



BELLMORE-MERRICK

Central High School District

High Expectations

High Achievement

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

POINTS OF PRIDE

April 2022

Academics

- **Kaitlin Bondi** represented **Calhoun** in the Partners for the Future Program at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. She presented her research earlier this week at an event honoring the students who worked in this program.
- **Allison Alvarez, Sahara Partap** and **Morgan Schaefer** of **Mepham** were named as recipients of the Students Building Bridges Award. They will be honored for their efforts in building bridges across communities and creating a more civil society at Long Island's Holocaust Remembrance Day virtual program on Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m.
- **Cougar TV broadcast its 50th episode** of the morning announcements on April 1. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Cougar TV studio was held in our library. **Student Preston Bowman** and **adviser Brad Seidman** are instrumental in this club's success.
- **Tami Cruz's eighth grade Science Research students** at **Grand Avenue** recently participated in the inaugural South Asian American Women's Alliance Middle School Science Fair. All nine students were acknowledged for their hard work, while seven students also placed in the top four, as individuals or as part of a team. In the Biological Science category, **Salvatore LoBrutto** placed first and **Tristan Bissoondial** placed second. In addition, the teams of **Daniel Lin** and **Joseph Litman**, and **Hallie Gillison** and **Temidire Oladeji** received honorable mention, placing fourth.
- **Calhoun junior Danielle Dukofsky** has been selected as a winner in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History "In Their Own Words" essay contest. Students were tasked with exploring primary sources in the Gilder Lehrman Collection and demonstrating their skills in historical interpretation and textual analysis. She was awarded \$500.
- The following **Mepham** students will receive New York State Youth Leadership Recognition Award certificates from Sen. John Brook's office: **Allison Alvarez, Hannah Broxmeyer, Sahara Partap, Morgan Schaefer** and **Lily Yopez**.
- Scholastic Action Magazine named **Betiana Mujica** of **Merrick Avenue** this year's True Teen Story national writing contest winner. **Betiana** edged out all other entries from students in grades 6-12 around the country to earn top honors in the contest. She is in talks with Scholastic Magazine's editors and will be published in the magazine next school year.
- The **Kennedy Student Council** was recognized with the National Student Council's 2022 National Gold Council of Excellence Award for its leadership, service and activities that serve the school and community.

Arts

- **Taylor Backman** of **Grand Avenue** was selected as a New York State Merit award winner for PTA Reflections for her dance choreography submission.
- Singer/songwriter **Debbie Gibson**, a **Calhoun High School alum**, returned to her Merrick roots at the end of March and visited the **On Tour Program** students as they prepared for their spring production, "Nice Work If You Can Get It."
- In April, nearly 80 band and orchestra students traveled to Disney World for the Spring Tour. **Kennedy** and **Calhoun orchestras, bands and choirs** were among them.
- The following **Mepham** students were selected to be featured in a new, ongoing art display at the North Bellmore Library: **Morgan Amsterdam, Ameziane Aouchiche, Rachel Austin, Jamison Betancourt, Sophia Caroli, Zaib Chaudhary, Nick Dato, Jami DeLuca, Christiana Foufa, Aisha Hameed, Brady Marr, Austin Rooney, Jocelyn Roth, Daniela Samanieg, Abigail Seff, Mia Stellmann, Cara Trenkle, Hailey Valentin, Lillian Williamson** and **Klarisa Zhou**.

Athletics

- The **Calhoun lacrosse teams** hosted a youth clinic for grades 2-8 on April 9.
- **Hailey Guerrero** of **Mepham** was named to the All-State team, one of only 14 players in all of Nassau County to be named. This honor is bestowed by basketball coaches in New York State to students in public, private and Catholic schools. Hailey was the conference player of the year in Nassau A1.
- Bellmore-Merrick's first **all-female flag football team** took to the gridiron in April, making districtwide history. Twenty-three females make up the roster, including 12 students from Mepham High School, six from Calhoun High School and three from Kennedy High School. They are coached by **Anthony Cracco**, athletic director, physical education teacher and coach at Mepham, and teacher/coach **Matthew Moody**.

Altruism

- **Calhoun's Senior Experience Fashion Show** was held on April 12 in the school gymnasium. The show raised funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to deliver "happiness to seriously ill kids."
- The **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Long Island Region** announced the 2022 local Student(s) of the Year winners and **Kennedy's Rylie Levine** and **Mackenzie Davis** were named runners-up. They raised an astonishing \$80,334.49. They also won the Citizenship Award for volunteerism. The society holds a fundraising campaign that brings together thousands of students across the country from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are extraordinarily driven to reach their own personal fundraising best and, ultimately, help the organization fight blood cancer.
- **Nicole Giordano, Beverly Kleinman** and **Rachel Oppenheim**, students in **Kennedy's School & Community Leadership Program**, have been selected to receive the Students Building Bridges Award by the Jewish Community Relations Council – Long Island.

- **Katherine Orellana** of **Mephram** achieved the rank of Eagle in the Boy Scouts of America program. She is the first female student to get the Eagle Scout award in Mephram. Only less than 8% of all the scouts in the program get this award.
- The **Mephram LEOs** baked brownies for the Community Cupboard on April 6. They were led by co-advisers Neeru Partap and Josephine Parlagreco.
- Students collected bottle caps as part of an Earth Day volunteer activity at **Grand Avenue** and turned them into a mural of the Grand Avenue logo, under the guidance of science teacher **Lisa Marino**.