



BELLMORE-MERRICK

Central High School District

High Expectations

High Achievement

The Pillars of Success
Academics, Athletics, the Arts and Altruism

POINTS OF PRIDE

December 2019

Academics

- Seniors **Jordan Berke, David Frank** and **Cooper Moran** of **Kennedy** and **Marc Edayadi** of **Calhoun** were named Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation semifinalists.
- Students from **Calhoun, Kennedy and Mepham** participated in the first **Bellmore-Merrick Business Challenge** on Dec. 19 at Brookside. Twenty students from each school participated and groups consisted of one student from each school. Groups competed in a variety of events in a DECA-inspired roleplay scenario.
- **Kennedy's Aiden Benjamin** was the high scorer in contest No. 3 of the Nassau County Interscholastic Math League with five out of six correct. The JFK Math Team scored 25 out of the possible 30 points, which has them currently ranked in the top 15 in the county out of over 100 teams.
- **Calhoun Model Congress** won eight awards at the Yale Model Congress Dec. 5-8, including best delegate and best legislation.
- The **Kennedy Senior CyberPatriot team**, "Devs 2.0," placed first in New York State in the Platinum tier for the second year in a row.
- On Dec. 20, **Calhoun High School** was visited by Class of '87 alumnus **Kevin Shinick**, author of "Star Wars: Force Collector."
- **Kennedy** held alumni day on Dec. 20 and included keynote speaker Dr. Jonathan Haas of the JFK Class of 1984. Dr. Haas shared with students his journey from the classrooms of Kennedy High School to creating the No. 1 Cyberknife program in the country.
- Out of 600 member schools nationwide in the Student Television Network, 81 juniors and seniors were selected for induction into its 2019 National Honor Society class. Of those 81 inductees, seven are members of Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting. Seniors **Lorrie DellaCroce, Casey Fahrner, Rocco Law** and **Kyle Santagato**, along with juniors **Emily Rosenberg, Louie Saraceni** and **Michele Spiller**, were among those selected.

Athletics

- **Calhoun's Sarah Multer** and **Alex Pusateri** and **Kennedy's Jennifer Field** and **Cooper Moran** were awarded the New York State Association for Health, **Physical Education**, Recreation and Dance Nassau Zone Outstanding Physical Education Award.
- **Kennedy's Eric Schindel** and **AJ Pizzirusso** took home wins in the Spring Wrestling Tournament.
- **Mepham's Pirettes** hosted local youth for a winter clinic on Dec. 15.

- **Mepham's Kenny Franquiz** was named honorable mention All-County in football and **Jack Savalli** and **Matt Hegi** were named All-County. In addition, Hegi was awarded the Jay Fielder Top Scholar-Athlete Award and Scholarship.
- Calhoun's boys cross-country teams earned honors including All-Conference – **Lucas Ahrens, Joe Bilardello, Riley Brennan, Dan Islas, Steve Multer, Alex Rosario and John Schwab**, and All County – **Braeden Vieni** and **Aidan Kopelman**. The team came in third for the state qualifier. On the girls side, **Emma Bhansingh** was All-Conference and **Faith Dwyer** was All-County and a state meet qualifier.
- In **Mepham** wrestling, **Ryan Hegi** won the Most Pins/Least Time award at the MacArthur Tournament on Dec. 10. Both **Hegi** and brother **Matt Hegi** earned gold medals at the tournament.
- **Kennedy's Cameron Montalbano** was named to Newsday's All-Long Island first team. She was listed as one of Newsday's Top 20 girls basketball players to watch in the 2019-20 season.
- **Mepham girls tennis** was named Conference 3B champions.
- **The Calhoun's girls soccer** team was given the Sportsmanship Award at the county dinner. Additionally, the following players were honored: All-County and Scholar-Athlete **Kerry Pearson**, All-Class **Ava Bayat, Nicole Devlin** and **Molly Woods**, and All-Conference **Jennifer Enella** and **Lauren Rossi**.
- **Calhoun girls volleyball team** members were honored: **Kristina Losquadro** – All-County, **Abigail D'Antonio** – All-County, **Morgan Rehm** – All-County Honorable Mention, **Emily Keener** – All-County Honorable Mention, **Ella Maldonado** – All-Conference.
- **Mepham Cheerleading** earned a big win on Dec. 10 and will head to Orlando, FL in February to compete in the UCA Nationals.
- **Devin Green**, a Grand Avenue eighth grader who competes on the Mepham junior varsity wrestling team, won the 113-pound weight class at the MacArthur Tournament.
- **Mepham girls soccer** players **Julia Cardace, Rachel Eisert, Briana Sayoc** and **Luciana Setteducate** were named All-County. Additionally, **Luciana Setteducate** was named to the Long Island second team by Newsday.
- **Mepham girls volleyball** players **Samantha Green** and **Lauren Boles** were named All-County.

Arts

- Eighth grade band students from **Merrick Avenue Middle School** worked with **Kennedy** and **Calhoun** band teachers on Dec. 20.
- **Mepham** hosted its fourth annual Poetry Invitational on Dec. 17, welcoming presenters Arianna Miller and Matt Coonan.
- Senior percussionist **Cooper Moran** of **Calhoun** performed in the All-State concert in Rochester, New York.
- **Mepham's Poetry Out Loud** results: first-place winner was **Candace Casimir** and second-place winner was **Alyssa Dioguardi**. At Calhoun's Poetry Out Loud contest: first-place winner was **Reza Aziz** and second-place winner was **Cayla Kravitz**. This is the third year in a row that Reza is the first-place

winner. First- and second-place finishers move on to the regional competition on Jan. 31 at Nassau Community College.

- **Merrick Avenue's Word of Mouth**, the school's acapella group led by Dana Brandwein, performed at The Bristol Assisted Living in Westbury and at The Seasons at East Meadow, singing songs for the residents in both places.

Altruism

- The district came together to host the Lions Club Polar Express event, benefiting hundreds of Nassau County underprivileged youths, on Dec. 7 at **Brookside**.
- **Mephram LEO Club** made blankets for Project Linus, which gives blankets to kids in need, on Dec. 12.
- **Kennedy** hosted a Trivia Challenge that raised more than \$1,500 for Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Nassau County.
- **Mephram** held its first Winter Festival on Dec. 7 for the local community.
- **The Grand Avenue Yorker Club** held its annual holiday food drive for the Bellmore-Merrick Community Cupboard, collecting \$450.
- **The Mephram Library** hosted a makerspace for students to craft holiday cards for the Community Cupboard.
- **Mephram LEO Club members** spent Dec. 7 working on a house in Central Islip for a Habitat for Humanity family of four.
- **The students at Merrick Avenue** collected over 20 boxes of books for The Book Fairies.