and Grace Smith placed second in Toshiba's "ExploraVision" science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) competition after recently being named finalists in the regional contest. The students, under Coach MaryLou O'Donnell, were the first national finalists in POBJFKHS' history. Their innovative ideas competed against thousands of teams' submissions from across the United States and Canada.

Philip, Samantha and Grace will share their creation in Washington, D.C. this June and will be awarded \$5,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds in recognition of their efforts. Congratulations!



"We are proud of our talented students who not only participated in this renowned national competition, but placed second overall," said Superintendent Dr. Lorna Lewis. The Toshiba ExploraVision program challenges students nationwide to research current tech and envision what it might look like in 20 years. POB students focused on stem-cell research; they were challenged to describe how they would use stem cells to perform a complex medical procedure. The students detailed the design process, the medical breakthroughs that would be needed

to make their vision a reality and weighed the consequences—positive and negative—of implementation. The students also created a website to showcase their project against the top teams in the nation: <http://intraneuromuscularcellularregeneration.weebly.com>

## Congrats to the 2016 Junior Varsity Long Island Quiz Bowl Champions!

**I'll take "Long Island Champs" for \$1,000, Alex.** This high school's quiz bowl team defeated 18 other teams from all over Long Island to win the title of 2016 Long Island Junior Varsity Quiz Bowl Champion. **Who is Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School? Right, you are!**

POB recently competed in the Varsity and Junior Varsity Quiz Bowl opposing 20 varsity teams and 18 junior varsity teams in three preliminary rounds. Both POB teams qualified for the final rounds. While the high school varsity team made it to the quarterfinals, it was the junior varsity team that stole the show. Led by Phil Danziger and Max Schulman—and assisted by teammates Gabby Meyers, Matt Frucht, and Jordan Fried—the junior varsity team finished with an impressive 65 points in the finals. The score was enough to defeat last year's champion—Ward Melville High School—for the title of 2016 Junior Varsity Long Island Champions. This is the first time in 12 years that Plainview-Old Bethpage has won the title and finished the season undefeated. Congratulations!



**Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District**  
Administrative Offices • Washington Avenue • Plainview, NY 11803  
[pobschools.org](http://pobschools.org)

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## Superintendent's Message



### Superintendent's Message

We are turning the pages of this wonderful school year as we head into the celebrations that accompany spring. I am still breathless from the high school musical production, *The Little Mermaid*, and the many end-of-year concerts. Talent abounds here in Plainview-Old Bethpage Schools, and it is no wonder that our community treasures and supports our programs with such enthusiasm. Within the pages of the *Educational Horizons* newsletters we proudly share many recent recognitions of accomplishments, but we know there are many more to come as we approach the graduation season.

Across the district, we have seen our focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) bring exciting opportunities for our students. Grades five and six students are becoming technological natives as they work throughout the day on their very own tablets. Soon the entire middle school will be instructed using tablets as we continue to roll out the 1:1 initiative. Our children continue to demonstrate their capacity for caring as they conjure up myriad ways to give back to the community. We just completed Birthday Wishes at Stratford Road where the students, staff and PTA filled a room of boxes stuffed with cards and gifts to send to children who would not otherwise have the resources to celebrate a birthday. Students and staff have shaved their heads to raise funds for cancer research and shortly we will have our annual Relay For Life for the same cause. This is what community is all about.

The Board of Education has just completed its annual budget development process, focused on preserving the programs and services that our district is known for, while balancing its impact on the taxpayers. With the restoration of the GEA and through the use of reserves, we were able to present a 2016-17 budget that is below the tax levy cap, and still maintains our outstanding offerings.

We have just launched a new communication tool on our website "*Lets Talk*" that allows you to stay more informed and have your concerns or compliments shared. Please log on to our website [www.pobschools.org](http://www.pobschools.org) to remain updated on all the wonderful events occurring across the district. As always I can be reached at 434-3001.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Lorna R. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools**

## Principal Suzanne Gray is NYS Elementary Principal of the Year

People across New York State now realize what we in the Plainview-Old Bethpage community have known for years:

**Old Bethpage  
Elementary School  
Principal Suzanne Gray**

is one of a kind. Principal Gray was recently named 2016 New York State Elementary Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

"Suzanne Gray is a superb educator, committing her whole self to what is best for her students," said Superintendent Dr. Lorna Lewis. "Her passion for creating a positive culture of trust, collaboration, respect and support in the teaching and learning environment is unparalleled." Congratulations Principal Gray for this well-deserved honor!



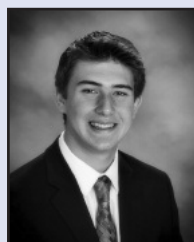
## State Gymnastics Champion from Plainview-Old Bethpage!



In March, Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School sophomore Miranda Lund had a near flawless performance at New York's statewide gymnastics meet, and she was named the 2016 New York State All-Around Gymnastics Champion! Miranda is the first state champion from POBJFKHS since the boys' soccer team accomplished the feat over 30 years ago. Congratulations, Miranda!

## Announcing our 2016 POBJFKHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Congratulations are owed to Michael Crawback and Anna Vaynrub, the 2016 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, from Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School. In the fall, Michael will be attending New York University's Stern School of Business, while Anna attends Harvard University. Be sure to read the graduation edition of *Educational Horizons* for additional information. And congratulations to Michael and Anna!



Michael Crawback

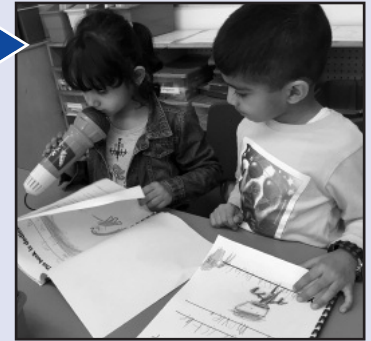


Anna Vaynrub

# What's Happening in Our Schools

## Through Writing, K-Center Students Learn to Defend Their Opinions

By this point in the year, kindergarten writing has elevated beyond simple stories; children are able to formulate a central position, an opinion, and support it with relevant details, facts and examples. Through a new, “homegrown” writing unit focused on having opinions, **Kindergarten Center** teachers are helping children connect their writing with a sense of purpose and audience. To start, students engaged in discussions about their preferences in life—favorite foods, pastimes, seasons, sporting activities, etc. Lively debates ensued, and children were challenged to substantiate such opinions with evidence! Teachers then skillfully used these discussions to prepare students to write and publish opinion books. This genre of writing provided a context for students to move beyond themselves and consider their audience as they put forth their ideas. In addition, as with any writing unit, the focus on the writing process is paramount; students had to plan, draft, revise and edit. The highlight of the unit was a final publishing party during which students read aloud their works. One claim was undisputable: Kindergartners are not timid when it comes to sharing their opinions!



## Budding Authors at Old Bethpage Create Pop-Up Books

It's not all that unusual for students to feel inspired by a musician, artist or writer, but it is uncommon for that inspiration to lead to children making their own pop-up books. But that's exactly what students at **Old Bethpage Elementary School** did! After studying the works of nonfiction author Gail Gibbons and different types of communities—rural, suburban and urban—as part of their social studies curriculum, children in Ms. Jaskowiak's and Ms. Klein's second grade classes wrote and designed their own informative (and gigantic) pop-up book! The activity was so beneficial because it exercised so many different fields of study: history, culture,

English-language arts, design, engineering and more. And best of all, at the end of the project, the students had a completed pop-up book for which they could feel proud! Well done!

## Students Celebrate Earth Day at Parkway

Every April 22, people all over the world recognize the importance of environmental stewardship and protecting our planet by celebrating Earth Day. This year, students at **Parkway Elementary School** got in on the fun in their own special way. During a beautiful spring day, participating students planted bulbs around the school's gazebo; one day, in the not-to-distant future, those bulbs will grow into a garden that will serve as a constant reminder to other students about the importance of caring for the only planet we have. The planting was part of Parkway's beautification process, which will continue throughout the year and into the following years. Never shying away from an educational opportunity, teachers involved used the planting to talk to students about the scientific processes involved in plants and gardens, and reinforced the notion of environmental stewardship.



## At Pasadena, Iconic Toy Teaches Valuable STEM Lesson

Students at **Pasadena Elementary School** were recently involved in a wonderful, Districtwide program that taught important science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) principles using a classic toy: LEGO pieces! The LEGO program promotes STEM concepts via a fun, engaging and hands-on experience while also stressing the importance of communication, collaboration and creative problem solving. The LEGO program was tailored to provide appropriate, meaningful instruction to students at each level. In first and second grades, children studied early simple machines; they used the special LEGO pieces to explore pulleys, levers, gears, wheels and axles while learning about energy, buoyancy and balance. In grades three and four, students used the same mechanical principles, but with a focus on more complex machines and more emphasis placed on problem solving.

## Stratford Road Students Participate in Museum Program, Then Create Their Own!

Some lucky young artists at **Stratford Road Elementary School** recently participated in a program offered through the Heckscher Museum titled *My Museum: Introduction to Art Museums*. Designed to teach children the ins-and-outs of an art museum—the important features, how and why art is selected, etc.—*My Museum* enables students to partake in an inclusive and fascinating lesson by a museum employee right in their own school. But perhaps the best part was what happened after the program; armed with their new knowledge of museums, Stratford second graders set out to design their own. They chose a subject for their hypothetical museums—some examples included pets, soccer, science, and, of course, *Star Wars*—and then designed a brochure, describing in detail what would be featured inside. After the project was completed, students received free day passes for a future visit to the museum.



## 'Pennies for Patients' Initiative at Mattlin Raises Nearly \$1,400!



The importance of giving back is taught at every school in the District. It seems that the students at **Mattlin Middle School** have heeded that lesson! In an impressive display of kindness and initiative, members of the school's Service Club, along with their teachers, recently held a "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Service Club members delivered boxes to every student in the school to help them collect coins; in the end, the club raised \$1,382—all of which will go to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society continue to help local patients in their fight against these diseases. The "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser taught students about character education and philanthropy; supported the cause to help find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma; and improved patients' and their families' quality of life.

## World Culture Fair: A Trip Around the World Without Leaving the School

The World Culture Fair at **Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School** is a highly anticipated event in the school's calendar. With more than 40 different cultures from all over the world represented, the World Culture Fair gives students an opportunity to study the food, fashions, customs and traditions of foreign countries that they might not have the opportunity to experience otherwise. Planning for the event was an ambitious and enlightening undertaking. Students researched the geography, history and—of course—cultures of various countries, and then used their newly acquired knowledge to create beautiful and informative display boards to present at the fair. Students from each grade level were able to attend the fair and bask in the delicious delicacies, beguiling fashions and venerable traditions that distinguishes each country. Thanks to everyone who participated!



## An Amazing 74 DECA Students from POBJFKHS Qualify for International Career Development Conference



The organization DECA helps to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Recently, 74 **Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School** students qualified for the International Career Development Conference, based on their performance in the state round, which featured more than 2,000 business-focused high school students from throughout New York State. Thirty-five of those 74 students participated in the prestigious international event in Nashville, Tennessee at the end of April. The school's DECA advisor, Lindsay DeLuca, was also honored with the Outstanding Service to DECA Award. This award is presented to a New York State DECA advisor who goes above and beyond for the organization. Lindsay has served as advisor for 10 years and has served on the NYS DECA Board of Trustees for five years. Congratulations to Ms. DeLuca and to all the DECA students who continue to make our District proud!

# ARTS IN THE DISTRICT

## *The Little Mermaid Wows at POBJFKHS!*

The Drama Cadets of Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School dazzled audiences once again with their spring production of the classic tale, *The Little Mermaid*. A process that started with auditions way back in October—and grew to a cast that included more than 80 students, some of who are in elementary school—*The Little Mermaid* was truly a Districtwide spectacle. The study and application of theater arts has a litany of benefits for students, as it prioritizes teamwork, selflessness, appreciation for the arts, dedication and so much more. The productions that our Drama Cadets hold each year are a highlight of the school calendar.



This was the 30th production by high school drama director Richard Olivari. Vocal direction and choreography were provided by Robert Lombardo and Kelly Alcantara, respectively, while POB alum and Broadway veteran Brian Strumwasser held workshops for students on makeup and costume design. Additionally, the hundreds of costumes were made by community member Merry Goldfarb, who returns each year simply out of a love for working with students. Thank you to everyone who was a part, and bravo!

## **Paint Night in Plainview!**

*Honor Society Art Students Host Paint Night with School Faculty*



Paint nights are more popular than ever, and—thanks to a group of talented student artists—faculty members at Plainview-Old Bethpage have gotten in on the fun. Honor Society art students at POBJFKHS recently led a paint night for 20 of the school’s staff members. Inspired by the ever-popular trend in which professional artists take amateurs through a step-by-step procedure to create their own painting, POB students demonstrated to faculty how to paint a picture on a canvas and assisted the adults throughout the event. After sharing some laughs, all 20 faculty members left the event with their personal, beautiful piece of art.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **JOSH GOLBERT, POB’S DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

The entire Plainview-Old Bethpage community was saddened to hear of the passing of Josh Golbert, the District’s Director of Music since 2007, this past March. Each and every newsletter we recount stories of the great success, skill and dedication of our student-musicians and artists, and every story is a direct reflection of the dedication and singular talent of Mr. Golbert. He will be dearly missed. To his friends and family, and to everyone who knew Josh Golbert, please accept our deepest condolences.

# POBJFKHS Students Victorious at 'Moot Court'

*Win at County Mock Trial Competition Sends Team to State Tournament*

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School's Moot Court Club has done it again! Competing against teams from dozens of schools, the POBJFKHS club won the Nassau County Bar Association mock trial tournament, an event that features budding young practitioners of law taking part in simulated court proceedings. Drafting memorials, delivering oral arguments, shouting "Objection!"—all are a part of the educational and exciting moot court experience. With their victory, POB's team has qualified for the New York State Bar Association competition, held annually in Albany. Congratulations!

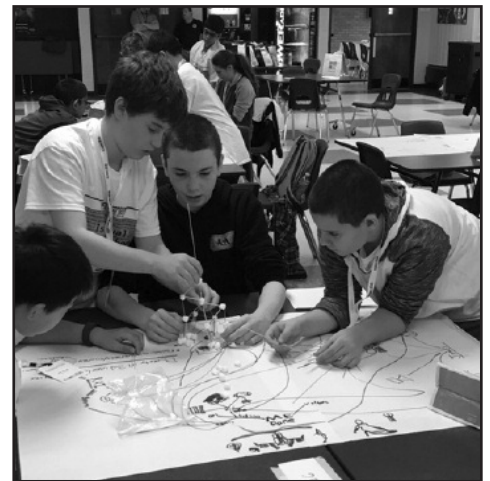


*The Moot Court Club students prepared for the tournament by working on their written and verbal communication skills and their litigation skills during their law classes throughout the last two school years. This year's case was a suppression hearing, which taught the students to represent both the Prosecution and Defense in a case involving an illegal search by police and an individual's Fourth Amendment rights.*

## Middle School Students Participate in First Ever Hackathon

*Students Learn Webpage Design as part of Plainview-Old Bethpage S.T.E.A.M. Initiative*

Middle school students at Mattlin Middle School and Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School recently participated in the District's first-ever Hackathon. Hosted by the organization We Connect the Dots, the Hackathon treated students to an exciting day of learning, technology engagement, webpage development, social justice and public speaking. Students in grades five to eight learned the basics of webpage design using the platform Squarespace as part of the District's STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) initiative. Student-volunteers from the Science Honor Society at POBJFKHS and coding classes served as ambassadors for the day. The high school students served as role models and helped with some troubleshooting issues that the younger students encountered. Newly issued Chromebooks allowed the students to choose individual experiences that they find most interesting. The variety of activities included using mind-mapping (a diagram used to visually organize information) to introduce themselves to their teammates, constructing towers using toothpicks and marshmallows to nurture problem-solving skills, and researching a social cause and creating a solution for that social problem on a website.



**New Start and End Times at ALL SCHOOLS  
to Accommodate a 9-Period Day at POBJFK  
High School, Starting in September 2016**

**THE NEW START AND END TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Elementary Schools:** 9:20 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

**Middle Schools:** 8:40 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

**High School:** 7:25 a.m. - 1:49 p.m.

For more information, please visit our website at [POBSchools.org](http://POBSchools.org).