



*High Expectations*

*High Achievement*

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

## POINTS OF PRIDE

### February 2016

#### Academics

- Nine district students were named semifinalists at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair on Feb. 3: **Calhoun** students **Brian Kishinevsky, Louis Lin, Jacob Miller** and **Katherine Ratner**; **Mephram** student **Ben Honigsfeld**; and **Kennedy** students **Claire Kelly, Anna Kuznetsova, Rachel Mashal** and **Steven Obadiah**. They competed against 400 other research students, and 100 have been invited to compete in the second round of competition in March. Winners of the second round will be eligible to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held in Phoenix in May.
- Two teams from **Calhoun** competed in the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on Feb. 6. The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest is an annual international competition that challenges teams of students from middle school to college age to compete in building the most elaborate and hilarious Rube Goldberg machine. This year's challenge was to open an umbrella. Going in with a weather theme was the team "News at 6," made up of sophomores **Matt Advocate, Taylor Curcio, James Demirakos, Steven Manolios** and **Greg Scolieri**. Their machine had two very successful runs. The second team, comprised of sophomores **James Caracciolo, Joy Ma** and **Amelia Seabold**, came together for their second year of the competition. "A Spoonful of Sugar" nailed the whimsical aspect of the competition with a "Mary Poppins"-themed machine, costumes and even a matching skit. Their first-place win earned them the honor of participating in nationals in Wisconsin on April 23.
- **SEPTA** hosted its annual Transition Fair in late January. With more than 55 vendors in attendance, it was the largest transition fair in Nassau County, providing an enormous amount of information to parents of children with special needs.
- **Azaria Vargas** of **Kennedy** and **Lindsay Jordan** of **Calhoun** were selected as this year's school representatives for the **Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference**. HOBY is a national organization that sponsors leadership seminars in the United States and around the world.
- **Calhoun** senior **Rachel Leiner** was selected as a finalist in the 2016 National Geographic Student Contest. She was one of 24 finalists chosen out of more than 2,300 entries. The winners will be announced at the end of February. As part of the contest, winners receive a people's choice award based on an online vote.
- **Calhoun's Christina Garbarino** has been selected as one of 360 high school students across New York State to attend the American Legion Auxiliary's Empire Girls State program, a hands-on program about state governing processes and the U.S. Constitution. Christina will attend SUNY Brockport the week of June 26, where she will help build the government of a mythical 51st state from the local



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level up to the state level. She will help create “bills” and participate in campaigns, rallies, speeches, various legislative committees and a community service project.

## Arts

- The following **Mephram** students have advanced to the state level of the National PTA Reflections Contest: **Lindsey Pollack** (photography), **Emma Tochilovsky** (film production), and **Benjamin Berkowitz** and **Immanuel Mellis** (music composition).
- **Kennedy** students **Josephine Cheung** (visual arts) and **Samantha Lobel** (dance choreography) were selected as regional finalists for Nassau County in the National PTA Reflections Contest. Both winners will be invited to a reception on April 14.
- Thirty-three students were inducted into **Calhoun’s** National Art Honor Society on Feb. 11.
- In the Hofstra Shakespeare Festival, **Calhoun’s Lori Zomback** won Best Actress, **Ryan Dziedziech** won Best Set Design and **Rebecca Lewis** won Best Costume Design. Lori is part of the On Tour Company.
- **Calhoun’s Ariana Grieco** finished as first runner-up in New York State when she competed in the Miss Amazing Pageant in New York City on Feb. 20. She was “practically perfect” in her lip sync and dance routine as Mary Poppins and represented herself beautifully throughout the evening.

## Athletics

- The **Mephram** cheerleading squad finished seventh in the country in the UCA National High School Cheerleading Championship, held in Orlando, Florida, on Feb. 5-7.
- **Calhoun’s girls varsity basketball team** was awarded a gift certificate to a local restaurant after their youth clinic was chosen by Team Up 4 Community. Team Up 4 Community is running a year-long community service challenge to encourage school-aged athletes on Long Island to give back to their communities.
- Coach Kerry Dennis and the **Mephram kickline** team took first place in Pom and second place in both Jazz and Overall Team at the Long Island Kickline Competition on Feb. 7 at Nassau Community College.
- Congratulations to **Mephram’s Kyle Althenn, Jack Molloy** and **Jose Pineda**, who took first place in the Nassau County wrestling qualifiers on Feb. 6.
- **Calhoun’s Kaitlin Messmer** and **Jessica Messmer** competed in the County Rifle Championships.
- A group of **Kennedy** and **Mephram** students attended a leadership conference titled “Student Athletes as Student Leaders: Leadership On and Off the Field” at Hofstra University on Feb. 2. Every high school in Nassau County was invited to send six athletes who have demonstrated leadership qualities. The Kennedy athletes who attended were **Domenic Brocco, Casey Feigeles, Jack Jones, Josh Levine, Nicole Rezak** and **Nicolina Torchia**. Those from **Mephram** included **Stephanie Burns, Kevin Chaimowitz, Matthew Conry, Taylor Drew, Maeve Testa** and **Michael Valentino**. The keynote speaker was Dr. Gregory Dale, a professor of sport psychology and sport ethics at Duke University.
- With a 190 average, **Mephram’s Nicole Brown** was once again selected as an All-County bowler. Nicole is ranked sixth overall in Nassau County.



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- **Grand Avenue Middle School** eighth-grader **Youssef Ibrahim** finished the dual meet season with the Bellmore-Merrick Sharks undefeated in one-meter diving. He went on to win this event at both the Division A and Nassau County championships. Youssef's personal best score of 491.05 points at the county championships qualified him for the New York State Championships, which will be held at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York, on March 4-5. He outscored the second-place competitor by more than 80 points.
- **Mephram** soccer players **Sarah Bayer** and **Maddie Pascarella** qualified to participate in the U.S. Soccer Olympic Development Program in mid-February. Maddie will now travel to Arizona to compete in the 2016 U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program Championships, and Sarah will travel to Costa Rica as a member of the Region I Olympic Development Program team.
- **Calhoun's Devon Bayer, Grace Moore, Cristin Rodriguez** and **Juliann Vizoso** recently ran an amazing relay time at a meet in New York City to qualify for the National Track and Field Championships in New York City on March 11. It was a personal best time in this relay event for the girls, and they are the first Calhoun girls relay team to qualify for the nationals.
- **Calhoun's Joy Ma** recently attended the Junior Olympics in Cleveland, Ohio, for fencing. She came in second for Junior Women's Epee and fifth for Cadet Women's Epee.
- **Kennedy's Alexis Tillman** was named a News 12 Scholar Athlete. She is being highlighted on News 12 for her athletics, academics and character as of March 1.

### Charity

- **Grand Avenue's SADD club** served as teacher helpers in second- through fifth-grade classrooms when they visited the Association for Children with Down Syndrome. Health teacher/SADD club advisor Pia Santodonato organized the activity. Separately, SADD collected soup, crackers, granola bars and other goodies to fill mugs for their annual Valentine's Day donation to the INN at Freeport.
- **Kennedy's Key Club** just completed a book drive for the Book Fairies, a nonprofit organization that collects reading material for people in need. The club donated 500 books to this organization.
- **Merrick Avenue Middle School's** department of world languages celebrated Cultural Awareness Day- on Friday, February 12, 2016. The gymnasium was filled with the aroma of different foods significant to the heritage of the building's students and world language staff. All remaining food was donated to Island Harvest.
- Ms. Theana Cheliotis and **Mephram's Key Club** collected more than 180 prom dresses that were distributed at a Magical Moment event on Feb. 27 in Jamaica, Queens.

Comment [C1]: On what date?

Comment [C2]: Need title/position and first name