

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

POINTS OF PRIDE

April 2021

Academics

- **Kennedy** sophomore **Tyler Bissoondial** won first place in the category of Plant Science at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. As a finalist, he will be heading to the 2021 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.
- **Grand Avenue** students competed virtually in the Tri-County Science and Engineering Fair. **Tristan Bissoondial** took first place for his project, "Glycine Betaine Improves Tolerance to Cadmium in Lemna minor." **Peter Udilovich** took second place for his project, "The Effect of Flour Concentration on Mycelium-Hemp Material Strength," while **Evan Kolberg** took third place for his project, "Are Hippodamia convergens more effective at removing Acyrthosiphon pisum than a chemical called imidacloprid?" Both Bissoondial and Udilovich were selected as 2021 Broadcom MASTERS nominees. These students are selected to participate in the national competition. Kolberg was named an alternate to the national competition.
- On April 22-23, **Merrick Avenue Middle School** social studies and English students heard testimony from Holocaust survivor Marion Blumenthal Lazan during a PTA-sponsored event that discussed the appropriate times and importance of speaking up for others.
- April 22 marked **Kennedy's first DEI Day** and **Virtual Pep Rally**, where students purchased T-shirts to show their solidarity for the District's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative.
- **Julie Moehringer** and **Gabriella Hanellin** of **Calhoun** were selected to the American Legion Empire Girls State. Empire Girls State is a hands-on, weeklong educational workshop, focusing on Americanism and the political process, sponsored by the New York State American Legion Auxiliary.
- **Calhoun** student **Lauren Pagliari** was awarded a \$2,500 Equitable Excellence Scholarship. This also comes with a \$1,000 award for Calhoun High School for professional development.
- The **Merrick Avenue Robotics** team competed in a live-remote VEX IQ Robotics Tournament on April 28. Fifteen of our top STEM students in the Robotics Club built a VEX IQ claw bot to compete in an event that was streamed live on the internet via webcam.
- At an April meeting of the **Merrick Avenue International Buddy Club**, club member Eiman Amjad gave a presentation about the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and its culminating holiday, Eid Al-Fitr.
- **Kennedy** was one of the 20 Long Island high schools that ranked in U.S. News & World Report's Top 1,000 Best High Schools in America. **Kennedy** was listed at No. 77 in the state, **Calhoun** at No. 111 and **Mephram** at No. 123. U.S. News & World Report completes this annual list based on student scores on state exams, Advanced Placement exams, graduation rates and college readiness.

- **Mepham student Angeline Setteducate** received an Award of Merit from the NYS PTA for her musical composition submission for the PTA Reflections contest, “I Matter Because....”
- At this year’s Broadcast Awards for Senior High, **Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting** won for the Best Sports Package, placed second for Best News Package and placed third for Best Anchor Team, Best PSA and Best Broadcast. **Mike Galfano, Matt Manno, Tom Mauro** and **Lily Yopez** won an award for Best Sports Package for “Riding it Out – The Nick Walker Story.” **Hannah Broxmeyer, Angelina Pologeorgis** and **Lily Yopez** placed second for Best News Package for their story on Mepham’s Ms. O’Neill and her success as a virtual classroom teacher. **AJ Fried** and **Michele Spiller** (and **Sean Petraitis**) placed third for Best Anchor. Midweek Update Producer **Louie Saraceni** and **Associate Producer Hannah Broxmeyer** placed third for Best Broadcast.

Arts

- Over 50 students were chosen to participate in the Art Supervisors Association’s All-County Exhibit. Additionally, two students received Senior Scholarships, **Hannah Samuels from Kennedy** and **Georgia Koutsouras of Calhoun**.
- **Calhoun** student **Jack Parr** represented Calhoun Music in the NAFME All-Eastern Honor Ensembles Concert on April 23.
- **Mepham** ninth grader **Yianna Foufas** and **Mepham art teacher Lisa Federici** had their artwork displayed in this year’s New York State Art Teachers Association Art Show, “Kindred Spirits.”
- **The Merrick Avenue Drama Club** is offering live performances for the 2020-2021 school year. “A Little More Than a Tale” will be performed on May 6-7.
- At **Kennedy**, **Carissa Roche’s** student **Annemarie Cabrera**, **Sarah Ritchie’s** student **Anna Ververis** and **Vanessa Albaneze’s** student **Madison Yeh** were chosen for the annual Long Island’s Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum exhibition. It is the only juried exhibition on Long Island that offers high school students the opportunity to show their work in a museum. Additionally, **Annemarie Cabrera** received the Firefly Gallery’s award for “Next Generation,” and **Madison Yeh’s** artwork was chosen to be in an extended exhibit at Mitchells Department Store in Huntington after the museum’s exhibit closes.

Athletics

- The **Calhoun High School boys volleyball team** captured its first Nassau County championship April 27, sweeping Bethpage High School in a three-game set. **Robert Baguiao, Owen Rose, Patrick Sanchez** and **Christopher Zaveckas** were **All-County** winners. **Brian Chin, Matthew Kalfas** and **Ryan Pucella** were **All-Conference** winners. **Michael Fazio** was an **Unsung Hero** and **All-Division** winner, and **Luke Gallo** and **Thomas Bello** were **All-Division** winners.
- **Kennedy volleyball** player **Cameron Montalbano** was named All-County and selected to play in the Long Island All-Star Team Game on May 12. Teammates **Danielle Farese** and **Sami Levine** were also named All-County.

- **Morgan Tessler**, a senior at **Kennedy** who is also a member of the Israel National Women's U18 Softball Team, will be competing in the European Championship in Prague this summer on July 19-24. She will be attending Bryant College in the fall.

Altruism

- The **Yorker Club at Grand Avenue** held its first-ever Candles for Cancer fundraiser during the month of March. Thanks to the generous students and faculty, the Yorker Club raised \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- **The Builders Club at Grand Avenue** kicked off its annual Pennies for Patients fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- The **Mephram LEO Club** ran a monthlong veterans project, collecting socks for homeless veterans and selling hats.
- **PREP Academy** and **MAP students** volunteered their time April 23 to spruce up the front memorial garden at Brookside with flowers and plant lettuce in the courtyard to be donated to the Community Cupboard regularly.
- The annual **Kennedy Trivia Challenge**, sponsored by the **Student Government**, raised \$800 for the Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County.
- The **Grand Avenue SADD Club** fundraised for autism awareness in April, donating the proceeds to The League of Yes.
- The **Mephram SADD Club** collected snacks for health care workers at Nassau University Medical Center.
- **Mephram's We Mean Green Club** planted a blooming tree on the campus lawn on April 28.