

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

POINTS OF PRIDE

March 2023

Academics

- **Five Kennedy ASR sophomores** won the first-place presentation award in the Northwell Health Medical Marvels Competition. **Ellie Gelman, Jack Levitt, Mark Prainito, Jayden Simon** and **Mason Tso** developed a professional, three-minute presentation proposing policies for mitigating climate change.
- One **Kennedy REACH Challenge team** earned first place and another was named a semifinalist in the ITEEA STEM Competition. **Preston Bowman, Ella Cullin, Maxwell Frank, Dylan Friedman, Ellie Gelman, Ava Goldsmith, Chris Khul, Minami Rodger, Claire Schwartz** and **Cole Wasserman** won first place for their project, EasyREACH 360, while **Morgan Beers, Jaclyn Cohen, Gabriella Elliott, Zoe Friedman, Max Guo, Evan Kolberg, Jack Levitt, Mark Prainito, Jayden Simon, Autumn Tienachariya** and **Mason Tso** were named a semifinalist team for their project, Coin Calculator. The teams will receive STEM grants of \$1,000 and \$100, respectively.
- **Gabriella Aievoli** and **Alexa Blum** of Calhoun were selected to attend the Empire Girls State Program this summer. **Mia Iovane** is the alternate candidate. **Anthony Greci, Gregory Katragis** and **Sam Saldarelli** were selected to participate in Boys State.
- **Siddhangi Wickramasinghe of Merrick Avenue** has qualified for the in-person regional Scripps National Spelling Bee competition at Half Hollow Hills East on March 24. After winning the MAMS school bee on Jan. 12, Sid completed the online vocabulary component on Feb. 17. Sid ranked 28th out of 150 test-takers on this exam, which qualifies her for the regional on March 24.
- **Kennedy Robotics Team 59968D** – Tyler Bissoondial, Gavin Chen, David Greenberg, Massimo Marino and Handsome Zheng – won the Inspire Award at the Adelphi event on Feb. 18.
- **Seven robotics teams** from Calhoun, Kennedy and Mepham reached the New York State Southern Championship on March 5.
- **Kennedy senior Lauren Gomez-Nieto** traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent the New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol for Legislative Day in the nation’s capital. Lauren spent three days meeting with senators and members of Congress. During the trip, she received the Meritorious Service Award and a challenge coin from the Pentagon.
- **Mepham’s BMB (Bellmore Merrick Broadcasting)** has been named a finalist in two categories for STN Broadcast Excellence awards. The BMB “Morning Announcements” was nominated for Best Weekly

News Broadcast and “Midweek Update” was nominated for Best News Magazine. The shows and crews are led by showrunners **Sean McQuillan** (MA) and **Hannah Broxmeyer** (MWU).

- **Mepham’s Nicholas Reardon** was selected as the 2023 honoree for the Science Teachers Association of New York State Outstanding Senior award. This award is given annually to a Mepham senior that has demonstrated excellence in the sciences.
- **Mepham’s Matt Yang** was selected to the All-Star Math Competition Team this year. He will travel to Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University to compete against others from the region.
- **Kennedy ASR teacher Barbi Frank** has been named a 2023 Distinguished Teacher by the Harvard Club of Long Island “for her positive impact on students’ lives.” She was one of 12 honorees who were nominated by Harvard University undergraduates who went to Long Island schools. They were recognized during an award ceremony at the Heritage Club at Bethpage.
- **Mepham’s Physics team** took overall first place at the Long Island Physics Olympics held at Farmingdale State College. Team members Matthew Keegan, Alex Luft, Matthew O’Brien, Mitch Savalli and Matt Yang, under the coaching and guidance of physics teacher Adam Greaves, finished first place in the Physics Bowl competition, second place in Projectiles and third place in Paper Airplanes.
- **Mepham senior Riley Fried** was one of five students who advanced to the final round of the Poetry Out Loud State Competition at the Center for Fiction in Brooklyn on March 18. Riley was one of 20 students who placed first or second in the regional competitions throughout the state. Her teacher is Nicole Maresca.
- **Calhoun students Gabriel Weredyk and Hayden Okonowitz** earned spots on the Nassau County Interscholastic Math League All-Star Team, which will compete on April 21-22 in Ithaca, New York, and June 2-3 at Pennsylvania State University.
- **The Mepham Quiz Bowl team took second place in its latest competition.**

Arts

- The **Merrick Avenue Drama Club** presented “Singin’ in the Rain” on March 23-24.
- The **Kennedy Drama Club** presented “Mamma Mia!” March 1-April 1.
- The **Grand Avenue Drama Club** presented “Newsies” on March 24 and 29.
- The **Calhoun choral department** held a double-period workshop to work on vocal technique with Lisa Howard, who was the award-winning original Rona in the “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” on Broadway.
- **Kennedy’s Michael Papazis** was awarded a Silver Key in the prestigious and competitive annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Michael is a senior in both Vanessa Albaneze’s Advanced Placement Drawing class as well as Sarah Ritchie’s Advanced Placement Photography class. He produced a

photorealistic oil painting from his own photograph of the TWA Hotel at New York's JFK Airport, titled "Reflections."

- The following students were invited to showcase their artwork at the All-County Art Exhibition at Long Beach High School on March 19. **Mepham:** Tyasia Bramwell, Abigail Calderon, Evan Callahan, Addison Chang, Nicolette Crawson, Ivan Formilien, Josh Gilmore, Vivian Guo, Emma Henry, Madison Imken, Ostroff, Isabella Rabasco, Phoenix Savalli, Quinn Sendrowitz, Sarah Maria Wajda. **Kennedy:** Morgan Beers, Shanna Daliendo, Maxwell Frank, Kayra Imirzalioglu, Eric Isaac, Aaron Khan, Elisabeth Le Van, Amanda Levine, Michael Papazis, Stephanie Pedone, Rowan Perotta and Antonio Scultore. **Calhoun:** Pearl Cicalese, Max Cortez Cruz, Andy Granados, Gianna Grewal, Emily Guzowski, Melanie Hladky, Grace Maraglio, Zuza Michalski, Kruti Naik, Julia Parente, Giavannah Posner and Levi Schuyler. In addition, there was a special scholarship ceremony honoring senior **Eric Isaac** of **Kennedy** for his artwork and dedication to multiple crafts throughout his high school career.
- Orchestra students from all three schools, led by student **Kennedy's Fiona Yeung**, have been volunteering in a NYSSMA peer tutoring program. High schoolers work with orchestra students from Grand and Merrick Avenue middle schools.
- The **Calhoun On Tour Company** continues its 50th anniversary season with "Gypsy" on March 25, 31 and April 1.

Athletics

- The **Mepham Pirettes** earned second-place in Large Varsity Kick, third place in Large Varsity Team Performance and eighth place in Large Varsity Pom this weekend at the National Dance Alliance National Championship in Orlando, Florida.
- The **Bulldogs varsity ice hockey team** ended its run to states on March 6 at the Long Beach Ice Arena after a valiant effort.
- The **Bulldogs junior varsity ice hockey team** won the Nassau County championships on March 13.
- **Calhoun's Logan Schaeffler** won the 1600-meter at states on March 4 in 4:13. He topped his PR by eight seconds. **Calhoun's Sara Manson** placed seventh in states in the triple jump. She beat her own record in the triple jump but earned All-State and All-Federation honors.
- Several **Calhoun girls track athletes** competed at the New Balance Nationals and the Nike Nationals March 11-12. In the 4 x 200-meter relay: **Julia Baguiao, Yolina Bastien, Sophia Hines** and **Paulina Kakalos**; in the 4 x 400-meter relay: **Julia Baguiao, Kaitlin Slattery, Kaitlyn Stibritz** and **Sofia Zampella**; **Sara Manson** in the triple jump; **Taylor Halvorsen** in the 1-mile race walk; **Sara Manson** and **Brooke Cancellarich** in the 60-meter hurdles.

- Members of the **Sharks** districtwide swim team competed in states on March 4-5. **Richie Ippolitti of Kennedy** and **David Angelou, Jack Keene** and **James McCarthy of Mepham** all participated in the freestyle medley.
- **Angelina Seteducatte of Mepham** finished in third place in the Nassau County girls shot put competition.
- **Ray Adams of Calhoun** came in third in the state wrestling meet in his weight class. This caps off a very successful high school wrestling career with over 100 wins.
- On March 3-4, the **Bellmore-Merrick Sharks** competed at the New York State Swim and Dive championships held at Ithaca College. **Mepham's Jack Keene** swam in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard butterfly. Jack finished 18th in the butterfly and reset his own district record with a time of 51.81. The relay team of **David Angelou, Richard Ippoliti (Kennedy), Jack Keene** and **James McCarthy (Mepham)** finished 19th in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Altruism

- **Kennedy's National Honor Society** collected donations of tissues, canned fruit and condiments in honor of International Women's Day to be donated to local charities.
- **Calhoun** hosted a Captain's Academy Spring Sports Food Drive in March to benefit the Community Cupboard.
- **Ava Mogelfsky**, the president of Becca' Closet chapter at **Kennedy**, orchestrated a prom dress drive. On two days in mid-March, the group was able to distribute 50 prom dresses to deserving individuals.
- The **Kennedy Student Government** participated in the Polar Plunge on March 25 to benefit the Special Olympics of New York.
- The **Kennedy SADD Club** hosted a bake sale on March 20 to benefit the Birthday Wishes Foundation.
- The **Kennedy Key Club** hosted a blood drive on March 20.
- **Mepham** hosted its 13th Chop Your Locks for Charity event on March 22 to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation.
- **SAVE** is a program at **Mepham** where members are committed to preventing the spread of vaping and e-cigarette usage among middle school students. SAVE students excel in academics, athletics and the arts while participating in a variety of extracurricular activities. They will be visiting Grand Avenue several times during the month of March to share their experiences in high school and how they have been able to make positive choices regarding vaping and e-cigarettes.
- The **Calhoun Key Club** hosted a bingo fundraiser for Last Hope Animal Rescue on March 15.



BELLMORE-MERRICK

Central High School District

High Expectations

High Achievement

- The **Calhoun Leadership Class** sponsored a donation drive for the Last Hope Animal Rescue throughout March.
- **Kennedy** student **Alec Ader** is in the process of completing his Eagle Scout project by reconditioning and restoring Shore Road Elementary School's courtyard.
- After a successful donation drive, the **Kennedy chapter of Becca's Closet** was able to distribute more than 60 prom dresses to Long Island students in need. Junior **Ava Mogelesky**, who serves as the chapter's president, said they have collected more than 300 dresses since the start of the 2022-23 school year.
- The **Calhoun Equality Club** hosted a pad and tampon drive for the Community Cupboard throughout March.