

BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
1260 Meadowbrook Road
North Merrick, NY 11566

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Calhoun, helped coordinate the visits. “This is the second year having lessons and we wanted the whole building to get the same message how hate and intolerance can lead to serious problems,” Cone said.

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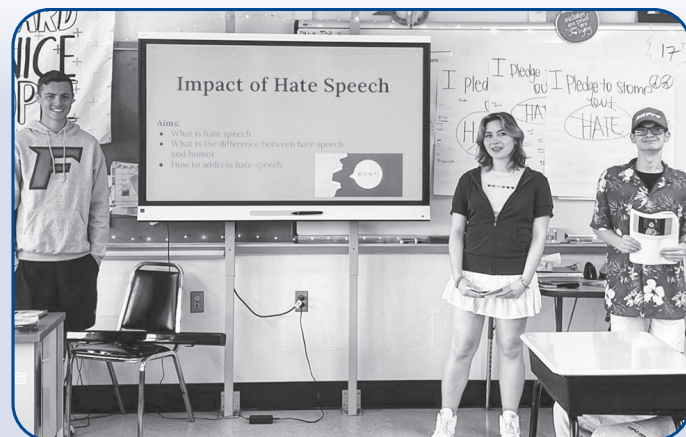
“Whether or not you feel what it represents, it still hurts others,” student Noah Paymer said. “And actions have consequences, especially when it comes to symbols such as these.”

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Accolades and Accomplishments

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Bellmore-Merrick Dominates at BASH Awards



The 2023 Broadcast Awards for Senior High were held at Hofstra University May 15, and the Central High School District was well represented with students from Mepham High School's Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting program and Kennedy High School's Cougar-TV.

BMB students took home five awards, winning first place from Newsday for the new category of Best Multimedia Story for Thomas DiSalvo, Greg Gallo, Nicholas Jimenez, Ryan Marr and Ruby Mattes' story about how local businesses impact the supply chain and the need to recycle. Mattes also took home first place for Best School for her story on the school's Poetry Out Loud competition. BMB took second place for Best Broadcast with "Morning Announcements" and second place for Best Sports Package with Ariel Boodhrum, Jake LoFrese, Kyle McQuillan and Matt Natof's story on the districtwide, all-female flag football team. Lily Yepez and Haley Hepworth were awarded third place for best anchor team on Long Island.

Kennedy's Preston Bowman and Samantha Schneider received second place in the category of Most Entertaining with their film, "Love's Better Blind."

BMB co-produced this year's awards with News Director Sean McQuillan serving as co-emcee and BMB Senior Producer Hannah Broxmeyer working behind the scenes as the event's technical director.

The event featured a keynote address from WABC Channel 7 Chief Meteorologist Lee Goldberg and a panel discussion led by Newsday TV.

"BASH Live provided an interactive stage show where students from schools across Long Island demonstrated some of the skills they've learned in their schools in the pursuit of broadcast excellence," explained BMB Program Director Stu Stein.

Alex Dollin, a former News 12 reporter who runs "Bay News Now" at Oyster Bay High School, led a session on producing better standups which included student volunteers performing mock standups in front of the over 700-person audience. Students from Mattituck-Cutchogue's WHTV-News employed BMB camera operator Anthony Ciuffo to demonstrate the best ways to record B-roll. Students from Westhampton Beach's "Hurricane Watch" demonstrated the best way to record an interview, and students from Southold High School's SOHO-TV explained how to sequence B-roll once it's been recorded. Broxmeyer showed clips from an episode of "Midweek Update" that featured work from Manhasset High School's Manhasset Broadcasting Company and Mattituck to explain how schools from across Long Island could work together to create content.

This year's BASH awards were the biggest yet, featuring more than 700 students from over 40 schools from Nassau and Suffolk counties, and for the first time two schools from Westchester attended (Ossining High School and Peekskill High School). As big as this year's BASH was, it almost did not happen as in January BASH's previous home, Stony Brook University, announced it could no longer host the event. Over the span of 48 hours, teachers from across the island exchanged hundreds of emails and arranged a steering committee made up of teachers from Manhasset High School, Mattituck-Cutchogue, Mepham, Southold and Westhampton Beach to find a new home for BASH and to save the event.

Mepham senior Thomas DiSalvo said he is grateful to all the teachers who stepped in to make sure this year's event became a reality.

"Every year, we look forward to BASH," he explained. "It's a chance for us to compare our work with the rest of the schools in the area and to get to know some of the other people creating media so we can work with them."

Plans for BASH 2024 are already underway when students from Mattituck Jr./Sr. High School will take over as the event's hosts.

CALHOUN NEWSPAPER | LITERARY MAGAZINE EARN PUBLICATION NODS

Hoofbeats, the Calhoun High School newspaper, was awarded second place in the General Excellence category and third place in the design category by the New York Press Association.

It was noted in the association's 2022 Better Newspaper Contest issue that Hoofbeats "is a wonderful publication that exhibits a high degree of professionalism and has earned an award in this competitive category."

Hoofbeats faculty adviser Jason Boland estimates the paper and its staff have won hundreds of awards over the last 15-plus years.

"We have had a long run of putting out a great product and have been fortunate enough to have students win awards through the NYPA, Newsday and Columbia University," he added. Additionally, it has won first place in the ASPA contest for 15 years in a row.

The paper is produced five times a year and spotlights the latest happenings on and around campus. Filled with news, sports,

editorials, entertainment and more, the paper is written and edited by students. Each June, it publishes awards won throughout that school year.

Additionally, the school's literary magazine, Pegasus, earned an Excellent rating in the National Council of Teachers of English's REALM Contest.

It was noted among 12 other Long Island high school winners and 33 statewide that were honored. Student staff members are involved in all stages of the process, including creation of literary and art work, editing, layout, selection of work, etc.

Jason Boland and Dawn Boland serve as the magazine's faculty advisers.

"The literary magazine at Calhoun is a place for creative minds to contribute to the legacy that Pegasus chronicles," Dawn Boland said. "Our contributors select a theme for each edition and work to share that theme in the written word as well as via visual art. As advisers, we are proud of the creative legacy that our students have created in last year's winning edition."



Kennedy Wind Ensemble Performs at Naval Base

The Kennedy High School wind ensemble traveled to the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Virginia, from April 20-22.

Director of Bands Walter Avellaneda said this was the first civilian band to perform on the base. Home to the Atlantic Fleet and the largest naval base in the world, the students were invited to perform for active military, veterans and their families.

"We performed a live documentary in music with projections and audio clips called 'Beyond Courage: That We Might Live,'" he explained. "In this self-contained, 90-minute concert, we took the audience and transported them back to World War II by using actors, singers, movie projections and radio broadcasts from the era."

The wind ensemble was joined by the Clarence High School wind ensemble and

chorale from Clarence, New York.

"Once we got on stage it was surreal and made it so special," alto saxophonist Alexandra Levitt said.

The performance at the Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story was conducted by composer Stephen Melillo, who has been an artist-in-residence at Kennedy in past years.

Following "Beyond Courage: That We Might Live," there was a special arrangement of "God Bless America." The concert concluded with Melillo's arrangement of the national anthem which prompted many veterans and soldiers to rise with the help of their families for a final salute.

"This self-contained concert has only been performed three times in the country and recorded professionally by a Japanese military band, but this was the first time video and

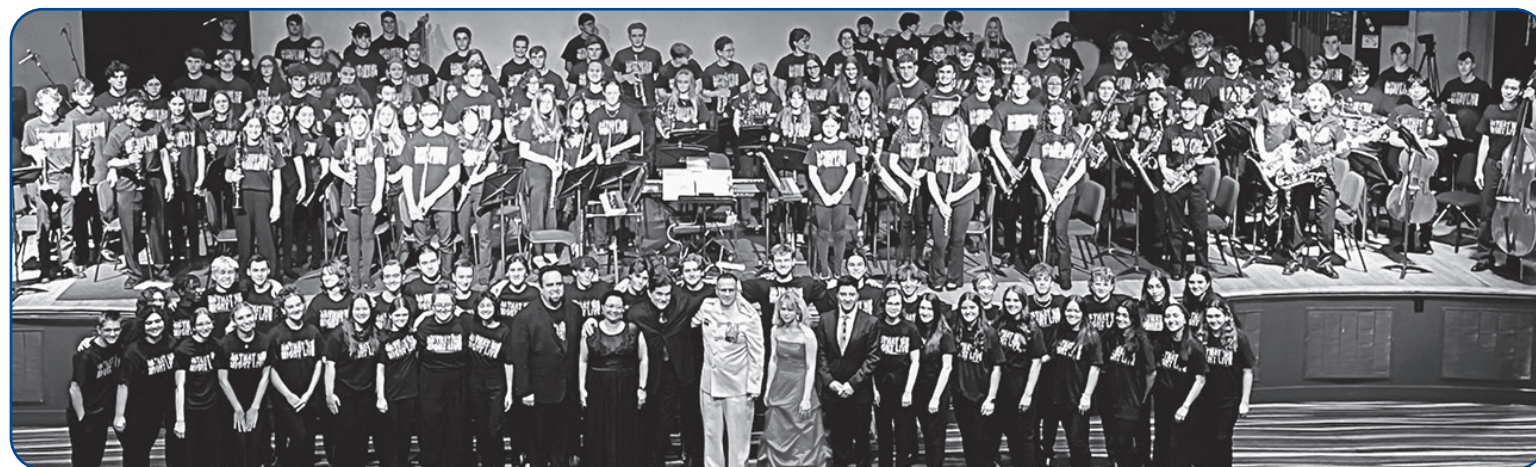
audio were actually synched together for this performance," Avellaneda said.

In the past, Avellaneda said he has taken groups to compete or perform and they receive a trophy. With this performance, they were able to give something back to a deserving audience.

"It was the ultimate lesson in serving those who served while also providing students with an incredible, immersive musical experience," he said.

Avellaneda said the experience tops the highlights of his education career thus far.

"The students were so excited, for all the right reasons, and I was just so thrilled and proud with how they all rose to the occasion," he added. "It was not an easy road to get us there, but we kept thinking of those we were going to honor, and it was a great source of motivation."



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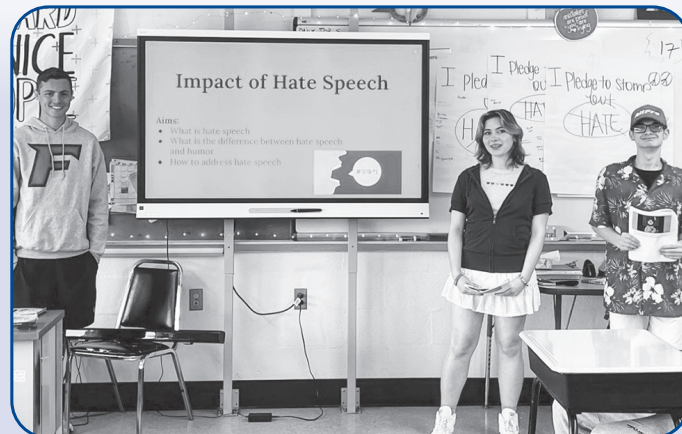
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