Spring 2026

EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District News

Student Civic Ambassadors Inspire Students Across Middle and Elementary Schools

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School Civic Ambassadors visited the District's middle and elementary schools to lead engaging lessons centered on civic responsibility and community engagement.

The program began at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School and H.B. Mattlin Middle School, where high school ambassadors introduced key concepts such as tenacity, ambition and perseverance. Students then read "Let the Children March" by Monica Clark-Robinson, which tells the story of young African American children and teens who marched in Birmingham, Alabama, to challenge segregation and inspire change.

Following the reading, high school students guided meaningful discussions about the choices the children faced, the consequences of taking easier paths and the lessons demonstrated through their courage and persistence. Middle school students then completed an independent activity using excerpts from the text to identify and reflect on the qualities of a good citizen.

The Civic Ambassadors also visited District elementary schools for a series of read-aloud sessions designed to build cross-grade connections and foster civic mindedness. Students shared stories highlighting similar traits as the middle school books, such as curiosity, courage, open-mindedness, humility, empathy and perseverance.

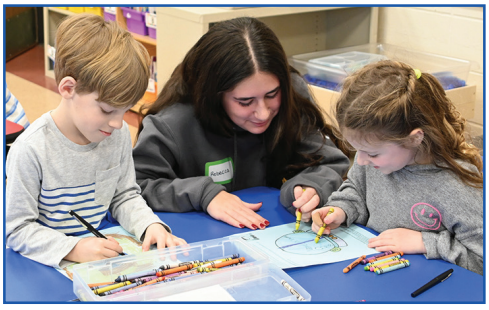
After each read-aloud, elementary students participated in hands-on craft activities tied to the lessons, with high school ambassadors offering encouragement and guidance. These interactive experiences created meaningful opportunities for collaboration and shared learning between older and younger students.

Across all visits, the Civic Ambassadors brought energy and enthusiasm into classrooms while helping students reflect on important character traits through storytelling and creative engagement. The program highlights the District's commitment to supporting leadership opportunities for older students while reinforcing civic learning and connection across grade levels.









POBJFKHS Students Participate in NYSFL Championship Debate Tournament



On the weekend of April 18-19, seven POBJFKHS debate teams competed at the New York State Forensic League State Championship held at Bronx High School of Science. Students faced top teams from Long Island, New York City private and magnet schools, and districts from across upstate New York.

After five preliminary rounds on Saturday, several teams earned spots in Sunday's advanced rounds based on their strong performances. In the Lincoln-Douglas debate, competitors included Colton Hill, Ada Liu, Juna Saito and Tammy Xie. In the Novice Public Forum debate, Shiv Patel and Sanjana Kunam delivered an outstanding performance, winning all five preliminary rounds, while Ava Cohen and Charlotte Leblond earned three wins and received one of the tournament's highest speaker point totals. In the intermediate Public Forum, Darwin Veytsman and Pakwa Zhang won four preliminary rounds and advanced to Sunday's competition.

The District congratulates our students who represented POBJFKHS with pride and professionalism throughout the tournament.

Special Education Resource and Transition Fair

The Plainview-Old Bethpage School District and SEPTA hosted a Special Education Resource and Transition Fair at POBJFKHS, where they welcomed more than 80 vendors and countless families from both the District and across Long Island.

This well-attended event offered a wide range of resources for students of all ages with disabilities, including leisure and social opportunities, respite services, college and career pathways, employment and vocational training programs, day habilitation services and transition planning supports.

Families also connected with local support, advocacy and legal organizations, as well as government agencies, whose collaborative efforts promote student success, independence and long-term outcomes.





Senior Citizen's Club Holds Annual Prom

The POB Senior Citizen's Club recently hosted a special Senior Prom, bringing together community members for an afternoon filled with music, dancing, food and fun. Attendees enjoyed spending time with friends, dancing to favorite songs and sharing a delicious meal in a festive atmosphere. The event created lasting memories and highlighted the strong sense of community and connection among the group.





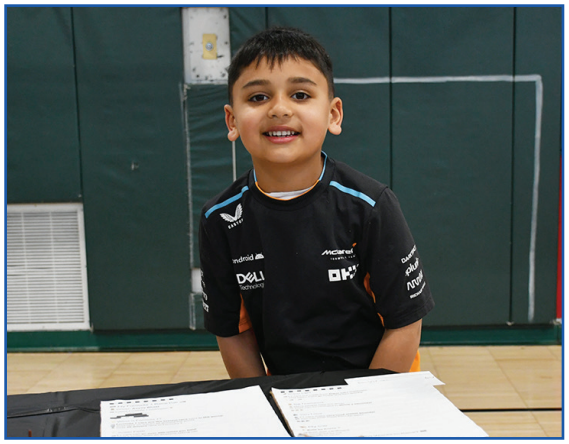


POBJFKHS Drama Cadets Present 'Pippin'

Congratulations to the Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School Drama Cadets on their outstanding production of "Pippin." From the creative set design to the dynamic musical performances and energetic choreography, the show delivered a truly memorable experience for audiences and illustrated the talent and commitment of our students.

Night of the Arts





The Pasadena community came together for the second annual Pasadena PTA Night of the Arts, a celebration of student creativity and talent. Building on the success of its inaugural year, the event expanded into an even more vibrant showcase that highlighted the program's goal of giving every student a space to share their voices and passions.

The evening featured a wide range of visual, written and performing arts, including paintings, self-portraits, paper mâché creations, collages, Lego builds and clay sculptures that reflected each student's unique perspective. On stage via video stream, students also performed musical pieces, dance routines and original skits, while others showcased personal interests such as basketball, gymnastics and skateboarding as forms of creative expression.

Families left messages of encouragement for the student artists. The evening served as a powerful reminder of the imagination and talent within the Pasadena community and the benefits of a strong partnership with the PTA.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Judy Jacobs Parkway Elementary School

Judy Jacobs Parkway's Adopt-a-Troop Club organized a schoolwide donation drive to assemble care packages for members of the U.S. military. Students across all grade levels contributed by collecting food, toiletries and other essential items as part of a coordinated gradewide effort. The club partnered with Operation Jersey Cares to help facilitate the distribution of the donations. In addition, care packages will be sent to two former Plainview-Old Bethpage graduates serving in the military, as well as to family members of staff and students.



H.B. Mattlin Middle School

The third marking period had Mattlin sixth grade students exploring Ancient Greece and the origins of the Olympic Games, examining how the Olympics are rooted in history, mythology, culture, the arts and core Olympic values. Students were divided into five city-states, Athens, Corinth, Olympia, Sparta and Thebes, and earned points throughout the unit for academic growth, classroom participation and demonstrating values such as excellence, respect and friendship. For the unit's culminating activity, students participated in an interactive Greek Olympics, bringing the unit to life through trivia games, relay races including "chariot racing" and other team-building challenges that reinforced learning in a fun and engaging way.





Pasadena Elementary School

Second grade students welcomed members of the POB JFK National English Honor Society for a special "Readers Are Leaders" event. High school students visited classrooms to lead discussions on using stories as examples of leadership in order to build strong connections with classmates and the community. Second graders examined "The Hard Hat for Kids," focusing on teamwork and positive character traits while discussing how to use their voices, support others and work together. The event also included group activities and a creative project in which students designed their own "Readers Are Leaders" badges. The day was filled with energy and excitement as students connected across grade levels, built confidence and celebrated the power of reading.

Old Bethpage Elementary School

Old Bethpage first grade students recently enjoyed a hands-on learning experience during a field trip to Kerber's Farm, where classroom lessons came to life through real-world exploration. Students fed and pet animals, participated in an interactive lesson on bees and pollination and tasted honey after learning about honeycombs. They also planted sunflower seeds, reinforcing their understanding of plant life cycles and what plants need to grow. Throughout the trip, students asked questions, made observations and engaged in meaningful discovery aligned with New York State Science Learning Standards, helping build curiosity and deepen their understanding of the natural world.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

Students at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School participated in the annual Battle of the Classes, transforming the building and gym with teamwork and school spirit. This year's Star Wars-themed event included a surprise appearance by members of the 501st Legion Empire City Garrison, while students spent weeks preparing through hallway decorations and pre-event challenges. The POBJFKHS Student Government expanded the event by providing grade-level T-shirts and adding hallway decorating and pre-event competitions, while also welcoming teachers and staff to participate alongside students for the first time. The Class of 2027 earned first place for the second consecutive year and is already aiming for a three-peat next year.

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

Ms. Jenn Fitzpatrick's eighth grade students at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School presented projects for the Natural Hazards Building Challenge, an engineering design activity. Throughout the project, students worked in teams acting as engineering firms tasked with designing hazard-resistant structures in a geologic hazard zone. Finalists presented detailed proposals evaluated by both their peers and a panel of reviewers. Projects were assessed on the design, construction and testing of structures capable of withstanding natural geologic hazards, as well as a comprehensive geological report demonstrating understanding of site-specific risks. Students also developed or improved risk management plans for both the structure and the surrounding community.



Stratford Road Elementary School

This year marked an exciting first for Stratford Road, as third and fourth grade students proudly participated in the Special Olympics among 5,000 participants and spectators. Through this meaningful experience, students built confidence, developed physical skills and formed strong connections with their peers. As part of the event, students competed in track and field activities. Participation in the Special Olympics not only promotes fitness and collaboration, but also supports social growth, self-esteem and a strong sense of accomplishment. The school community is incredibly proud of the students for embracing this new opportunity with enthusiasm and dedication. Congratulations also to faculty member Anthony Scibelli, who was recognized as a Special Olympics "Rising Star." Together, their achievements reflect the inclusive and supportive spirit that defines Stratford Road Elementary School.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District
Administrative Offices
Washington Avenue, Plainview, NY 11803
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SADD Blood Drive at POBJFKHS

POBJFKHS recently held its SADD Blood Drive, open to students ages 16 and 17, with student organizers Sydney Adelstein and Lindsey Greenberg leading the effort. A total of 53 donors participated, with 21 students making either their first-ever blood donation or their first with the New York Blood Center, resulting in 59 lifesaving donations. In addition, 12 "Alyx" double red blood cell donors contributed, with each donation counting as two units toward the total.

The District is deeply grateful to these students for their compassion and commitment to helping save lives.



Thank You, PTA!

The Plainview-Old Bethpage School District is grateful to our outstanding PTA for their ongoing commitment and generous volunteer efforts. Their partnership plays a vital role in enhancing opportunities for students and building a strong, connected school community.

Thank you to our 2026 outgoing PTA presidents: Felissa Allard, Jina Allen, Heather Brenner, Lauren Finelli, Jana Kron, Leena Patel, Susan Sherifi, Sherri Solomon, Sol Soto and Liz Vulin.



SCAN ME!

Get Connected!

All District community members are invited to scan the QR code and sign up to receive important school and District updates, emergency alerts and event reminders, all in one place. Join our community on ParentSquare and stay up to date on the latest news or visit the district website: https://www.pobschools.org/about/community-communication-opt-in.