



Byram Hills School District

SPECTRUM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

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Congratulations Class of 2014!



The Byram Hills Class of 2014 is ready to face the future after receiving their high school diplomas during a June 24 ceremony at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

Dressed in their caps and gowns, the graduates accepted their diplomas after listening to advice from two classmates, Principal Chris Borsari, Superintendent Dr. William Donohue, and Board of Education President Ira Schulman.

Salutatorian Andrei Isichenko joked that the Class of 2014 had gone from fighting over the best seats on the bus in kindergarten to fighting over the best parking spots at the high school.

"As a prominent hip-hop artist said, we started from the bottom, now we're here," he said. Andrei said the Class of 2014 was filled with talented artists, actors, musicians, researchers and scholars whose "combined accomplishments are astounding."

Valedictorian Stephanie Ding said that her class would not be graduating without the love and support they had received from their families and the extended Byram Hills community.

She said that when troubles arose, students had turned to their families to put themselves back together. Stephanie told her classmates that the connections they had built at Byram Hills would last a lifetime.

Board President Schulman urged the graduates to be involved in their communities, noting, "Life is not a spectator sport." He promised them that they would always get back much more than they give.

Dr. Donohue told the graduates that he had recently heard about research involving older people nearing the ends of their lives. Surprisingly, they did not regret their mistakes. They regretted the things they had not done.

He reminded the graduates of the words of Harriet Beecher Stowe, "The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone."

"Go out and conquer the world," he told the graduates.

Grads Have Link to 9/11 Fireman

Byram Hills Class of 2014 has a special place in the heart of retired NYC Firefighter Tom Sullivan.

Aboard a fireboat on September 11, 2001, Firefighter Sullivan arrived at the Twin Towers shortly after the first plane hit. He survived the buildings' collapse, and then he and Marine Company 1 remained at Ground Zero. They spent Sept. 12 searching through "a mountain of smoldering, stinking rubble looking for survivors," he recalled recently. Late in the day, someone passed up a milk crate filled with paper bags. Firefighter Sullivan grabbed two and took out the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. As he ate, he looked at the colorful hearts and American flags and smiley faces that were drawn on the bags in crayon, and the index cards that read: "Made for you by Byram Hills Kindergarten." Underneath that, one was signed, "Love, Marissa."

"It was just a simple little thing, but it was really moving," said Mr. Sullivan. "And sometimes it's the simple things that are the most important." He stuffed the bags into his pocket.

On Sept. 12, Coman Hill teacher Margaret Schiffer had come to school knowing that her students would be upset and that the best lesson would be showing them how to help. Ms. Schiffer, who has since left the district, had a simple idea.

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Retired NYC Firefighter Tom Sullivan met graduate Marissa Miller at this year's BHHS graduation.

Byram Hills Honors Four Educators

At its June meeting, the Byram Hills Board of Education honored four educators, one from each school, for exemplifying the excellence that characterizes the district's staff.

Following a longstanding tradition, the Board honored Robin Zilli, a special education teacher at Coman Hill; Claire Simon, a third-grade teacher at Wampus; Gina Cunningham, psychologist at H.C. Crittenden; and John Lopez, a high school art teacher who also directs the renowned Stage theater program.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William M. Donohue said the awards provided an opportunity to celebrate teachers and staff who do excellent work and push the boundaries to challenge their students. "It's time to recall what we are really all about, and what makes Byram Hills such a great place," he said.

Coman Hill

Principal Peggy McNerney noted that Robin Zilli is an expert in the field of teaching students with special needs. Mrs. Zilli succeeds with her students by personalizing learning to children's interests and following consistent routines. Students in her class know what is expected of them as learners and members of the classroom community. Ms. McNerney said that Mrs. Zilli ensures those standards are followed by using incentive charts that motivate her students and create accountability.

"Perhaps more importantly, Mrs. Zilli always focuses on what students can do as she celebrates their accomplishments," said Ms. McNerney. She noted that Mrs. Zilli ensures that parents understand their children's instructional program and progress, and encourages parents to be part of the educational process.

"Mrs. Zilli demonstrates high levels of care and concern for her students, their parents, and all the faculty and staff that work alongside her," noted Ms. McNerney, adding that Mrs. Zilli "is a true example of all our Byram Hills' core values."

Wampus School

Principal Debra Cagliostro nominated Claire Simon for emerging as a leader during a year when Wampus faced significant changes linked to the new Common Core Learning Standards. Last summer, Ms. Simon attended BOCES training sessions after being asked to learn about the English and math modules, and evaluate them.

"Ms. Simon and her colleagues came back and volunteered to actually implement two of the modules to provide feedback despite the time investment this would need," said Ms. Cagliostro. She noted that Ms. Simon also served on the K-5 Language Arts Committee as the school looked closely at literacy and writing across the elementary grades and, to further expand her knowledge, worked along side a group of teachers with a consultant. She also is one of two third-grade teachers who have been selected to participate in a new 2nd/3rd grade partnership.

"Ms. Simon truly embodies a holistic approach with her

students. She continuously questions what she, and all of us, can do better to help students with social, emotional, or behavioral issues," said Ms. Cagliostro. "She is exemplary in all areas of her work and, as a person, someone that everyone respects and appreciates."

H.C. Crittenden

Principal H. Evan Powderly recognized Gina Cunningham, the school psychologist at the middle school for the past nine years.

"Ms. Cunningham has truly expanded her role as school psychologist to the benefit of the students and faculty," noted Dr. Powderly.

Dr. Powderly credited Ms. Cunningham for her work this school year on the school's innovative anti-bullying program, known as #KINDNESS.

Along with guidance counselors Heather Graham, Clairia Perfetto, and David Mack, Ms. Cunningham planned and implemented the yearlong project, a character education project that includes monthly activities and speakers.

"The #KINDNESS program targeted and succeeded in the reduction of bullying and cyber-bullying," said Dr. Powderly. Ms. Cunningham also instituted visits by Guiding Eyes for the Blind dogs to her regularly scheduled social skills group. The students work with the

Seeing Eye dogs to build important social skills.

Concluded Dr. Powderly: "Ms. Cunningham is an important member of the H.C. Crittenden Middle School educational community."

Byram Hills High School

Principal Chris Borsari described John Lopez as an invaluable member of the school community.

"Mr. Lopez is an incredibly talented teacher, artist, musician, and performer," said Mr. Borsari. "His varied and eclectic interests are impressive in their own right; however it is his generosity and willingness to share these talents with his students, colleagues, and the larger Byram Hills community which make him stand out in my mind."

Mr. Lopez, who has taught a variety of Fine Arts courses, is skilled at teaching across various skill levels to ensure that all students meet or exceed their potential, said Mr. Borsari. "Regardless of the course he is teaching, Mr. Lopez's classroom has the feel of an artistic workshop where students are exploring their creativity and enhancing their technical skill in partnership with their teacher," said Mr. Borsari.

Following teacher Adam Shatraw's departure last year, Mr. Lopez was selected to lead the Stage Theater Program. "He was respectful of the program's history and traditions," noted Mr. Borsari, "but infused some new and different approaches that were well received and quite successful."



The board honored psychologist Gina Cunningham and teachers John Lopez, Claire Simon and Robin Zilli.

Coman Hill Classes Create Video to Encourage School Recycling

To a young Coman Hill student an apple core that's turning brown looks like "yucky" garbage; so does a half-eaten container of pudding. But the apple core can be composted and that pudding container can be cleaned out and recycled.

Recycling can confuse adults, so it's understandable that children aren't always sure where to throw their lunch scraps. Two Coman Hill teachers have teamed up to help change that.

"A kindergartner will hold up a potato chip bag and think it's paper and can be recycled," said kindergarten teacher Mardi Morrow. So Ms. Morrow and second-grade teacher Jennifer Rowell worked this year with their classes and four Byram Hills High School students, to create a video to help reinforce the ABCs of recycling. The video will help students understand exactly which items can be recycled, reused or composted and which items should be thrown out. The video will be unveiled to the whole school in September and will be occasionally shown in a loop in the cafeteria as a reminder.

Ms. Morrow said Coman Hill's students learn about systems in nature and the interdependence of different species starting in kindergarten.

"We help connect the dots with them. We teach them that what we do in the cafeteria affects living systems in the global commons," said Miss Rowell. "We teach them that they have a responsibility to recycle, and they do embrace that."

The video builds on other efforts, including the Waste-Free Wednesdays organized by the PTSA, and classroom practices such as encouraging children to use both sides of paper. Ms. Morrow and Miss Rowell got the idea for producing a video after helping to write the K-2 portion of an innovative sustainability curriculum through a Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES project. Ms. Morrow and Miss Rowell asked four students from each class to help write, narrate and act out the script.

The video drives home the message that already appears on the cafeteria bulletin board by showing students specific examples of what to do with common lunch items. Throw out the chip bags, squeezable yogurt wrappers and cookie bags. Compost the food scraps, trays, forks and napkins. Recycle plastic water bottles, caps, aluminum foil and Ziploc bags. Clean out the salad, pudding and Jello containers – and then recycle them.

The kindergartners who helped write the video agreed that they had learned a lot and loved working with the second graders.

"Now I know what goes in the stinky garbage and what goes in the compost," said kindergartner Ella Horowitz. The second graders said they hoped their video would help the whole school community become "greener."

"If we keep throwing everything out, the whole planet is going to stink," said second-grader Morgan Hecht. Rachel Monaco said students should recycle outside of school. "If every kid learns about recycling, and goes home and teaches their families, the message will spread like peanut butter and jelly," she explained.

Other students in both classes also got involved. One group of second graders, "The Green Girls," sang their "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" song. Kindergartners contributed artwork created around the theme "Earth Day is Every Day," and their second grade buddies worked in the computer lab with them to type the accompanying words.

Ms. Morrow and Miss Rowell also credited four high school seniors, Gabrielle Levy Anthony Gizzi, Andrew Muhart and David Altman with helping pull the video together. Gabby, who did her senior internship at Coman Hill, organized and directed one portion of the video. Anthony, who has taken classes in the high school's film program, edited the project together with Andrew and David. Gabby said she didn't remember recycling being stressed when she went to Coman Hill 10 years ago. Now, kindergartners are recycling.

"By the time they get to high school, it won't seem like an effort to them to throw things in the right bin. It will just be all they have ever known," she said.



Grads Have Link to 9/11 Fireman

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Her former colleague, kindergarten teacher Mary Beth Devery, said she remembered Ms. Schiffer saying, "who doesn't love a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?" She and her husband, Greg, bought the supplies, and then the kindergarten teachers put the children to work decorating bags and making sandwiches. One of those kindergarten students was Marissa Miller, who scribbled her name on a card.

Late on Sept. 12, Mr. Schiffer drove the sandwiches down to the city.

"No one knew where they would wind up, or ever dreamed something so simple would have such a profound effect," Ms. Devery said.

Weeks after 9/11, Firefighter Sullivan set out to find Armonk and thank the children of Byram Hills. In his dress uniform, he visited each kindergarten classroom. "I said, 'Thank you for the best peanut butter and jelly sandwich I ever had,'" he recalled. Every year since then, he has called Barbara Boemio, the principal's secretary who had shown him around Coman Hill in 2001.

"He would never fail to say to me to 'thank the students for the best peanut butter and jelly sandwich I ever had,'" Ms. Boemio said.

In recognition of the bond he has with Byram Hills, Mr. Sullivan was invited to watch the Class of 2014 receive their high school diplomas. Again attired in his dress uniform, retired Firefighter Sullivan sat near the stage at the SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center as high school Principal Chris Borsari reminded the graduates about the bags they decorated. He introduced Mr. Sullivan, who received a standing ovation. Then Mr. Borsari urged the new graduates to always remember the importance of small acts of kindness. Quoting author Anna Quindlen, Mr. Borsari told the graduates: "The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself."

"Let me propose that you become yourself by focusing on doing good instead of doing well," he said. Seated with her class, Marissa Miller started to cry as she realized that she was the little girl who had made a fireman smile during a terrible week.

After the ceremony, Marissa introduced herself to Mr. Sullivan, who showed her the decorated bag and card that she had made.

"I was so honored that he had kept them all these years," she said. "It really showed what an act of kindness can mean to someone."

Byram Hills High School Awards

JAMIE TESTA ONWARD AND UPWARD

SCHOLARSHIP: Given to a senior who shows exemplary commitment to helping others and dedication to public service.

RACHAEL SLAP

NORTH CASTLE POLICE BENEVOLENT

ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: Presented to a senior who has shown academic excellence and a commitment to the North Castle community.

MICHAEL GAGLIARDI

FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK:

Presented to a student who volunteers for the Fire Department or the EMS Department.

MICHAEL GAGLIARDI

JOHN A. LOMBARDI SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding civic service and achievement.

MICHAEL GAGLIARDI

ROGER CASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Given to a senior for academic achievement and outstanding community service.

TERENCE CARTHY

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE BOOK AWARDS

for SCHOLARSHIP and SERVICE: Given to juniors demonstrating sustained and sincere commitment to leadership roles in community service and achievement in academics.

CATHERINE JANKOVIC
ROSS WEINFELD

BRYANT UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:

Awarded to a junior who possesses outstanding entrepreneurial spirit.

NICOLE HOFFMAN

SMITH COLLEGE BOOK AWARD: Awarded to a junior who combines academic excellence with participation in extracurricular activities and a commitment to community service.

GUINEVERE MESH

AMERICAN ASSOC. OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN – Outstanding Student Award:

MORGAN HERBERT

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA BOOK

AWARD: Given to a junior with outstanding character and high academic achievement, who provides important service to school or community.

AMOS JENG

HARVARD PRIZE BOOK AWARDS: Given to outstanding juniors who display excellence in scholarship and high character.

BESSIE JIANG
BRIAN SCHOENFELD

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOOK

AWARD: Presented to a junior who demonstrates excellence in civic engagement and a commitment to independent and creative thought.

NOLAN ABRAMOWITZ

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:

Presented to an academically-outstanding junior who demonstrates intellectual leadership and strong character.

LUCY GREENWALD

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:

Given to a junior who has displayed a significant commitment to community service.

DANIELLE ADILETTA

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:

Awarded to a junior who demonstrates both commitment to academic excellence and dedication to community involvement.

ALISIA ESCOBAR

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BOOK AWARD:

Presented to a junior who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and scholarly research in a rigorous college preparatory program.

ALISON BIDJARANO

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE BOOK AWARD:

Awarded to a junior who has earned an excellent academic record and who has exhibited qualities of leadership and service in the school community.

ELLA TAUBENFELD

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE BOOK AWARDS:

Awarded to juniors who exhibit excellent academic achievement and who contribute to the extracurricular activities of the school.

SAMANTHA GOLD
PAYTON LEVINE

BRANDEIS BOOK AWARD:

Presented to a junior who demonstrates commitment to academics and service to his/her community.

GREGORY CARLIN

WELLESLEY COLLEGE BOOK AWARD:

Awarded to a junior outstanding in her academic performance, character, and contributions to school and/or community life.

EDEM GORDON

YALE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Presented to a junior in recognition of outstanding character and intellectual promise with diverse skills and leadership qualities.

ELIZABETH KINGSLEY

CLARKSON UNIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDS: Given to juniors having an academic interest in engineering, business, science or liberal arts.

Achievement Award:
NICHOLAS CONTILLO

Leadership Award:
KATY GALLAGHER

CORNELL UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:

Awarded to a junior who has demonstrated academic excellence, as well as outstanding dedication to extracurricular activities and meaningful participation in community service.

ELISE BRIODY
ENGLISH AWARDS

AMERICAN ASSOC. OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Excellence in Writing Award:

JESSICA OCCHIOGROSSO

SENIOR ENGLISH AWARDS: for outstanding senior English students:

STEPHANIE DING
ITAI TAUBENFELD

ED WALZER WRITING AWARD:

This award was established by the family of Ed Walzer, a graduate of Byram Hills who went on to have a career as a writer. The family has asked that the English department present the award to dedicated writers in the hope that they will pursue their passion for writing.

JARED JACOBSON

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:

Awarded to an outstanding junior with a high degree of interest in Social Studies.

GUINEVERE MESH

SOCIAL STUDIES AWARDS

SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARD: Given to a senior who has shown exceptional growth in the field of Social Studies.

NICHOLAS GIORDANO

NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AWARD: Given to a senior who has excelled in American History, European History, and/or the senior electives:

GABRIELLE DISTEFANO

HISTORY and SOCIAL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT AWARD: Presented to a senior who is an outstanding and serious history scholar:

SPENCER ROBBINS

MATHEMATICS AWARDS

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM: For outstanding achievement in Mathematics.

Outstanding Senior:
ANDREI ISICHENKO

Outstanding Junior:
BRIAN SCHOENFELD

KEN HAMILTON MEMORIAL AWARD: Given to a senior who has displayed exceptional skills in software design, programming, systems analysis and hardware configuration; and who demonstrates excellent understanding and appreciation of computer science.

JARED JACOBSON

RENSELAER POLYTECHNIC INST. AWARD: For outstanding achievement in Math/Science:

ROSS WEINFELD

SCIENCE AWARDS

INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH AWARDS:

Semi-Finalists:

SAMUEL CAWKWELL
JONATHAN GIARDINA
ANDREI ISICHENKO
JESSICA OCCHIOGROSSO
EDAN PACKIN
MATTHEW PERCELLO
AMANDA TANTLEFF
HELENA ZHANG
BRIAN ZIMMERMAN

THE FARADAY AWARD: Presented to a senior who can manage long-term projects from inception to conclusion and create solutions in non-traditional ways.

NICOLE SPRUCK

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS:

These awards honor students who, through active leadership and scholarly endeavor over a significant period of time, have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of education in the sciences and science teaching.

SYDNEY BROOKS
GRACE EISENBIGLER
KACY FISHMAN
SARA GELB
JESSICA OCCHIOGROSSO
NICOLE WEISNER

BYRAM HILLS AWARD: For Excellence in Science awarded to outstanding senior.

JESSICA OCCHIOGROSSO

BAUSCH & LOMB AWARD: Presented to the outstanding junior science student.

LUCY GREENWALD

BYRAM HILLS AWARD: For potential in science, awarded to outstanding junior.

ELIZABETH KINGSLEY

LANGUAGE AWARDS

WORLD LANGUAGE AWARDS: Honors the student that has demonstrated a superior command of the language.

For general excellence in Italian:
ADAM INGBER

For general excellence in Spanish:
BRADLEY FALLICK

For general excellence in French:
ELIZABETH KINGSLEY

DUAL LANGUAGE AWARD: awarded to a senior that has demonstrated a superior command of two upper level languages, taken concurrently.

ALANNAH CONNOLLY

ART AWARDS

BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL ART AWARD:
KARINA IKEDA

SENIOR AWARD: COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS:
CASSANDRA VITACCO

YEARBOOK AWARD:
DANIEL JACOBS

BOBCAT TV AWARD:
SCOTT ADELBERG

MUSIC AWARDS

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA AWARD: The highest honor bestowed upon a member of the high school orchestra, to recognize excellence in performance and contributions to the ensemble.

HELENA ZHANG

THE JOHN PHILIP SOUSA NATIONAL BAND AWARDS: In recognition of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, for singular merit in loyalty and cooperation, outstanding performance and dedication to participation in band work.

NICHOLAS CIOFFOLETTI

THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ AWARD: Presented to the outstanding senior member of the jazz band. The award is based upon performance, creativity, and dedication to the jazz program.

ZACHARY BERRO

MUSIC AND THEATRE

THE NATIONAL CHORAL AWARD:
WILLIAM BENISH

OUTSTANDING CAREER CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEATRE PROGRAM:

SAMANTHA ROSENBLATT
MATTHEW WILLIAMS

HEALTH EDUCATION AWARDS

Awards are given to the two students who, over the current school year, exhibited out-standing characteristics of personal development, and introspection as it relates to Health Education:

ASHLEY POLERA
VINCENT PRIORE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AWARDS

SEZ (Southeastern Zone) AWARDS:

MALE: JOSEPH BRIGANTE
NICHOLAS GIORDANO
FEMALE: MARIEL KATZ
SYDNEY FERGUSON

BHHS SPORTSPERSONS OF THE YEAR:

MALE: CONNOR MORLEY
FEMALE: KACY FISHMAN

LYNN ROSENTHAL MEMORIAL AWARD:

Female Scholar/Athlete of the year:

KATHLEEN RYAN

Wm. A. McCoy, Jr. Memorial Award:

Male Scholar/Athlete of the year:

ANDREI ISICHENKO

AL BUONOMO MEMORIAL AWARD: Given to a student-athlete who demonstrates excellent citizenship, outstanding school spirit, and a true love for Byram Hills High School. This student must display a warm, friendly manner, and show a genuine concern for the welfare of others.

ASHLEY TROIANO

AIR FORCE ROTC SCHOLARSHIP:

Awarded to seniors for their outstanding, active, public and/or community service during their high school years.

BENJAMIN RATNER

VINCENT GRECO AWARD:

Presented to senior who has demonstrated resiliency and has been a positive contributor to the Byram Hills High School community.

THEO ALLEN

PTSA CARUOLO LEADERSHIP AWARD:

This award is granted to a senior on the basis of leadership, character, dedication, loyalty, humanity, and interest in education.

CHAD FRIEDBERG

HY BLATTE-JACK WOLLENBERG MEMORIAL AWARD:

This award goes to a senior who has a humanitarian outlook, a willingness to extend himself for others, and an optimistic approach to life and its challenges.

PERRY BAKAS

Congratulations to the Byram Hills High School Class of 2014!

Isaiah Shakur Ahmad
Benjamin Akselrod
Simone Tedesco Alimonti
Eliza Maria Allen
Theo Allen
David K. Altman
Lucas Samuel Anfang
Matthew Mario Bacchi
Perry Alexander Bakas
Daniel Harris Bank
Sarah Beer
William Dominick Benish
Matthew Joseph Berman
Kyra Bernstein
Zachary Evan Berro
Gabrielle Bialsky
Matthew Charles Birkenholz
Jason Elias Block
Sabrina May Bordash
Suzanne Alexis Brier
Joseph Paul Brigante
Aaron Joshua Brodsky
Andrew David Brook
Sydney Nicole Brooks
Mark Daniel Broomer
Maddalena Brown
Emily A. Byrne
Claudia Diana Camachio
Jenna Teresa Capriglione
Terence Joseph Carthy
Samuel Thomas Cawkwell
Alyaa Chace
Lily Basia Cigale
Nicholas Daniel Cioffoletti
Carly Ann Civitanova
James Patrick Clarke
Alannah Rose Connolly
Andrew T. Cooper
William Maxwell Cooper
Veronika Cotaj
Megan A. Cowell
Katherine Jean Cox
Alexandra Nicole DeTomaso
Julia Raquel Deutsch
Matthew Adam DiCristofaro
Stephanie Ding
Gabrielle DiStefano
Emily Rose Donovan
Samantha Morgan Donsky
Olivia Anne Dumont
Austin I. Eickelbeck
William Eickelbeck
Grace Eisenbiegler
Sydney P. Ezratty
Corey Isaac Fader
Bradley Ross Fallick
Alex Matthew Feldman
Sydney Alexandra Ferguson
Alyssa Nicole Filippelli
Jonah Martin Fischer

Kyle Robert Fisher
Kacy Paige Fishman
Kennedy Ann Fraleigh
Chad Marshall Friedberg
Michael Peter Gagliardi
Samuel Anthony Ganeles
Joseph Gazivoda
Sara Gelb
Michael William Casper Giacomo
Jonathan Giardina
Sophia Catherine Giardina
Nicholas James Giordano
Anthony Richard Gizzi
Jack Tyler Goldenberg
Eli Daniel Goldman
Devon K. Gould
Robert John Grande
Claudia Greco
Madeline Rose Greenberg
Jamie Michael Greenfield
Kristina Patrice Grimaldis
Alix Taylor Gropper
Ben Marcus Grossman
Brandon Ray Gundersen
Fidana Ha
Shalini I. Hathurusinghe
Catherine Rebecca Hervey
Kyra Katama Higham
Inbal Rebecca Hirschmann
Samuel Kyle Honig
Alison Jaye Horowitz
Kaitlyn Marie Hutter
Olivia Michelle Hutter
Karina Lee Ikeda
Adam Paul Ingber
Emily Samantha Irgang
Andrei Michael Isichenko
Daniel Harrison Jacobs
Jared Jacobson
Marko Jovasevic
Benjamin Kaplan
Nicolette Dawn Karanfilian
Mariel Jana Katz
Kelsey Eve Kelly
Thomas James Kelly
Maxwell Bernard Klafter
Elizabeth Jessica Klein
Danielle Nicole Kravette
Edward Lazansky Kreutzer
David A. Lachs
Nicole Faith La Gravinese
Kira Grace Leahy
Sophia Isabel Lebowitz

Lexington Hayley Leib
Alexandra Rose Levy
Gabrielle Ruth Levy
Maxwell Harrison Levy
Karen W. Liu
Demitrios C. Livanos
Frank Christopher Lofaro
Brenner Robert London
Julianna Michelle LoPriore
Remi Amanda Lubcher
Michael Gary Lyons
Erica Rachel Mack
Nicole Antonia Manouselis
Alexander Marsella
Andrew Christopher Marinaccio
Brandon K. Marsh
Brianna Nicole Mascaro
Matthew Thomas Massoni
Charles Alexandre McAuley
Caroline Mary McGlynn
Dylber Mehmetaj
Matthew Clark Melkonian
Sara Helene Melnick
Sarah A. Michaels
Marissa Jordyn Miller
Alexander George Minassian
Nina Jacqueline Moll
Charlotte Sarah Moore
Connor James Morley
Andrew Joseph Muhart
Philip Michael Neizvestny
Alexander Tyler Nick
Jacob Nivasch
John David Nolletti
Jessica Occhiogrosso
Sean Paul O'Connell
Edan Packin
Caesar Joseph Palotta
Zoe Eileen Papacostas
Matthew Louis Percello
Nicole Tara Pfeffer
Michael Dylan Pollack
Samuel Ian Potash
Armend Pushka
Austin Raichelson
Sarah Rebecca Rapkin
Abbey Beth Ratafia
Benjamin Ratner
Ian Michael Rawn
Zachary A. Rayman
Olivia Rose Reda
Jesse Lee Reichenbaum
Kaitlin Riggs

Spencer Slate Robbins
Cara Helene Romano
Tess Alexandra Romano
Samantha Lee Rosenblatt
Danielle Marie Rosenblum
Hannah Sue Rubino
Kathleen Elizabeth Ryan
Rachel Sarah Sanders
Alessandra Christine Sauro
Meagan Ann Scanlon
Paulina Jean Schiliro
Jake Ryan Schuster
Hal Jefferson Schwimmer
Hailey Sara Seiferheld
Brandon Ross Sencer
Matthew Eric Shine
Daniel James Sidoti
Max Bennett Siegel
Joshua Ross Sirota
Rachael Ilana Slap
Matthew Slosberg
Andrew M. Smith
Nicholas Socolof
Robert James Solomon
Julia Patricia Spacavento
Jonathan Barnett Spadafino
Nicole Margaret Spiconardi
Hilary Brett Spiegel
Stefanie Lily Spiegel
Nicole Marie Spruck
Anthony Christopher Squillante
Annabel Rae Stanley
Samantha Paige Steiner
Jacob Maxwell Stillman
Amanda Sydney Tantleff
Kamilla S. Tatka
Itai Taubenfeld
Ryan Kevin Tissot
Evan Trainor
Ashley Taylor Troiano
Alec Howard Valchik
Rachel Vega
Nicholas Anthony Vettoretti
Lina Ann Villani
Cassandra Lynne Vitacco
Nicole Elizabeth Weisner
Steven Emanuel Weiss
John Langer Weitzman
Elizabeth Fix Wellington
Alyssa Victoria White
Timothy Peter Wiese
Matthew Joseph Williams
Jennifer Alyse Winkler
Griffin Philip Yale
Jesse Abraham Yustman
Kara Anne Zaborowsky
Helena Anne Zhang
Brian Dean Zimmerman
Avery Siera Zucker

2014

Byram Hills Sports Teams Help Out Local Causes

Whether they're walking in support of local causes, playing special charity games or wearing pink to boost awareness of breast cancer, Byram Hills' student-athletes care about their community.

This school year, the high school teams participated in numerous fundraising events on and off the playing field and raised thousands of dollars in the process. High school athletes also participated in community activities aimed at encouraging younger children to play sports. Athletic Director Michael Gulino said he and the teams' coaches support service activities. Thinking about others, and working for a common goal fits in with the district's philosophy.

"Our emphasis isn't so much on winning or losing as it is on developing teamwork, and teaching our students how to work hard, persevere, manage their time and learn healthy ways of dealing with stress," he said. Participating in fundraising activities such as walks, runs and charity games helps build stronger, more cohesive teams, according to Mr. Gulino. Students enjoy spending time with their teammates when they're not practicing or competing. Helping to organize charity events also give students another opportunity to gain leadership and organizational skills.

"The kids get a lot out of it in many different ways," Mr. Gulino said. "We want them to take what they are learning here and carry it forward into their lives, and they learn a lot by being a part of these activities."

Varsity Dance raised \$12,450, through bake sales, its annual Dancing for Dollars event and other efforts. Coach Susan Bellina said the team, which dances at Homecoming, football and basketball games, focuses significant time and energy on their fundraising.

"It's an amazing opportunity for them to work together as a team," she said. "They're working toward their goal the entire year." A highlight of the year was when the team danced at Blythedale Children's Hospital and met the children they raised money to help.

"These girls can look back at their high school career and say 'I made a difference; it wasn't just about me,'" said Ms. Bellina.

Physical Education teacher Scott Saunders, who coaches the



Varsity Dance raised money for Blythedale Hospital.

boys Varsity Baseball and Football teams, said Byram Hills coaches are always reminding students that they are part of something that's bigger than themselves.

"As a coach, it's really nice to see your team come together to give back," he said. Mr. Saunders said students also have volunteered their time to encourage the town's younger athletes. Football players participated in a homecoming game run by the Armonk Warriors Youth Football program while baseball players ran several clinics for middle school students. Mr. Saunders said the younger kids look up to the high school students and enjoy being with them.

"It encourages them to stay involved, and gives them something to shoot for. They look at the older kids and think 'I want to be part of that team when I'm in high school.'"

Other community service activities by BHHS athletes this year included:

- Varsity Ice Hockey paired with the American Cancer Society and Coaches vs. Cancer to raise money for breast cancer research in the annual Pink the Rink game against Fox Lane High School. The teams raised more than \$3,000.
- The JV and Varsity Cheerleading teams participated in a Breast Cancer Walk and an Alzheimer's Walk.
- Several teams wore pink clothing or pink laces during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- The girls' Varsity Soccer team and the Varsity and JV Field Hockey teams ran in the Run for Love 5k Race.
- The boys' Varsity Soccer team participated in the Rockland vs. Westchester Challenge to raise Money for Breast Cancer Awareness.
- Girls Varsity Swim team raised money for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.
- The Football team raised money for Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center.
- The Baseball team raised \$2,000 for Bat for the Cure, which supports prostate cancer research.

Wampus Students Run 'Olympics'

On one end of the field at the Wampus School, several fifth graders encouraged a student with special needs who was trying out an obstacle course featuring cones and hula hoops with shouts of "Way to go" and "That's great!" Down the field, another group of children laughed as they threw water-soaked balls at each other.

It was called the "Olympics" but there were only winners as Wampus hosted 20 students on June 17 from two Southern Westchester BOCES programs. The annual event has taken place for more than 20 years.

"For kids with autism, socialization can be very hard," said BOCES teacher Kathy Knudsen. "For them to come here, and have all this one-on-one attention, is a wonderful experience." The Wampus students treated

their visitors to activities ranging from lawn games to soccer to storytelling. For all the students, however, the best part was playing together.

"It's just really nice to be able to have fun with all the kids who are visiting," said Wampus fifth-grader Luke Coviello.

Wampus teacher Janet Thompson, the event's organizer, said she talked to her students beforehand to explain the challenges that the visiting students face over socializing and communicating. "I tell them to be positive role models and to make sure the kids who visit have the best day." Judging by the smiles, her students did just that.

"The best part is that we look over the field, and we can't tell which students are from which school," said Ms. Knudsen.



Byram Hills School District
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Marie Cortissoz

Our Mission

In an environment of mutual respect, the Byram Hills School District and its community will provide students with the means, the knowledge, and the opportunity to excel in order to become productive and responsible citizens of the twenty-first century.

"A great place to learn."

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Libraries Are Open for eBook Borrowing

When the kids complain this summer, "There's nothing to do," send them to the school library. They can "visit" even if you're on vacation.

Although the schools are closed, students can access eBooks from the school libraries at Coman Hill, Wampus, Crittenden and the high school. Barbara Barthelmes, the librarian at the H.C. Crittenden School, said middle school students can borrow eBooks to complete their summer reading or just for fun. While not every book on the summer reading list is available as an eBook, many are.



"I'm hoping that students will take advantage of the eBooks this summer," she said. Incoming sixth graders can choose from more than 61 eBooks that are on the summer reading lists; seventh graders, 57 eBooks; and eighth graders, 16 eBooks. In many cases, there are multiple copies of books available.

This year, school librarians began building collections of eBooks that students can download onto their electronic devices or computers. The eBooks, purchased through a generous grant from the Byram Hills Education Foundation, have made it easier

for district students to tap library resources. Whenever students have access to Wi-Fi this summer, they can download library books.

Librarians purchased books according to their schools' individual needs. At the high school, librarian Letty Nardone focused on collecting books to support grade-wide projects such as the Junior Author project. Although high school students have limited eBook choices for required summer reading, Ms. Nardone said she hoped that students would borrow eBooks for other purposes. The school has an extensive collection of nonfiction titles that will interest teenagers, such as Susan Cain's "Quiet" and Malcolm Gladwell's "Outliers."

Coman Hill and Wampus students do not have required reading, but are encouraged to read for enjoyment.

"Reading eBooks is a great way to take your library with you wherever you go!" said Coman Hill librarian Jane del Villar. Wampus librarians Erin Meyer and Lisa Pena said they hoped that their students would also access the eBook collection to enjoy recent additions in fiction and non-fiction.

Librarians worked with the students this year to ensure they know how to access and borrow books. On a home computer, they can go to their library's Follett Shelf to borrow and download books. Students log into the BobCat-alog from the district homepage and can search by title, author or topic. Once the eBook has been opened, a student clicks on "Check out." The books check themselves back into the library. To read a book on a mobile phone or tablet, students first need to download a free app.

Five Teachers Received Tenure



Five Byram Hills teachers received tenure at the June meeting of the Byram Hills Board of Education. They are (L-R) HS physical education teacher James Ardizone, HCC language teacher Aileen Runne, HCC music teacher Kate Flanigan, Wampus reading teacher Maria Kiely and Math Chairperson and high school teacher Lisa Pellegrino.