

BETHPAGE

Union Free School District

NEWSLETTER

ETHICALLY INCLINED: Team Is Headed to *Nationals*

The Bethpage High School Ethics Team took first place for the Long Island/Manhattan region at the sixth annual Long Island High School Ethics Bowl. Competing against 24 teams from public and private schools in the area, one of the two Bethpage teams qualified to compete at the National High School Ethics Bowl on April 10-11 at the University of North Carolina. At nationals, the five-member, all-girls team will compete against 22 other top teams from across the United States. This is the first time in its history that the Bethpage team is headed to the national level in this competition.

Approximately 15 BHS students – two teams of five and an alternate team – have been debating and preparing their cases since September. Students are asked to prepare for 15 prospective cases they could receive in the competition. Cases contain an ethical dilemma and are derived from real-world scenarios, and in some cases, are completely factual. An example of a case is one which examined the practices at a hospital



in New Orleans that was flooded from Hurricane Katrina and how it handled cases and patients during that time. Members of the ethics team were asked to confront issues such as, “Should doctors be held to different standards of care during emergency situations?”

Teams are judged on their presentation, commentary and responses to judge’s questions. Each round hears two cases, and

there are six rounds total to the final. The competition is judged by lawyers, philosophy professors, those with a love of ethics, and other volunteers with an interest.

The winning team, known as the “firing squad” because they are relentless yet respectful, consisted of (pictured, from left): Lindsey Chan, 12th grade; Gina Aliberti, 11th grade; Ayesha Asif, 12th grade; Martina Morris, 12th grade; and Michelle Cirillo, 12th grade.

Michelle, a team member since she was a freshman, said of the team, “It is the only place that has the fire of a debate team but the intellectual aspect of a philosophy circle. It’s a place where you get action, but with civil discourse.”

“It’s a great outlet for thought in a very civil way,” Lindsey added. “Everyone really takes a different stance on the same topic, and it’s

great to see the different types of views.”

The high school’s second team of five students won an honorable mention at the Long Island Ethics Bowl for scoring the highest in their response to the judge’s questions. The district has had an Ethics Team since before there was even a qualifying regional bowl, and team advisor and coach Wendy Way has been one of the pioneers in bringing the Ethics Bowl to the area.

Representatives of the team recently spoke to the Board of Education about the victory. “The entire Board was impressed and proud of the level of discourse demonstrated by the students,” Board President Michael Kelly said. The district wishes the team and Ms. Way the best of luck at nationals in April.

Bethpage Union Free School District
Bethpage, New York 11714

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Students of the State

Twenty-eight juniors and seniors from Bethpage High School were invited to attend Gov. Andrew Cuomo's annual State of the State and Budget Address in January. This is the first time Bethpage has had the opportunity to attend this event, and BHS was the only district represented from Nassau County this year. Students attending represented the National Honor Society and the Journalism class and were joined by National Honor Society advisor, Scott Lynch, Principal Michael Spence and Superintendent Terrence Clark.

The event afforded a truly unique learning experience for students, as they not only got to see the Convention Center and witness the event, but were also invited by Sen. Kemp Hannon to receive a guided tour of the Capitol building and walk through the Senate chamber. Bethpage students were also provided lunch and treated to some of the best seats in the place thanks to the district's relationship with Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano, who greeted the students before the speech.

"Our students were so exemplary in their professionalism, courtesy and genuine interest at the past events that we were asked to be part of this historic event," Principal Michael Spence said. "Sen. Hannon really went out of his way to meet the kids, give us a tour and speak to us about the entire legislative process."

In their own words...

— Written by juniors Jillian Leavey and Steven Scigliabaglio

This past January, students from Bethpage High School attended the annual State of the State address at the Empire State Convention Center in Albany, during which the State Budget for 2015 was presented, enabling the students to witness how the state's money would be spent and what reforms the governor intends to make. Pressing issues the governor mentioned included "[restoring] economic opportunity, [improving and reforming] our education system, and [restoring] the public's confidence and trust in our justice system." Some of this comes in light of an ongoing recession in upstate New York and Appalachia, recent studies reporting "inadequate" educators in New York, and conflicts with law enforcement in New York City.

Bethpage High School was one of only 10 districts in the state to be invited to this event. "This past June, Gov. Cuomo visited Bethpage High School and signed Safer Streets legislation into law," said Spence. "He and his office were impressed with our school, students and community, and reached out to BHS to include us in his State of the State..."



To read the full article please scan the QR code to the right.

SARA FOX, GRADE 11

"It was very organized and almost felt staged – there were times to stand, times to sit and times you were urged to clap."

"I thought the Capitol building was beautiful. It was cool to see the Assembly because they were still discussing topics and actually working when we stopped in."

"You really feel how big our state is. I really felt a respect for politics."



STEVEN SCIGLIBAGLIO, GRADE 11

"My mom is a teacher and I hear her talk about certain topics a lot, so it was interesting to hear another perspective on things."

"It really opened my eyes to the other parts of New York State; I never would've thought upstate could be so different from here."



LIAM ALFRED, GRADE 12

"It's so current to what we are learning in AP Government that we were lucky to be there; it's something we will probably never get the chance to see in person again."

"I'm planning to major in business, so it was especially interesting to hear about the money-related topics, such as the increases in minimum wage and how tax money is used."

"I think kids don't really know much about what is going on in the state – we base it off a few seconds worth of clips we see on the news, but hearing it directly from Gov. Cuomo was different."



JILLIAN LEAVEY, GRADE 11

"It was an opportunity to experience something truly unique that you normally only get to see on TV."



Education Partner Award

Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark has been selected as one of 13 recipients of the 2015 Nassau BOCES Education Partner awards. A respected member of the school community for almost 30 years, Mr. Clark was recognized for his dedication and support of public schools.



The success of Bethpage schools can be directly attributed to Mr. Clark's longstanding rapport with students, parents, administrators, staff and the community as a whole. He attends many Bethpage events and takes pride in watching the students succeed.

Mr. Clark was appointed superintendent in 2009 and has since overseen the introduction of Chromebooks to every student in grades four through nine, as well as the launch of programs such as Achieve3000. In 2013, Kramer Lane Elementary School was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a recipient of the National 2013 Blue Ribbon School Award and designated as an Exemplary High-Performing School. In addition, the recent state assessments show that Bethpage students ranked in the top 15 of the county on all 12 assessments, and third and fourth grades ranked No. 1 and 2 in the county on the ELA assessments. Newsweek recently named Bethpage High School one of America's top high schools, ranked No. 326 out of more than 26,000 schools.

Mr. Clark will be presented with the award at a ceremony in March.

Be an Expert



Fifth-grade students districtwide are participating in the Be an Expert program. New this year, it asks all fifth-graders for their top area of interest and then supplies each student with a backpack containing six age-appropriate books on the chosen subject. Topics include astronomy, theme parks, animation, technology and the Great Depression. The books were purchased through a \$40,000 grant secured by Sen. Kemp Hannon earlier this year. The grant's remaining funds were used to purchase other items for the district, such as technology. Last year, a grant secured by Sen. Hannon purchased Google Chromebooks for all fifth-graders for in-class use.

In February, Sen. Hannon visited the fifth-grade classes at Central Boulevard School to speak with the students and hand out the backpacks for the program. During his visit, he gave a brief overview of his job and engaged the students about what they were learning and how they were using their Chromebooks.

The Be an Expert program is a year-long project that asks students to become experts on an area of their choice. Mini-projects accompany each book the student completes, and a culminating project is required of all fifth-graders at the end of the school year. Once the fifth-graders' final projects are completed, high school peers are planning to stop in and learn from the "experts" on their topics.

Technical Troubleshooting

The Genius Bar at John F. Kennedy Middle School officially opened its doors to the student population on Nov. 17. Run under the direction of library media specialist Michelle Phillips, a group of 33 students across grades six, seven and eight were selected to serve as "technicians" to their peers as they experience any glitches with their district-issued Google Chromebooks. Those who work on the Genius Bar team had to undergo an extensive application and interview process, just as professionals in the field would. For their time serving as technicians, the students will receive 21st Century credit at the completion

of the school year. In order to be on the Genius Bar, students have to have an interest in the Chromebooks and helping their peers.

"Last year, when the Chromebooks were introduced, there were a number of minor issues that arose due to user error and basic functional errors," Ms. Phillips said. "The Genius Bar gives students real-life exposure and skills. It's an invaluable experience that has them serving as leaders both here and in their classrooms, practicing communication skills, and refining their technical abilities."

If a user comes with an issue that members of

the group cannot fix, they take it to Ms. Phillips, who then determines whether the issue needs to be outsourced to the district's "help desk" of experts. Some of the major issues the students have seen so far include a very sensitive wire connection and correcting a problem with the LCD screen.

Donning professional shirts donated by the Bethpage Educational Foundation, the Genius Bar is open for business on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch periods. Prior to its official designation, students were informally helping their peers in class.

Genius Bar Feedback:

"I did it because I like computers and I thought it would be fun."

- John Santoro, grade 7

"It's a great opportunity to help your friends."

- Joseph Michelson, grade 7

"I like working with Chromebooks. I know a lot about them because I've been using them since fourth grade, both at home and in school."

- Jenna Parisi, grade 6



TOP Musicians

Fourteen student-musicians were selected to participate in the Nassau Music Educators Association All-County Festival at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts in January.

This prestigious honor indicates that these students are among the top performers in Nassau County. Selection was based upon the students' New York State School Music Association solo evaluation scores and strong teacher recommendations. The district congratulates the following students on this fine achievement:

Andrei Aziz, Grade 10 – Orchestra (viola)
 Katarina Boncic, Grade 9 – Band (bass clarinet)
 Melissa Cao, Grade 11 – Orchestra (violin)
 Dana Chan, Grade 10 – Orchestra (violin)
 Michael Cipolla, Grade 11 – Orchestra (trumpet)
 Lauren Conway, Grade 12 – Women's Chorus (alto)
 Joaane Kim, Grade 11 – Orchestra (viola)

Emily Liang, Grade 9 – Band (flute)
 Michelle Luo, Grade 10 – Orchestra (violin)
 Melissa Monten, Grade 12 – Women's Chorus (soprano) [not in photo]
 Jillian Perota, Grade 12 – Women's Chorus (soprano I)
 Michael Rotunno, Grade 12 – Jazz Ensemble (bass)
 Carly Sesti, Grade 10 – Mixed Chorus (soprano)
 Hannah Shin, Grade 11 – Band (oboe) [not in photo]



All-County musicians are pictured with Bethpage High School Principal Michael Spence and music instructors Deborah Stehlik, James Stehlik and Eric Kay.

Athletes Inspire Young Learners



Third-grade students gathered at Bethpage High School to participate in a pep rally intended to bolster their interest in reading and sportsmanship on the field, and that is exactly what we love here at Bethpage. We want you to become student-athletes just like them."

The team captains shared their favorite books with the young students and offered helpful advice. "Even though you may practice every day and be an athlete, you always have to put your schoolwork first," one of the cheerleading captains said.

A tradition for more than a decade, the program included interactive dialogue from many district administrators regarding their favorite books and discussion on why reading is so important on the road to achieving.

Superintendent of Schools Terrence Clark introduced the high school athletes, noting, "These students represent the best of the Golden Eagle traditions. They study hard, they excel in their academics, and they are superb at academically."

"Even though you may practice every day and be an athlete, you always have to put your schoolwork first."



Author Celebration

First-grade students at Charles Campagne Elementary celebrated the completion of their first “published” work. Under the guidance of reading specialist Mrs. Saltzman, first-graders worked collaboratively to create how-to books on a variety of topics. Each book included the material or ingredients one would need, along with detailed instructions and illustrations on such things as how to build a snowman and how to make an oatmeal sugar scrub.



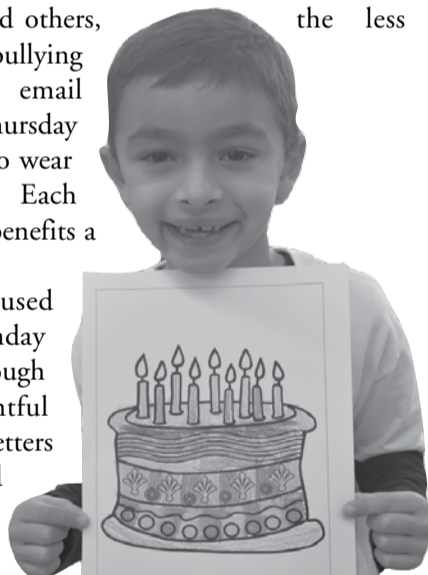
Thoughtful Thursday

Central Boulevard School’s Thoughtful Thursday, an initiative that began last spring, is continuing this year. Organized by school social worker Sarah Glassman and second-grade teacher Patricia Tierney, the program was developed during the school’s bullying prevention week and has turned into a monthly character education/community service initiative.

“This initiative is a schoolwide effort to have each CBS student conduct a simple community service activity within his or her class,” Mrs. Glassman said. “The goal behind Thoughtful Thursday is to show our students that a small action can make a huge difference in the life of another person, and that it often feels really good to do something kind for others without getting anything tangible in return.”

The premise behind the initiative is that the more time students spend being kind and thoughtful toward others, the less likely it is they will engage in unkind or bullying behavior. Parents are reminded via email each month about the Thoughtful Thursday program, and students are encouraged to wear their “Stand-Up” T-shirts to school. Each month features a different activity that benefits a different cause.

During December, students used Thoughtful Thursday to create birthday decorations for homeless children through BirthdayWishes.org. Other Thoughtful Thursday activities included writing letters of appreciation to local firehouses and police precincts and creating winter decorations for a senior living facility.



Kindness Quilt Project

Classes throughout Charles Campagne read “The Kindness Quilt” by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace. The book reading was part of the school’s monthlong “Choose Kindness” campaign, which was a component of its character education program. In order to make the project interdisciplinary, art teacher Danielle Hermann had every class create their own kindness quilt. Each student decorated a square based on the quilt’s theme. Squares from each class were combined with fabric and a border to create a quilt, which is on display in the school’s main lobby. The art component not only reinforced character education, but also incorporated age-appropriate art skills, such as learning about patterns.

Pictured are second-graders in front of their kindness quilt.

County Champions

Congratulations to the girls varsity bowling team, who were crowned Nassau County champions. Under the direction of coach Donna Weikman, the team heads to the New York State finals in March.



Mapping a Winner

More than 30 students at John F. Kennedy Middle School participated in the annual Geography Bee. Congratulations to this year’s winner seventh-grader Patrick Kerrigan, and runner-up John Santoro.



MATH & SCIENCE TAKE CENTER STAGE

MATH + Club = Fun

Fifth-grade teacher Allison Robb has started a math club at Central Boulevard School for interested fourth- and fifth-grade students. The grades alternate weeks, but the club meets every week, with approximately 30 students each week. Currently in its first year at the school, the club is meant to challenge students and encourage higher-order thinking, as it relates to their age level, through games and “math magic.”



“Math is my background. I love math. I love to make it fun,” Ms. Robb said of why she started the club.

As part of the club, fifth-graders are participating in the National Math Olympiad, taking tests each week to track their progress and prepare for the event. The tests contain open-ended math questions that ask students to solve problems by thinking outside of the box. Through puzzles, card games and problem-solving tasks, students are given an outlet for fun exploration in math while building higher-order thinking skills.

Symbolic Butterfly Project

With the help of librarian Mrs. Ivers, third-graders at Charles Campagne observed the fall migration of monarch butterflies heading south to Mexico. The students used the Journey North website to learn about and track butterfly migration throughout the season. Journey North is a free, Internet-based program by Annenberg Learner that monitors the environment and allows participants to share field observations across the entire Northern Hemisphere while exploring the interrelated aspects of seasonal change.

To make the project interdisciplinary, students also worked with art teacher Danielle Hermann to create symmetrical paper monarch butterflies so that they could participate in a symbolic migration. The migration began in October when the students mailed their paper butterflies to Journey North, which sent the crafts to students in Mexico, who live near the areas to which the real butterflies migrate. In the spring, new paper butterflies will migrate back to Bethpage from elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada.



Elementary Argonauts

Argonauts from all three district elementary schools explored DNA at the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Learning Center. Each student participated in two labs – one where they explored genetic mutations of fruit flies and another where they extracted DNA. Students also explored which scientists first identified the building blocks of DNA, and how scientists all over the world are currently working together to map the human genome.

Marvels of Motion

The “mad scientist” visited Kramer Lane Elementary School and demonstrated some everyday encounters with science to students. Using age-appropriate experiments, the mad scientist introduced concepts of force through basic body motions and centrifuge using demonstrations with water on a swing. He explained Isaac Newton’s Laws of Motion and utilized a children’s bop bag to illustrate the reaction of force and the importance of a center of gravity for balance.

Qualified CHEMISTS

Students from JFK Middle School participated in the You Be the Chemist Challenge hosted by the Chemical Educational Foundation. The contest introduced students to the role of chemistry in their lives. Of the group, four students qualified to participate in the local contest, which will be held at JFK Middle School on Saturday, Feb. 28. Congratulations to all participants and the four qualifiers: Ujala Dar, Alex Maino, Pawan Pitiranggon and Soham Maiti.



Service to a Shelter

The Character Attributes Reap Excellence after-school program at Central Boulevard School hosts three sessions for fifth-grade students throughout the year. The program focuses on community service projects that are of interest to the students and can benefit the surrounding communities.

Recently, the program asked Town of Oyster Bay Animal Shelter representative Brad Panetta to speak with the CARE group. After briefly describing his responsibilities at the shelter and how they handle lost animals, Mr. Panetta explained to the students little ways they could help the animals. Some of the ideas discussed were to host an old blanket drive for the animals or to encourage others to adopt instead of purchase a pet.

The CARE group presented Panetta with cards they made to distribute to those who adopt a cat or dog.



JFK EXTENDS HELPING HANDS

Eight students from John F. Kennedy Middle School's student council visited the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park. As part of the "Helping Hands" program, students baked goods to donate to the house and brought more than 20 boxes of toys, games, dolls and stuffed animals that were collected from its holiday toy drive. In addition, students and staff raised \$1,800 through various fundraising activities and presented the house with their generous donation.



Slam Dunk on Phys Ed

A tradition spanning at least five decades, the annual fifth-grade physical education demonstration at Kramer Lane highlights the best of the department's curriculum. The performance, held during the day for students and in the evening for parents, features current pop music as students compete in various athletic events, including the "Pitfall Harry" obstacle course, scooter push, European handball, basketball and relay races. Each of the events serves to challenge students' balance, hand-eye coordination and mathematical skills through fun, interactive and team-building exercises.

The district's physical education program is designed to help every child develop physical fitness and muscular coordination in an atmosphere of good sportsmanship. Through effective instruction, children are able to participate in activities that enhance their mental, physical, emotional and social growth.

Rainbow of Health

Second-grade students at Kramer Lane Elementary School got to experience the rainbow – the rainbow of wellness. A representative from the Cornell Cooperative Extension conducted an age-appropriate workshop on health and nutrition for the students and utilized a giant rainbow for children to categorize fruits and vegetables. Once completed, students were urged to eat a rainbow of healthy foods to get all the benefits each one has to offer.

The representative also explained the food groups and why it's important to incorporate each of them onto your plate for every meal. Students went home with a handout that listed fruits and vegetables they may wish to try, as well as a "My Plate" diagram they could color to serve as an example of how to build a balanced meal.



Mark Your Calendars!

Budget Development Dates

As the district begins its discussion on the 2015-16 school budget, we urge all residents to participate in our budget development process. These meetings will provide an opportunity for community members to express their opinions, ask questions and hear explanations of the tax levy cap. We look forward to seeing you at these meetings.

Thursday, March 5

Budget Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ BHS

Thursday, March 26

Budget Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ BHS

Tuesday, March 31

Board of Education Business Meeting 8 p.m. @ BHS

Tuesday, April 21

Board of Education Workshop Meeting & Budget Adoption 8 p.m. @ BHS

Tuesday, April 28

Board of Education Business Meeting 8 p.m. @ BHS

Tuesday, May 12

Budget Hearing 8 p.m. @ BHS

Tuesday, May 19

School Budget Vote & Trustee Election 7a.m.-9p.m. @ BHS

Kindergarten Registration

The district is conducting kindergarten registration for its three elementary schools for the 2015-16 school year. Children born before Dec. 1, 2010, are eligible for enrollment.

Parents should contact the main office of each school prior to registration to receive paperwork that can be completed in advance: KLS: 644-4500; CBS: 644-4300; CCS: 644-4400. To determine your child's school, please call 644-4040. Registration will take place at the respective schools during normal school hours.

Private/Parochial School Transportation Reminder

Parents of students attending private or parochial schools should note that the deadline to submit your transportation request is April 1, 2015. For more information, please call 644-4040.

TAX CODE

The Bethpage School District Code Number for New York State Tax Returns is 052.

Please be certain to fill in the number in the appropriate space provided on your tax returns. School aid can be affected if the school district or code is incorrect or missing.

Union Free School District
BETHPAGE

NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Bethpage School District's
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