

# COUGAR WEEK IN REVIEW

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Kennedy Families,

Our winter recess may be starting, but our students and staff still had a busy week. In addition to the wonderful news listed below, we have been working hard to prepare for "Class Night" and our annual Wellness Week. As you may have heard me share in the past, student happiness is always one of our top priorities and the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> will be filled with activities and assemblies that promote wellness. For the time being, I hope all of our Kennedy families take some time over this winter recess to spend time together and take care of themselves.

***Please enjoy our week in review...***

**Cougar TV Morning Announcements:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej\\_nAeB\\_W3I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_nAeB_W3I)

**Cougar Crier Newspaper:** <https://online.fliphtml5.com/gcalb/znlw/index.html#p=1>

**Extra Help Schedule:** [https://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/Assets/JFK\\_Links/091223\\_2023-2024\\_JFK\\_Extra\\_Help\\_Schedule\\_-\\_Sheet1.pdf?t=638301259198330000](https://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/Assets/JFK_Links/091223_2023-2024_JFK_Extra_Help_Schedule_-_Sheet1.pdf?t=638301259198330000)

**Yearbook: TIME IS RUNNING OUT!**

If you are planning to purchase a yearbook, please do so **before February 27**.

You can order both at the link below:

<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1055503/John-F-Kennedy-High-School/>

**National Merit Scholarship Finalists:** Three Kennedy students from the Class of 2024 have advanced to become Finalists after having been named Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program in September. **Sara Maltempi, Avidan Moont,** and **Cole Wasserman** are among 15,000 students nationwide to be named finalists, representing less than one percent of high school seniors in the United States. About 1.5 million students entered the 2024 National Merit program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT during their junior year. We wish them the best of luck as these three Kennedy students now continue in the competition for some 7,400 scholarship awards that will be awarded this spring to students across the country.



Sara Maltempi



Avidan Moont



Cole Wasserman

**WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING "STUDENTS OF THE MONTH":**

**ENGLISH:**

HANNAH GURMAN (9)  
MATTEO MONTEMARANO (10)  
JAYDA LEVINE (11)  
SARA MALTEMPI (12)

**MATH:**

AVA PALAFOX (9)  
JORDANA WOHLLEBEN (10)  
JOSHUA SCHWARTZ (11)  
AIDAN PHILLIPS (12)

**SCIENCE:**

AVA PALAFOX (9)

DEVIN DeFILLIPPO (10)

NICOLE NOZHNITSKY (11)

AVIDAN MOONT (12)

**SOCIAL STUDIES:**

ELIANA SCHNITZER (9)

RACHEL SCHNAIER (10)

JESUS SALON VILLALOBOS (11)

RILEY THAYER (12)

**WORLD LANGUAGES:**

ELIANA SCHNITZER (9)

ELI CHUGERMAN (10)

JAYDA LEVINE (11)

JONATHAN MELGAR (12)

**ART:** LIAM DELMORE

**BUSINESS:** NICHOLAS SABO

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** CORRINE HAIKEN

**ENGINEERING:** EVAN KOLBERG

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE:** VICTORIA VALSAMOS

**HEALTH:** LOGAN MINSTER

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:** ISLA BLACK

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** LEO FERRY

**VOCAL MUSIC:** BROOKE GOODMAN

**ENL:** SOLDELUNA RODRIGUEZ

## **Kennedy High School Excels at Science Olympiad!**

On Saturday February 3, 2024 the Science Club competed in the Nassau East Science Olympiad held at Syosset High School. The competition featured 39 teams from 21 different schools competing in 22 different events ranging from Astronomy to Wind Power. The students worked throughout the Fall semester to design and build engineering solutions to various challenges and also prepared for rigorous scientific exams and laboratory tasks. JFK sent two teams, and both did an outstanding job. Kennedy High School earned 6<sup>th</sup> place overall! Our Cougar scientists excelled in multiple challenges and exams, and Medals were earned in the following events:

Air Trajectory: Max Weiner and Mason Tso

Astronomy: Avidan Moont and Eva Cohen

Chemistry lab: Cole Wasserman and Ethan Grossman

Codebusters: Ashley Benjamin, Sara Maltempi and Paula Pastor, Autumn Tienauchariya and Brendan Chiu

Disease Detective: Sara Maltempi and Ethan Grossman

Ecology: Brooke Barcos and Jason Lin

Fermi Questions: Jason Lin and Daniel Zhou

Flight: Gabriel Preda and Jeremy Wang, Eva Cohen Phoebe Clancy

Forensics: Ashley Benjamin and Paula Pastor

Forestry: Cole Wassermann and Fiona Yeung

Microbe Mission: Fiona Yeung and Mark Prainito

Optics: Cole Wasserman and Max Weiner, Avidan Moont

Tower: Chris Torre

Wind power: Mason Tso and Mark Prainito



JFK Science Olympiad Team

**We are proud to announce that two teams of science research students who have earned Finalist and Semi-finalist awards in the ITEEA Reach Challenge contest.**

JFK students participated in the ITEEA [REACH Challenge](#), an impactful adaptive & assistive Technology (AT) design-thinking project for middle school, high school, and college level STEM programs. Our students utilized empathy, user-centered design, prototyping and more, to REACH a member of their community who has a challenge to overcome. Their innovative projects show that our students can use their STEM skills for social good, making a real-world difference in the lives of those around them. Here is a [Video link of highlights of the REACH National winning teams](#) from across the county. Our students' projects are included in the highlights video.

Congratulations to our Finalist team for their Project: "Portion Pal"

- **Jack Levit, Mark Prainito, Jayden Simon, Mason Tso, Evan Kolberg, Ellie Gelman, Cole Wasserman, Maxwell Frank and Kyle Wasserman**



Congratulations to our Semi-Finalist team for their project: "Click-Clack Knapsack"

- **Daniel Lin, Brendan Chiu, Aaron Khan, Joleen Shau :**

The winning teams will receive STEM grants of \$500 and \$100, special banners to display at Kennedy, and supplies to support our STEM programs.



**Congratulations to the following students whose work has been selected for the annual Art Supervisor's Association All County Art Exhibit:**

Aaron Khan  
Alessandra Lee  
Autumn Tienachariya  
Briana Morillo  
Daniella Tejada  
Dylan Pichardo  
Janice Wang  
Jordana Wohlleben  
Julia Cohen\*  
Kerry Duenas  
Madeline Hyman  
Morgan Beers  
Noelle Ressa  
Paige Gomez-Nieto

This prestigious one-day exhibit showcases artwork produced by students K-12 from across Nassau County. It is a wonderful celebration of the creativity and accomplishments of Long Island's finest young artists. The exhibit will take place on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00pm at W.T. Clarke High School in East Meadow. A big thank you to our incredible art teachers who support and guide our students on every step of their artistic journey.

**Mock Trial:** JFK's Mock Trial team was back in court against Holy Trinity! On Tuesday they competed in the New York State Mock Trial Program at Nassau County Supreme Court. This week they defended the case of The People of the State of Nirvana v. Lindsay Gordan. Our hard-hitting lawyers were Ava Goldsmith, Erica Becker, and Farah Khan. They showcased their talents and hard work. Our witnesses were Hailey Weiss, Brooke Barcos, and Max Marcus who provided captivating testimony. The second round for our team is this Tuesday against Clark High School. Amazing Job Kennedy!



## **St. John's University Dual Enrollment Program Spring 2024**

Attention to all students enrolled in a St. John's University Fall Semester Course seeking college credit:

St. John's has extended its registration and payment deadlines for our Spring 2024 Dual Enrollment courses.

- **Application Closes: February 16, 2024**
- **Payment Deadline: February 23, 2024**

**Registration Deadline:** February 9th, 2024

**Payment Deadline:** February 16th, 2024



The Spring 2024 courses included by these deadlines are as follows:

- College Public Speaking (Intro to Public Speaking)
- College Genetics (Human Biology)
- College Anatomy & Physiology (Intro to Anatomy & Physiology)

Please be aware that St. John's University will not be able to retroactively register students after the specified deadlines. It is crucial that these deadlines are adhered to. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher.

**Registration link:** <https://www.stjohns.edu/admission/other-programs/college-advantage-program>

**Student Memo:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e4TUrsDHogmroTCwdJrnk-I45BKqwGVCxjmoRjkkcg/edit>

**LIU Creative Writing College Credits:** This is a reminder for students enrolled in *Creative Writing* that you have the opportunity to earn college credit through LIU. The registration window opened on January 29<sup>th</sup> and will remain open until February 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in pursuing college credit for your creative writing endeavors, please ensure that you:

1. Visit [liu.edu/hss](http://liu.edu/hss)
2. Select your high school and courses
3. Complete and submit your application
4. Make payment

## **In Business News.....**

On January 9th, Greenprints competed in the second round of the Virtual Enterprise Business Plan Competition. Our Chief Officers (**Max Broder, Sophie Goodman, Dino Varveris and Noah Zinman**) and Vice President of Accounting (**Alex Leiderman**) did an amazing job showcasing the Greenprints business model and the value that a company like Greenprints could bring to the world. We are proud to announce that we have been selected to advance to the National Business Competition in April! LET'S GO GREENPRINTS!

Please enjoy our Virtual Enterprise Newsletters as well:

**Greenprints January Newsletter**

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAF5fQwYH3U/9dL8DmHtPu8qSDJselXwcA/view?utm\\_content=DAF5fQwYH3U&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=editor](https://www.canva.com/design/DAF5fQwYH3U/9dL8DmHtPu8qSDJselXwcA/view?utm_content=DAF5fQwYH3U&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor)

## **GearedUp January Newsletter**

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAF2Tzy3gmk/VMDM1VzwIRw0HxyNb9ybRQ/view?utm\\_content=DAF2Tzy3gmk&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=editor](https://www.canva.com/design/DAF2Tzy3gmk/VMDM1VzwIRw0HxyNb9ybRQ/view?utm_content=DAF2Tzy3gmk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor)

**Fund Raising:** Greenprints, Gearedup, and FBLA are hosting a donation drive to benefit the Bellmore-Merrick Community Cupboard. Items to donate include: toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning products, feminine hygiene products, diapers, baby food, pasta, tomato sauce, and packaged snacks. Please bring all donations in by Thursday, February 29th to the box in room 328. Thank you!

**GREENPRINTS x GEAREDUP x FBLA FUNDRAISER**  
**DONATION BOX FOR COMMUNITY CUPBOARD**

**Information**  
Donations will be accepted  
until  
**Thursday, February 29th**  
Please drop off in  
**room 328**

**Items to Donate**  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Cleaning Products  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Diapers  
Baby Food  
Pasta  
Tomato Sauce  
Packaged Snacks/Deserts

greenprints  
GEAREDUP  
FBLA

## **Physical Education/Health Class News**

### **Health**

Mr. Cunningham's 7<sup>th</sup> period health class had the pleasure in welcoming Mr. Ron Riebl into class on Wednesday to speak about the dangers of fentanyl. Mr. Riebl is a Bellmore-Merrick resident and has children that attended Mepham High School. Over the past years, he has been traveling to different schools in the district to speak to students about fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid typically used to treat patients with chronic severe pain or severe pain following surgery. However, illegally made

fantanyl is leaking into different types of street drugs and killing hundreds every day. Mr. Riebl presented to the class and spoke about his own dealings with this dangerous drug, including people in his family affected by the drug. The students engaged in conversations with great questions. We thank Mr. Riebl for taking the time to educate and converse with our health class!



### **Physical Education**

Congratulations to the 3rd period Even physical education class on winning the **2nd Annual COOG Classic Volleyball Tournament**. The classes competed for several weeks for the class champ title and these guys went all the way to receive the school wide title! Excellent work from **Matthew Sarfati, Andrew Gaspar, Daniel Diaz, Evan Kolberg, Aaron Zachariah, and Matthew Stone!**





## **CHAMP News.....**

The CHAMP Baking and Pastry students worked in groups this week to create the classic French croquembouche. This tower of cream puffs were created by choux paste filled with a vanilla pastry cream. They were "glued" together over a paper cone with prepared caramel and sugar was spun around the top. The dessert is traditionally served at weddings and other special events and was a great way to end our week.





## **JFK Chess Society Holds Grandmaster Tournament**

This week, the JFK Chess Society held its Grandmaster Tournament, a competition between the top Cougar chess players. After a series of weekly competitions, previous winners were invited back to crown a champion and see who was the best of the best. The JFK Chess Society meets every Wednesday in the library after school, and all students of all skill levels are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact advisor Mr. Prince at [dprince@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us](mailto:dprince@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us). Go Cougar Chess!

First place: **Jordan Siegel**

Second place: **Nico Vergara**

Third Place: **Junhao Gu**

Top Freshman: **Abigail Golbin**



## Attention Seniors!

**ATTENTION CURRENT SENIORS!**  
It's time to sign up for  
**SENIOR INTERNSHIP**

**Who Can Apply:**

- Current seniors enrolled in:
  - AP Literature
  - AP Macro/AP Gov

**Benefits:**

- Gain real world experience in a field of interest
- Make connections within the industry

**Program Requirements:**

- Intern for 5 hours per day
- Complete a daily journal
- Submit weekly time log
- Final Presentation

**Class Code:**  
2hap6gp

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <u>Interest Meeting</u><br>Monday, February 5th | <u>Application Due</u><br>Friday, March 1st | <u>Internship Dates</u><br>May 20th - June 4th |
|---|---|--|

## KENNEDY PTA

**Membership:** Support our students and programs but joining the JFK High School PTA.

CLICK TO JOIN:

<https://jfkbellmorepta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>

\*But if you prefer to send a check or cash, just send it in an envelope with your name, your child's name, your email and phone number.

**Spiritwear:** Our spiritwear store is still open, offering both new images and items, customer favorites - plus money-saving bundles!

Email Kerry Griffin at [kjgriffin06@gmail.com](mailto:kjgriffin06@gmail.com) with any questions.

LINK TO ORDER: <https://bit.ly/49581vp>

**Animal Advocates:** Animal Advocates and Key Club are joining forces to collect cat supplies for Catpurrcino's in Huntington. The unique bakery and rescue is looking for dry food, wet food, blankets, and bedding. Collections will be accepted through Friday 3/1/24. Please bring all items to Ms. Theodorous in room 106 or Ms. Andree in room 320. For more information or if you would like to book a visit, <https://www.catpurrcinos.com>



## **Music Department News**

We are excited to announce that our Wind Symphony & Concert Choir have been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall through Best Bands & Choirs International Festival on April 18. Tickets are on sale now through our music department. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets may do so here until our allotment of tickets has been sold out. <http://tinyurl.com/3ukkeur9>

For any questions or concerns, please call 516-992-1441.



### **Chamber Orchestra**

On Wednesday, members of the Kennedy High School chamber orchestra performed a Valentine's Day concert at the Westbury Bristol Senior Citizen's home. The students had a great time bringing music into the community!





## **Upcoming Important Dates:**

2/19-2/23: Winter Recess – School Closed

2/29: JFK Class Night

MERRICK COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### **MEET & GREET**

7pm on February 27  
**Merrick Golf Course Clubhouse**

- Special guest: Legislator Michael Giangregorio.
- Hear updates about capital improvements throughout Merrick.
- Everyone is welcome... members, non-members & local businesses.
- Share your ideas and concerns with the Civic.



*Save the date for these upcoming meetings:*

- March 26: Fentanyl Awareness and Narcan Training
- April 17: Merrick Beautification & Earth Day Clean Up

Contact us at [southmerrickcivic@gmail.com](mailto:southmerrickcivic@gmail.com) for more information

## **LIGHTS FOR WILDLIFE COLLECTION**

HANDMADE LANTERN FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL  
WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR KARENLINN STRATCHER!

Leadership: Bring to Mr. Seidman's Room (329)

**We are Collecting:**

- Clean Tin Cans (Ex: Pasta Sauce Can)
- Spools of Twine
- Sticker Gem Packs

**Instagram: @Lights\_for\_Wildlife**







# JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL COUGAR NATION

## Cougar Athletics

### Varsity Cheerleading

The Varsity Vheerleaders competed at the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, FL. The team competed in two new divisions for Kennedy. This Saturday the team will have their final competition of the season competing at the Nassau County Championship.



## **Boys' Varsity Wrestling**

A great weekend for two guys that have been by Mr. DeGaetano's side for a long time. **JJ Pizzirusso** has been with the program since the age of 1, and **Brandon Goldstein** since age 9. It was a bittersweet ending, but so proud of their effort at the Nassau county championships. **JJ** placed 4th finishing his career with 102-34 record and two All county medals. **Brandon** lost in the County Final and then had to bounce back to win a true second match soon after to earn his second trip to the NYS championships. **Brandon's** career record stands at 100-23. We are hoping to add to that record in Albany. During their 5 years with the Cougars, we won two league championships and 65 dual meets! I can't thank them enough for their hard work and leadership as wrestlers and as our biggest fans when they were little kids. Best of luck to Brandon as he has one more chapter to write in what already is a best seller.



## **Girls' Varsity Basketball**

The Girls' Varsity Basketball season has come to an end with a 5-9 conference record. The girls fought a tremendous fight this season being in a very tough conference. Junior **Jolie Yablon** and Junior **Ashley St Surin** were awarded All County Honorable Mention, and Sophomore **Jordi Wohlleben** was awarded All Conference. Our team scholar athlete was senior **Kaylee Ayers!** Way to go girls!!!

**Spring Sports Reminder:** The ***Rank One Sports*** window for the High School Spring Sports season opens **Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** and closes **Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** for all **potential student-athletes. Kindly adhere to this deadline or sports clearance for your child may be delayed.** The Spring sports season begins in Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> for all sports EXCEPT Badminton, Golf and Tennis which begin on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES MUST COMPLETE FOUR ELECTRONIC FORMS TO BE CLEARED FOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION.** The required forms are:

*Code of Conduct, Emergency Contact Release, Concussion Management and Sports Candidate Health History.* An email confirmation upon the successful submission of each form will be sent directly to you.

It will only be necessary to provide a hard copy of the ***Physical Examination, as well as, (where applicable) the Administration of Medication and Self Medication Release*** forms to the Nurse in the school your child attends. **Physical Examination Forms must be dated and signed by a physician. Physicals are valid for one calendar year until the last day of the month in which it was completed (a physical dated June 13, 2023, is acceptable until June 30, 2024).** All other documents can be completed electronically by clicking [HERE](#)

I hope you enjoy the winter recess with family and friends!

Sincerely,

Gerard Owenburg, *Principal*

***"Make Every Moment Count"***