



BELLMORE-MERRICK

Central High School District

High Expectations

High Achievement

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

POINTS OF PRIDE

January 2020

Academics

- **Kennedy** seniors **Andrew Brinton** and **Katherine St George** were named 2020 Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists on Jan. 22. **Kenar Gelman** was named a Regeneron Science Talent Scholar on Jan. 8, along with Brinton and St George.
- **Merrick Avenue** eighth grader **Stefan Caizzo** won the National Geographic GeoBee on Jan. 6. Other finalists included **Aidan Murphy** and **Petar Ignjatovic**. **Stefan** will continue on to test at the state level.
- **Grand Avenue** eighth grader **Jaclyn Dobbs** won the National Geographic GeoBee on Jan. 10. The solo finalist was **Alexandria Rabasco**. **Jaclyn** will continue on to test at the state level.
- **Dan Stiglitz**, a technology teacher at **Merrick Avenue**, was notified Jan. 8 that he has received a \$500 grant for his seventh grade tech classes. He submitted an application for a Jovia grant to purchase Sphero robots to add to the seventh grade curriculum.
- **At Kennedy**, 17 out of 25 students placed in the top five at the Nassau/Suffolk FBLA completion at Hofstra University. Ten students placed in the top 10 and qualified to compete at the state level in April.
- Three members of the **Mepham Future Business Leaders of America club** earned first place at the Long Island Regional Conference at Hofstra on Jan. 17: **Ryan Kertzner** – Banking and Financial Systems, **William McCormack** – Intro to Financial Math and **Rocco Law** – Sports and Entertainment Marketing.
- **Kennedy's Christopher Prainito** earned a perfect score of six out of six on round five of the Nassau County Interscholastic Math League competition.
- **Kennedy** hosted its inaugural robotics competition on Jan. 25. Thirty-five teams came from all over Long Island, including **Calhoun** and **Mepham**, to compete in this all-day tournament that included robotics matches and skills judging of VEX EDR robots constructed and programmed this season. The **JFK Team B** ranked No. 6 in the tournament going into the afternoon elimination matches. **JFK Team A** advanced to the quarterfinals. **JFK Team B** also placed eighth in Tournament Skills ranking.
- **Kennedy's CyberPatriot** team placed No. 1 in New York State and No. 109 out of 3,630 high school teams in the nation. In the national semifinals round they competed among those teams in the platinum tier. Only the top 8% of teams reach that level of difficulty and are given the hardest images to hack and most challenging networks to fix. Congratulations to **Jonathan Ivers**, **Tyler Kealy**, **Chris Prainito**, **Jack Racer**, **Aidan Walden** and **Jared Weinstein**.
- **Josephine Parlagreco**, a **Mepham** science teacher, was honored on Jan. 20 by the Bellmore Chamber of Commerce. She received the Zagarino Outstanding Community Member of the Year Award.

Athletics

- The **Calhoun varsity kickline** squad won first place in kickline, second place in jazz and third place in hip hop at the Scholastic Kickline Competition on Jan. 5 at Nassau Community College.
- **Mepham cheerleaders** hosted a Cheerleader for a Day event on Jan. 11 for local girls ages 5-13.
- **The Kennedy girls basketball team** hosted a clinic on Jan. 11 for local girls in grades 4-8.
- The **Mepham wrestling team** competed in the Charles McCullough Wrestling Tournament in Glen Cove during the winter break. Seniors **Matt and Ryan Hegi** both won their weight classes with pins in the final, and **Matt Hegi** was awarded the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award for his efforts. **Hegi** was also featured in Newsday for receiving the Jay Fiedler Award.
- In **Kennedy girls and boys winter track**, the girls kicked off their winter break at the Bishop Loughlin Invitational on Dec. 21. The sprint crew had a great day led by **Jenna Kaplan**, who ran a five-second personal best in the 300-meter. **Kaplan** also recorded a lifetime best in the 55-meter dash. The boys team had a great competition at St. Anthony's on Dec. 27. **Brandon Root** and **Jack Racer** both had exceptional performances in the 400-meter run and 55-meter dash, respectively, with big personal bests.
- On Jan. 8, the **Mepham** and **Calhoun wrestling** teams competed in a Wrestling Takes Down Drugs varsity dual meet at Mepham, which aims to keep wrestlers on a healthy, drug-free path by promoting the benefits of wrestling.
- On Jan. 11, members of **Kennedy's Athletes Helping Athletes** and **One World** teamed up and volunteered their time at the Shooting Stars Holiday Party. The Shooting Stars program gives children with special needs the opportunity to exercise and socialize in a judgement-free setting.
- **Kennedy's Marissa Spottiswood** was named a champion at a track conference on Jan. 15 after winning the 3,000-meter. She also placed second in the 1,500-meter.
- The **Calhoun girls track team** won its third conference champion title in a row.
- The **Mepham Pirettes** kickline team placed first in Large Varsity Kick and Large Varsity Team Performance at the NDA regionals on Jan. 18 at Walt Whitman High School.
- The **Merrick Avenue** eighth grade **girls volleyball team** finished the season undefeated 11-0.
- The **girls and boys bowling team** competed in the Nassau County championships Feb. 1-2.
- The **Bellmore-Merrick Sharks** competed at the division championships the last week in January. The competition began with diving on Jan. 27. **Youssef Ibrahim** finished in first place and qualified for the New York State championships to be held at Eisenhower Park in March. **David Angelou, Ameziane Aouchiche, Jack Keene, Jack McCarthy, Julian Muenzer, Matt Perez, Jules Rivera and Jack Smith** all posted times that qualify them for the county championships Feb. 5.
- The **varsity ice hockey team** clinched a berth to compete for the Nassau County championship as well as the New York State High School championship.

Arts

- The district's fourth annual **Faculty Follies** took place on Jan. 30 at Mepham. Over 80 staff and faculty from all of our schools and central office displayed great talent. The proceeds, which totaled over \$3,000, will go to support the Community Cupboard. Several students from all of the schools also

served as the emcees for the evening, which was organized by Cheryl Fontana, the district director of fine arts.

- **COORE** artists at **Calhoun** participated in an art show on Jan. 31.
- **Kennedy** hosted a band workshop for eighth graders on Jan. 31, organized by Anthony Brandofino from Mepham and **Walter Avellaneda** from Kennedy. Students from **Kennedy** and **Mepham** (via Skype) spent the morning speaking to the eighth graders about their experience in the band program. Students then performed together.

Altruism

- Jan. 17 was the districtwide **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**, where schools collected various items and learned of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy during their social studies classes. Several students also assembled seasonal bags for the Community Cupboard and other various family shelters.
- The **S.A.D.D. Club (Students Against Destructive Decisions) at Grand Avenue** collected Mugs of Love and filled them with tea, coffee, soup, etc., that will be donated during Valentine's Day week to a local food pantry.
- The **S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club at Merrick Avenue** volunteered their time at Island Harvest to prepare over 3,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to be included in about 2,500 meals to be donated to families in need across Long Island on Feb. 2.