

# BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## SCIENCE RESEARCH LEADS TWO SENIORS TO NATIONAL STEM FESTIVAL

Two Brentwood High School seniors in the Science Research Program recently took a trip to Washington, D.C., to showcase their outstanding scientific contributions to an esteemed group of attendees as winners of the 2024 National STEM Challenge.

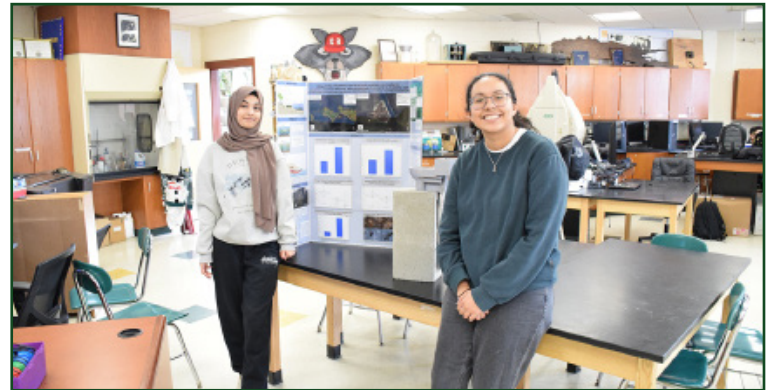
Alisha Ahsan and Stephanie Pizano were two of the 150 winners of the 2024 National STEM Challenge, out of more than 10,000 applicants. The multistep competition accepted submissions across six thematic areas: environmental stewardship, future foods, health and medicine, powering the planet, tech for good, and space

innovation.

The festival in Washington, D.C., allowed winners of the competition to showcase their scientific research and inventions to political representatives and federal agencies as well as network with industry-leading professionals in STEM careers.

Both Brentwood winners chose to pursue the topic of environmental stewardship and ways to mitigate the harm associated with nitrogen pollution.

Alisha Ahsan's project focused on studying how nitrogen pollution negatively affects eelgrass and proposed a method to help restore the



declining sea grass by gluing seeds onto live shellfish.

"The festival was great," Ahsan said. "Research comes with a lot of failure, and it was nice to be recognized for all of the hard work and dedication that went into this project."

Stephanie Pizano's submission to the competition was a filter she invented that reduces nitrogen pollution from fertilizer runoff and septic waste. She printed a small-scale replica 3D toilet with pipes to demonstrate how the filter functions.

"It was a surreal experience being able to attend the festival," Pizano said. "We went through a lot as a class, and it was amazing

to have such a successful year for our program."

The participation in the program was an incredible experience for the Brentwood science researchers that not only celebrated their projects and presented opportunities for furthering their research, but also added to the storied legacy of the Brentwood Science Research Program that has guided countless other research students.

"We were a group that was able to preserve the long-lasting legacy of our research program," Pizano said. "I am definitely proud of that."



*This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.*

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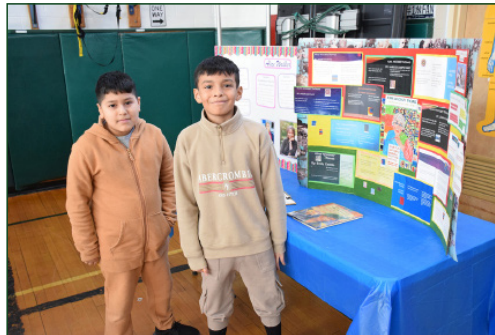
# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



On Saturday, Feb. 10, Brentwood High School hosted the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Homecoming Classic. The daylong event served as a college fair that presented students with information on different postsecondary paths at these educational institutions and included forums where students could interact with leaders in a wide variety of career fields. Hosted in collaboration with the Suffolk County chapter of Jack and Jill of America, the event created essential networking opportunities for students to learn more about these universities, the individuals that had once attended them and where they are now in their respective careers.



Second grade students in Mrs. Gleason's class at Laurel Park Elementary School put on a performance of "The Dream Lives On," highlighting important moments in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As part of the performance, students rehearsed lines and assisted as members of the stage crew. The performance was given to an audience of family, friends and fellow classmates, and a scene from the play was also performed for the Brentwood Union Free School District Board of Education.



In celebration of Black History Month, students at Oak Park Elementary School participated in a Black "Herstory" Month scavenger hunt where they followed clues to identify prominent female African American historical figures. To prepare for the activity, students researched prominent female African Americans who have made significant contributions to our county and the world. Among the figures represented were Simone Biles, Gabby Douglas, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and Serena Williams.



# Brentwood 5K Run Makes Great Strides in Scholarship Funds for Graduating Seniors



Tradition runs strong in Brentwood Schools, and that was evident on Saturday, April 6, as Brentwood students, staff, community members and alumni laced up their running shoes for the 29th Annual Gary Mintz Memorial 5K Scholarship Run.

1995.

The slight chill that filled the air the morning of the event did not deter participants as it saw its greatest participation in several years with more than 360 runners showing up for the event. Students across grade levels stood shoulder to shoulder with staff and community members on the starting line as the race began, and runners followed the designated route which departed Brentwood High School and continued through the streets of the community.



In its 29th year, the memorial run is a fixture in the Brentwood community, and one that people anticipate each year. Promoting a healthy lifestyle and some friendly competition among friends and colleagues are of course components of the run, but the much-echoed sentiment is the importance of raising scholarship funds for graduating Brentwood High School seniors and remembering past Brentwood High School Principal Gary Mintz. Mr. Mintz came up with the idea for the annual run and it was renamed in his honor after his tragic passing in

For the 3.1 miles of the race, participants' fitness and mental fortitude were tested, but something that was never in doubt was the boisterous support from the crowd that encouraged the runners stride by stride

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# SCOPE Award Winners Honored at Annual Dinner

On March 18, three esteemed members of the Brentwood Union Free School District were honored at the Annual SCOPE Educational Services Service Awards Dinner for their



contributions to education in their community.

Board of Education President Eileen Felix received the SCOPE School Board Service Award, special education teacher Anita Krumholz was the recipient of the SCOPE Community Service Award, and food service worker Maria Lopez was awarded the SCOPE Support Staff Service Award.

Congratulations to these outstanding individuals for being recognized



with these awards. Their dedication and contributions to the Brentwood community have had an undeniable impact on the students of our schools.



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## Brentwood 5K Run Makes Great Strides in Scholarship Funds for Graduating Seniors



all the way to the finish line.

The top overall male finisher was Brentwood High School junior Angelo Feliciano. "It feels good to win," Feliciano said. "It feels great to win back-to-back races." Feliciano is the top overall male finisher for the second consecutive year, and he also competes as a member of the Brentwood High School track and cross-country teams.

The top overall female finisher was Brentwood High School junior Sofia Lopez. "I really wanted to get first," Lopez said. "I was scared I wasn't going to do it, but it feels good to win. I wanted to do better than last year, and I did." Lopez, who is also a member of the Brentwood High School track

and cross-country teams, gathered with the other finishers at the finish line to encourage other participants as they made their way across it.

Spectators were especially enthusiastic for a certain participant to complete the race. Cheers rang out in exuberant fashion as Jose Mendez crossed the finish line. At 85 years of age, Mendez has participated in every Gary Mintz 5K Scholarship Run in the district's history.

"I am a little crazy," Mendez said after completing the race. "It's great to finish and it makes you feel good to be part of an event like this. It's a tradition here in Brentwood."

