

BETHPAGE

Union Free School District

NEWSLETTER

SENIOR REPRESENTS COUNTRY AT PHILOSOPHY OLYMPIAD

Bethpage High School senior Daniel Gottlieb was one of only two students in the nation selected to represent the United States at the International Philosophy Olympiad. This was the second year in a row a Bethpage student was selected for this prestigious honor. He was chosen based upon his essay, written in French, on "The Value of Truth."

Daniel had been a member of the school's Philosophy Club for the past four years and served as president as a senior. "I've loved it every step of the way," he said. "It's been my outlet and I'm very honored to be representing our country. It's all about critical thinking, and this is a concept I could really latch onto."

This year's competition was held in Lithuania on May 15-18, with 42 other countries represented. In addition to participating in the Olympiad, Daniel toured the area and attended philosophy lectures of his choice. He also applied for the title of most philosophical student in America by Kids Philosophy Slam. He was captain of the swim team, an AP Scholar and a 21st Century Scholar. He is interested in pursuing public policy or law and will be attending American University in Washington, D.C. this fall.

*"It's been my outlet
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our country."*



Bethpage High School's Class of 2014 valedictorian Anthony Saya and salutatorian Sarah Ciresi demonstrate a continued commitment to academic excellence and dedication to their community, representing the school's entire innovative and talented student body.

Anthony volunteers at an autistic daycare center and founded a charity event that has raised \$1,200 to date for Child's Play. The event, an ADP Wii-athon, asks participants to pledge money to participate in 40 hours straight of online video game playing. The money raised buys toys and games for children in area hospitals. In school, Anthony was a member of the Student Civic Organization, Philosophy Club, National Honor Society and National Italian Honor Society. He was also named a National Merit finalist and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Most recently, he placed fifth in the National Kids Philosophy Slam and received a score of five on all of his Advanced Placement tests to date. Anthony intends to major in international business at Georgetown University in the fall.

Sarah is a talented student who not only excels academically, but also dedicates herself to gymnastics. She has been doing gymnastics since the age of 3 and started competing at the age of 7. Sarah was a two-time captain of the school's gymnastics team and was named an All-State athlete every year since ninth grade. During the 2012-13 school year, she won nine of her 10 conference meets, and as a result was ranked first in the county for the second consecutive year. She was also named a News 12 Scholar-Athlete. Academically, she was a National Merit Commended Student, an AP Scholar with Distinction and a member of the National Honor Society. Every Sunday, Sarah volunteers to distribute food in Hempstead as part of the organization Food Not Bombs. She intends to major in biology at Boston University in the fall.

Congratulations to both of these fine individuals on their excellence.

Bethpage Union Free School District
Bethpage, New York 11714

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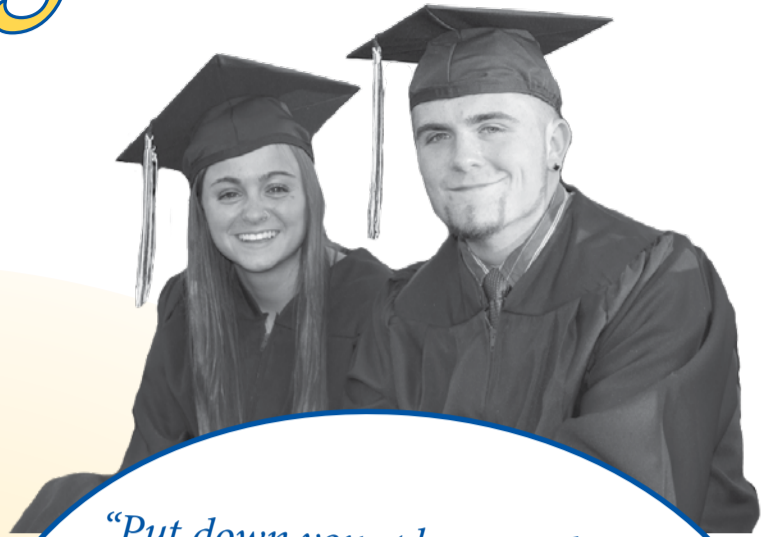
② CONGRATULATIONS, Graduates!

The Bethpage High School Class of 2014 received their diplomas and became the newest members of Bethpage's Golden Eagle Alumni at the 59th annual commencement ceremony on June 27.

Sens. Charles Schumer and Kemp Hannon attended the event and joined Board of Education members, administrators, and family and friends in celebrating the graduates. Student speakers included Student Council President Thomas Fraher, salutatorian Sarah Ciresi and valedictorian Anthony Saya, who shared memories and accolades with the graduating seniors.

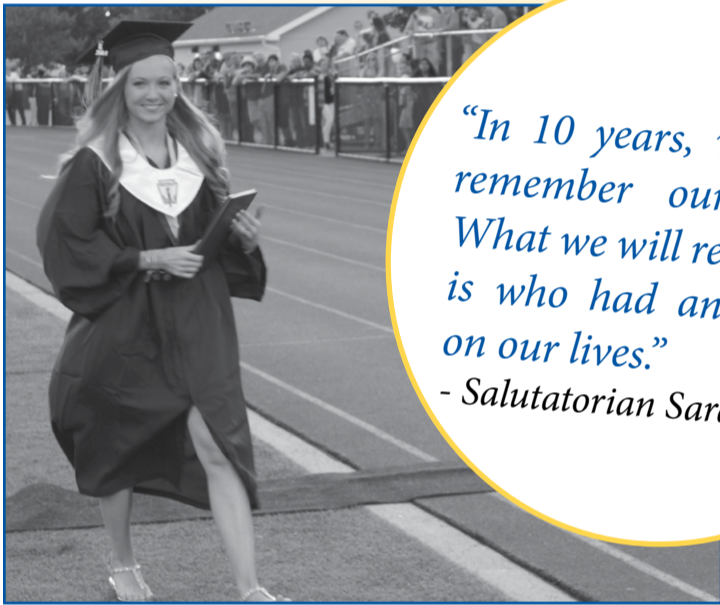
Superintendent Terrence Clark highlighted many students' achievements in his remarks. "On behalf of the Bethpage Board of Education, I wish the Class of 2014 all the best as they go on to college, the workplace or serving our nation in the armed services," he said. "I thank them for all they've done to make Bethpage High School a better place. These students have contributed a great deal to Bethpage and we should take comfort that our future is in the hands of such caring and gifted students."

The ceremony continued with the conferring of diplomas and concluded with caps being thrown into the air.



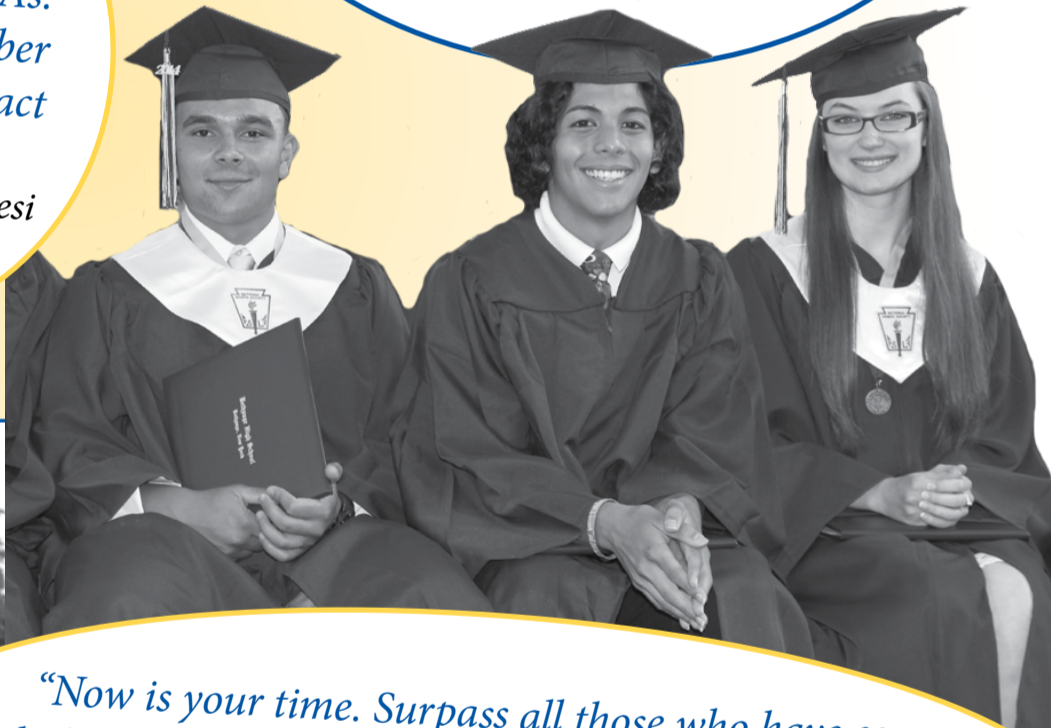
"Put down your phone and enjoy what's in front of you. There's so much going on in this world. If you just stop for a second and take a look around, you'll realize how beautiful the world really is."

*- Student Council President
Thomas Fraher*

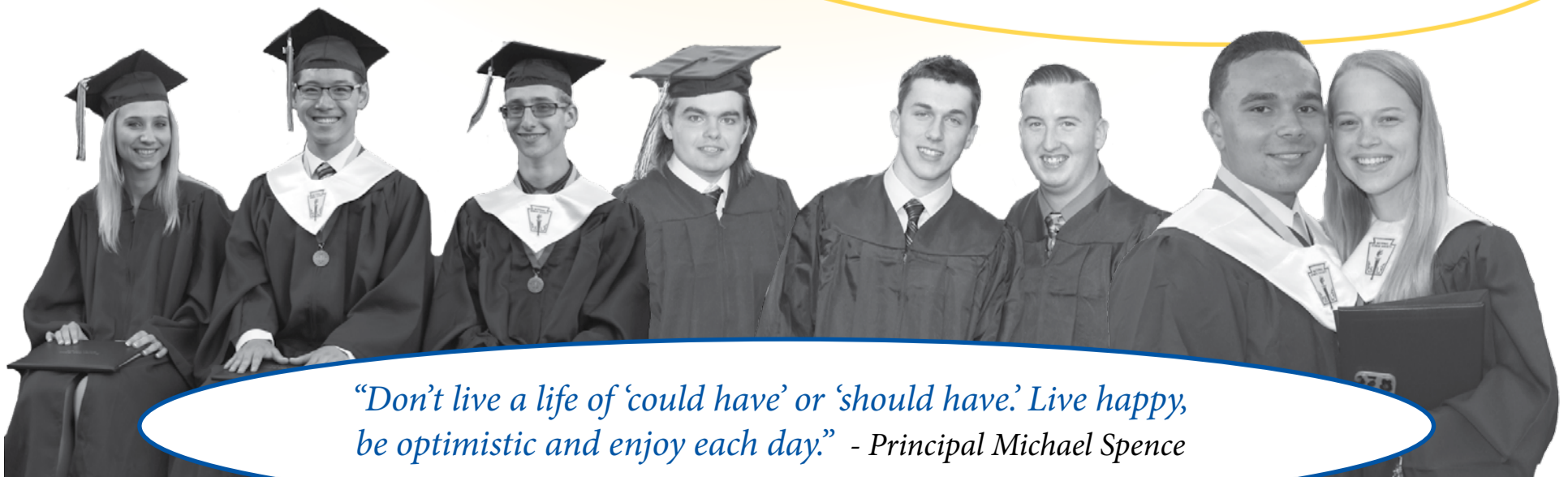


"In 10 years, we won't remember our GPAs. What we will remember is who had an impact on our lives."

- Salutatorian Sarah Ciresi

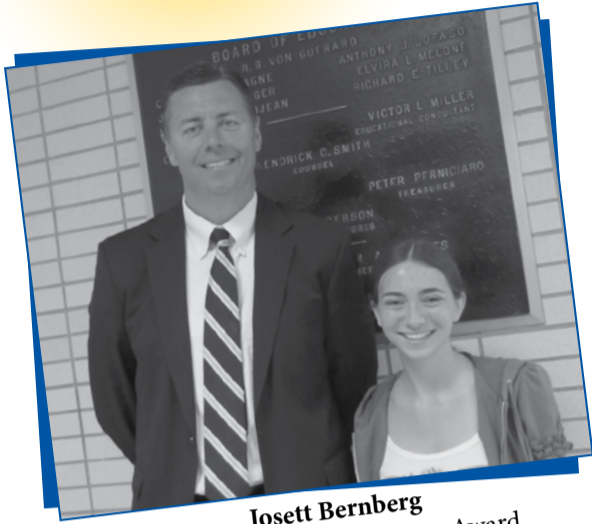


"Now is your time. Surpass all those who have come before you. Your ancestors wrote history in ink. I want you to write it in lightning." - Valedictorian Anthony Saya



"Don't live a life of 'could have' or 'should have.' Live happy, be optimistic and enjoy each day." - Principal Michael Spence

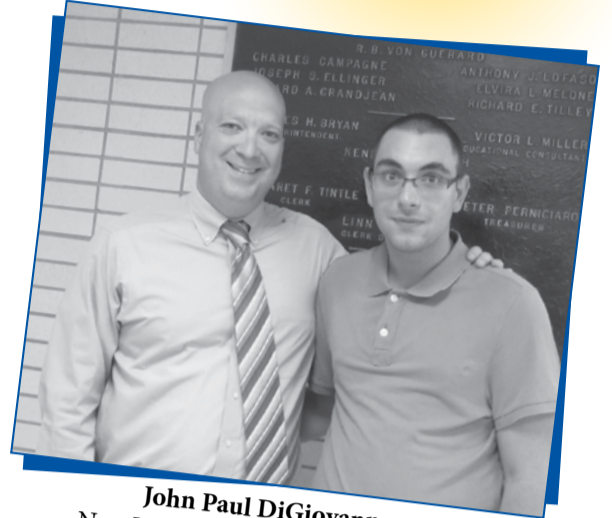
Senior Awards Spotlight



Josett Bernberg
Long Island Blood Services Award



Maria Buondelmonte
Nassau County Comptroller Award



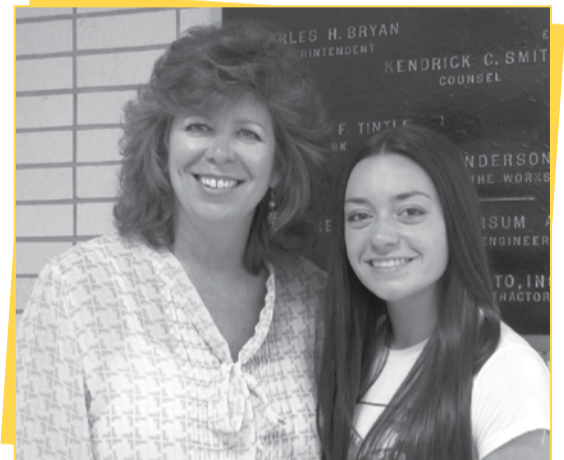
John Paul DiGiovanna
New York State Comptroller Award



Thomas Fraher
Herff Jones "Believe in You" Principal's Award



Daniel Gottlieb
Nassau County Legislative Citizenship Award



Stephanie Malatestinic
Plainview/Bethpage Lions Club



Rebecca Massone
Baha'i Race Unity Award



Conor Nimmo
Principal's Award



Tina Rapaglia, Adriana Raskin and Conor Nimmo
Prudential Spirit of Community Award



Adriana Raskin
Senator Kemp Hannon Citizenship Advancement Award



Craig Schmier
Nassau County Executive Award

All seniors are pictured with either Principal Michael Spence or guidance counselors James Benjamin or Meg Scanlon.

SENIORS RECOGNIZE TEACHERS

Ten Bethpage High School seniors celebrated their most influential teachers in a special ceremony on April 2. An annual tradition celebrating its 10th year, the Recognition of Excellence dinner was designed to honor teachers who have inspired their students during their educational careers in Bethpage. Seniors who participate in this tradition are selected by high school faculty, and each senior chooses one teacher from their elementary, middle and high school who was a mentor and had a positive impact on them. The Recognition of Excellence evening included music from the high school jazz band, a buffet dinner and a presentation of plaques from each student to their teachers.

This year's students and honorees were:

Francisco Almanzar
Kate Peters, CCS
Theresa Schneider, JFK
Donna D'Alleva, BHS

Thomas Fraher
Chris Pollatos, JFK
John Como, BHS

Jacklyn Grigorian
Dori Ann Furey, CBS
Kaitlin Gregory, JFK
Maria Whalen, BHS

Conor Nimmo
Deborah Deasy, CBS
Karen Hayes, JFK
Daniel Malossi, BHS

Charles Bachmeier
Lorraine Marcis, CBS
Daniel Zabell, JFK
James Miller, BHS

Daniel Gottlieb
Jeanne Cano, KLS
Ronny Ciarniello, JFK
Wendy Way, BHS

Danielle Nendza
Vincent Perez, KLS
Andrea Mastellone, JFK
Chrissy Bennet, BHS

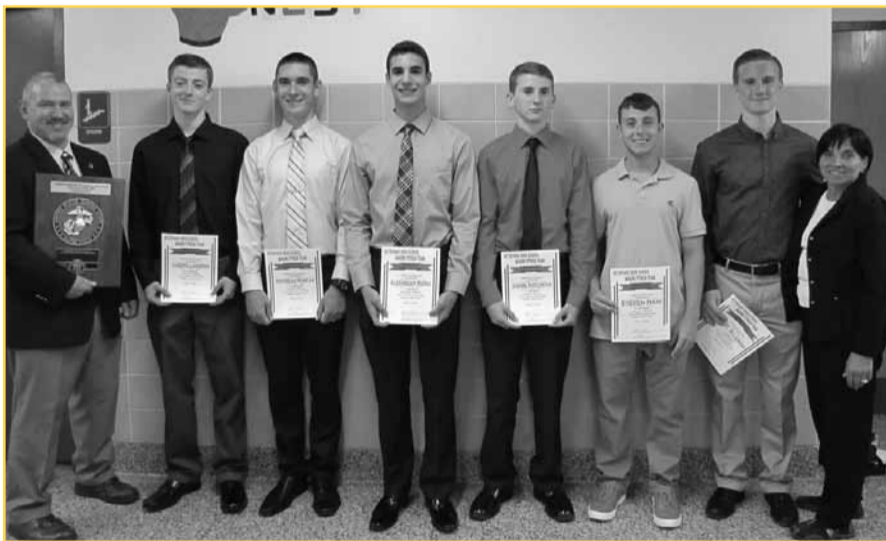
Tina Rapaglia
Valeria Tina, KLS
Diana McNally, JFK
Laura Hald, BHS

Meghan Foley
Sara Dionne, CCS
Courtney Young, JFK
Jeanna Novelli, BHS



John Tierney
Ann Kotlus, CCS
Dennis Sciacca, JFK
David Rodriguez, BHS

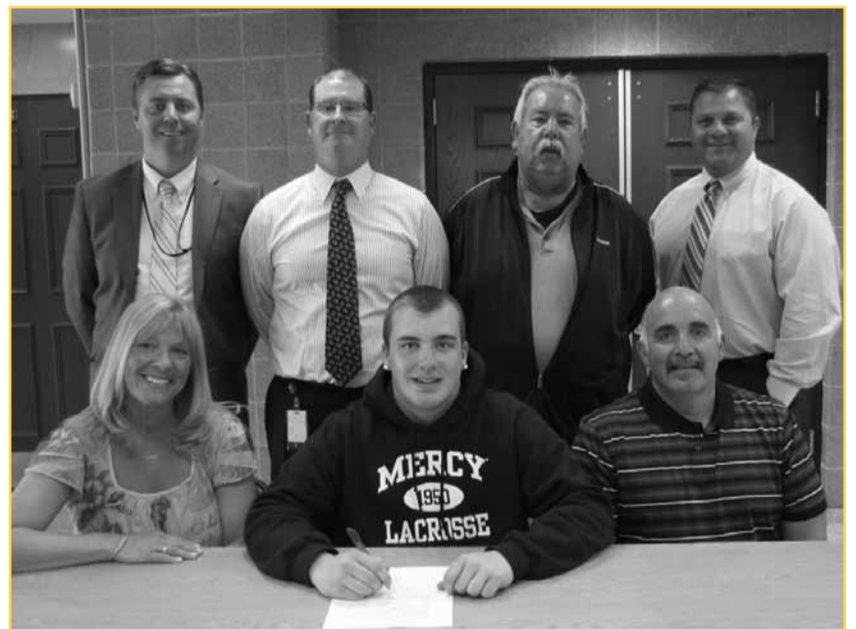
Marine Fitness Team Wins Nationals



The Bethpage High School Marine Fitness Team recently traveled to San Diego, where they trained with the Marines and participated in a national competition. The boys team placed first in nationals and the girls team came in second. They competed against approximately 20 other teams from across the United States. This is only the second time since the 1960s that the Bethpage team has won nationals, winning for the first time in 1998.

Coached by John Como, the team meets year-round after other sports practices end. "These are the types of kids who are dedicated and can manage their time, who work hard as a group and who sacrifice for each other," Como said. "These are exactly the type of students you want as ambassadors for Bethpage to go to California and work with the Marines."

Marine Fitness became a national competition in 1966 and was started by a general who came out of the Marine Corps. Marine Fitness is loosely based on the Marine Corps physical fitness test, and due to Bethpage's close ties to the Marines - the team has attire that bears the Marine logo.



Lax Star Signs Letter of Intent

Bethpage High School senior Christian Ferruzza signed a National Letter of Intent to play lacrosse for Mercy College. As captain of the school's varsity team, he was given a partial academic and partial athletic scholarship to the college. Christian has been playing lacrosse since the fifth grade on an outside league and was an All-County and Academic All-Conference player last year. "I just love the game and being with my teammates," he said.

Christian was also captain and quarterback of the school's varsity football team and was a member of the National Honor Society, National French Honor Society and Athletes Helping Athletes. He was an avid participant in the district's Relay for Life and Lax for Hope fundraisers.

He is pictured signing his Letter of Intent with parents Yvonne and Vincent Ferruzza, head coach Erwin Dill, assistant coach Roddy McCoy, high school Principal Michael Spence and Athletic Director John Franchi.

Aspirations in Computing Award

Most Challenging High School

Bethpage High School has been ranked No. 671 out of 26,000 high schools in the nation on a list of America's Most Challenging High Schools. This ranking puts the school in the top 5 percent nationally for most challenging high schools in the United States. The Washington Post's Jay Mathews has been ranking the most challenging public and private schools in the country for 16 years through an index formula that compares the number of Advanced Placement tests given at a school each year and the total number of seniors who graduated that same year. The list includes more than 2,025 public high schools nationwide. The school is ranked No. 19 in Nassau County and No. 25 in Long Island, according to this list.

The complete article, which features statistical information on each school, can be found at www.washingtonpost.com/local/highschoolchallenge.

Bethpage High School junior Mackenzie Pech received the Aspirations in Computing Award from the National Center for Women in Informational Technology. An annual award given to a female high school student enrolled in a computer science-related course, Mackenzie was ranked No. 29 in the nation out of 15,000 applicants. To be considered, she had to apply online and submit answers to questions about her character, leadership skills and programming. She is also a member of the school's Robotics Club and is working on the development of a tutoring application for the school.

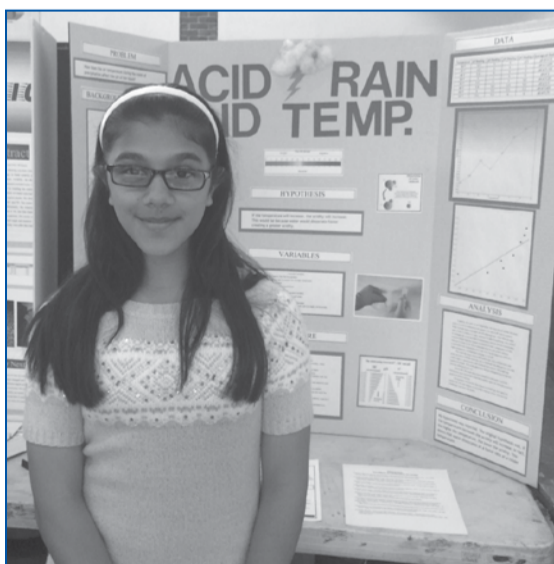


She is considered a national runner-up/New York regional winner and was honored at the Bloomberg Center on May 9 with the regional winners.



Philosophy Slam

For more than a decade, Bethpage High School has had students participate in the Kids Philosophy Slam, an annual essay contest that allows students to write about philosophical issues. This year's question was "Which has a greater impact on society – truth or beauty?" More than 4,000 essays were entered from high school students around the country, and this year Bethpage High School had two national winners. Melissa Delgado came in second place with her essay about beauty and Dan Midgette came in fourth place with his essay concerning truth. Bethpage has had more than 10 students place in the top four over the last 12 years.



Excelling with Science

Fourteen students from Bethpage High School and John F. Kennedy Middle School participated in the 2014 Nassau County Science Competition. Competing with more than 400 students from 45 schools across the county, Bethpage students scored exceptionally well. Eighth-grader Smiti Shah came in first overall with a project titled "The Effect of Temperature on the Acidity of Precipitation," 12th-grader Firas Akbik placed third in the engineering category for "The Mechanical Properties and Micro-Structure of Bones," eighth-grader Christine Corsaro placed first in mixed sciences for her project "Amazing Archery," and 12th-grader Nicholas Kideris placed third in the category of

environmental/earth/planetary sciences for his work titled "The Effect of Location on Differences in Distribution of Light."

The event was held on June 8 at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration and was organized by the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, in partnership with Nassau County. More than 70 judges volunteered their time to rank projects, which received cash prizes for placing in their categories. For her first-place win, Smiti received a \$300 prize.



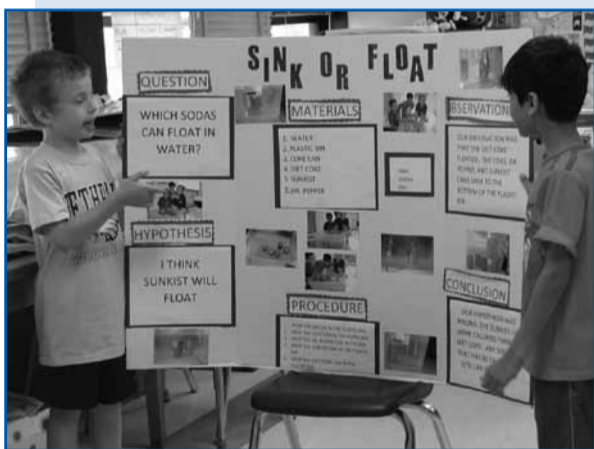
A YEARLONG EFFORT

Students and staff of John F. Kennedy Middle School chose the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island as the charity of choice for their yearlong fundraising efforts. The Ronald McDonald House opened its doors in New Hyde Park in 1986 and offers a “home away from home” for almost 1,000 families each year. In December, eight members of the student council, chaperoned by their advisers, participated in the Little Hands Baking Program and presented a check to the organization for \$1,400 from numerous fundraising efforts, along with toys for the children of the house donated by local families.

Recently, nine faculty members visited the RMDH with boxes of linens and various cleaning supplies from the house wish list. All the supplies were collected as part of the student council’s Spring Cleaning drive. As always, the generosity of Bethpage families overwhelmed and touched the staff at the house. JFK staff stayed to cook dinner for the Meals from the Heart program. Sixty residents came home to a lavish barbecue prepared with love and well wishes.



Science in Action

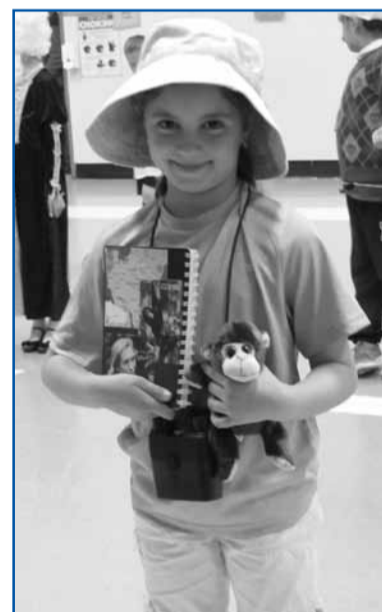


Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Kramer Lane Elementary held their annual science fair and presentations for the younger students. As a culmination to their science curriculum, the students utilized the scientific method in small groups to conduct an experiment of their choice. Projects included what food their dog would most prefer, whether different cans of soda sink or float and the perfect popping time and temperature for popcorn. The fourth- and fifth-graders first presented their completed projects to the school’s second- and third-graders, and then stood with their projects at the annual fair for parents and guests. Presenting the project to their peers allows students to practice their public speaking skills, and prepares the younger children for what to expect at the higher grades.



History to Life

Second-graders at Charles Campagne Elementary brought historic figures to life at the school’s annual wax museum. The students dressed as famous historical figures, from politicians, musicians and scientists to actors and actresses. As part of their reading unit on biographies, students researched historical characters; learned about their accomplishments, challenges and personality traits; and explained how their actions contributed to the sequence of events in their lives. The second-graders learned how to synthesize and analyze critically, paying close attention to character relationships, challenges and common traits of leaders.



Violin Rocks

Kindergartners through fifth-graders at Kramer Lane Elementary expanded their views on the classic violin with a performance by Geoffrey Castle and his Violin Rocks program. The presentation combined upbeat and energetic musical performances with opportunities for student interaction and participation, as well as a message of self-motivation and empowerment toward achieving one’s dreams. All of the students were engaged by his powerful and passionate presentation.



Poster Winner

Fourth-grader Antonietta Caruso from Central Boulevard Elementary was announced as a winner in the annual Child Abuse Prevention Services anti-bullying poster contest. Her winning artwork will be featured in the 2015 CAPS calendar, along with 11 other winning posters and poetry entries. The calendars are distributed to libraries, doctors and schools across Long Island.

Antonietta submitted her poster to the contest after hearing a CAPS representative speak at her school. She was honored in her classroom on June 12 by a representative from the organization. Third-grade Central Boulevard student James McGlynn received an honorable mention in the contest, as well.



Eagle Scouts

Two seniors from Bethpage High School were recognized by the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. From Boy Scouts Troop 604, Alexander Raia and Stephen Stork were inducted as Eagle Scouts in June. "We always like to honor Eagle Scouts here in Bethpage," Mr. Clark said. "They represent themselves and the district so well."

Stephen and Alexander graduated with two other Eagle Scouts, Michael Mascio and Anthony Foley, who were honored by the district earlier in the year. Alexander plans to serve a two-year mission through his church. Stephen will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology. Michael will be attending University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Anthony will be attending SUNY Maritime.



Student of the Year

The district congratulates Michael Israelton for being honored as Student of the Year by the Long Island Association of Special Education Administrators. Michael gave a speech before 200 people in which he thanked his parents and teachers for believing in him. He plans to attend Landmark College in Vermont this fall.



Give 2 Troops



In a districtwide effort to show support for the troops, all three elementary schools collected items to send overseas. Students and staff were asked to donate items such as protein bars, board games, toiletries, iTunes gift cards, linens and letters of thanks, and school supplies for Iraqi and Afghani school children. Hundreds of items were collected and students were given 21st Century Scholars credit to participate in the packing as part of the "Are You Ready to Pack?" program. The packing was held at the end of March and run by teachers Maureen Luca, Lorraine Marcis, Christine McGuire and Joanna Sieben. Pictured are the students who organized and packed the donations and created banners to promote the drive. Dozens of boxes were packed up and sent to Afghanistan through the Give 2 The Troops organization, which has been supplying troops with care packages since 2002.



Gov. Signs Bill at BHS

On June 25, Bethpage High School hosted the historic signing of legislation by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to allow speed cameras to be posted in school zones. The press conference was attended by local legislators, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and Nassau County Executive and Bethpage alum Edward Mangano. Providing a truly unique learning opportunity, a dozen high school students, along with district and school administration, were also invited to attend the conference.

"I thought the speeches were inspirational," sophomore attendee Connor Golden said after the conference. "Speeding in a school zone is reckless, and the legislators came together and made the right decision." Although Connor intends to join the Air Force after completing high school, his long-term goals include getting into politics. "Hopefully, I can make an impact like this," he said. Connor will be serving as junior class president next year.

Congratulations to All!



JFK MS
Grade 8

CBS
Grade 5



CCS
Grade 5

KLS
Grade 5



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A Publication of the Bethpage School District's
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