



Byram Hills School District

SPECTRUM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

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Congratulations Class of 2015!



Members of the Byram Hills Class of 2015 graduated during a June 23rd ceremony held before proud parents, relatives and friends at the Purchase College Performing Arts Center.

Dressed in their caps and gowns, graduates listened to classmates reminisce about their school career and heard advice from school officials.

Salutatorian Brian Schoenfeld and Valedictorian Elizabeth Kingsley reminded their classmates that they had scored successes in the classroom, on the fields, on the stage and in other arenas. Both students thanked their parents, teachers and other district staff for their support. Elizabeth said that her class was leaving while Byram Hills “was experiencing an incredible moment” with a state baseball championship and successes in mock trial and other areas of school life. “We’re leaving with a great legacy and a wonderful sense of shared accomplishment,” said Elizabeth.

Brian joked that their class had only celebrated Halloween once at the high school – thanks to two storms and a broken pipe that closed school during three of their four years. That was all part of the twists and turns of life. Quoting former tennis great Arthur Ashe, Brian said, “Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome.”

“The path is now up to us and the journey is ours to enjoy,” he said.

Principal Chris Borsari said students already knew that Byram Hills is an achievement-oriented community committed to excellence. Among the graduates, he noted, were National Merit winners, state championship baseball players, mock trial champions, science research award winners, and literary award winners.

What is sometime forgotten, however, is how much the community also values the hard work and commitment that can lead to more private accomplishments. The student who made a team that she did not expect to, or the one who worked with a teacher outside of class to improve his performance or pass a Regents exam deserve

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Byram Hills Wins State Baseball Title

The Byram Hills Boys Baseball team was named the Class A state champions in June, following a storybook ending that included a walk-off win in the 10th inning of the semifinals and a close victory in the title game that came down to a final strike.

The Boys Varsity victory, which gave the district its second state athletic title, was celebrated in a parade through Armonk attended by classmates, family members and district residents. Coach Scott Saunders credited the team’s success to practice, team spirit and standout performances by many players.

“A lot of work went into this title,” said Coach Saunders, noting that the championship capped several years of dedication and hard work that followed the Bobcats reaching the Class A sectional final in 2012. The team has reached the semifinals every year since then.

During the championship run, the whole team contributed. “With each game, it seemed like new heroes stepped up,” said Coach Saunders.

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Frankie Vesuvio pitches at the sectional final against Rye.

Byram Hills Wins State Baseball Title

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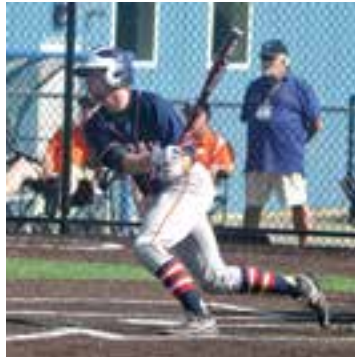
“This whole team really believed in themselves and each other.” Many of the boys have played together for years in Little League and travel teams before joining the Bobcats. Some players were part of a 10-and-under team that won Armonk its first championship.

Athletic Director Michael Gulino said the students deserved praise “for winning with honor, dignity and pride for their whole community.”

“They represented the community and the school in how they carried themselves – on and off the field and in the classroom – that’s the sign of real champions,” Mr. Gulino said. This year’s team includes eight seniors, 10 juniors and three sophomores; its assistant coaches are Ted and Mike Huffman.

Coach Saunders said the Bobcats received a lot of support from the community, culminating with the parade. “The whole town really rallied around us, not just during ‘states’ – but for the whole season,” he said. “That was a really special feeling for all of us.”

◀ Many players contributed at bat and on the field during the state finals. ▶



▲ The Bobcats, along with their coaches and team alumni, after winning the State Championship game.

Photo credit Harry Malles



◀ The Bobcats celebrate after winning sectionals.

Byram Hills residents cheer the Bobcats during a parade through town. ▶



Congratulations Class of 2015!

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be celebrated as much as their classmates with more public achievements, said Mr. Borsari.

“Please remember, that the greatest opportunities to grow will come from the challenges you will face,” he said.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Donohue told graduates to remember that Byram Hills’ greatest strength is not its test scores or college acceptance rate but its roots in community.

“Every talent, every interest, every student from every neighborhood was supported by this community,” he said. Dr. Donohue noted that the students had forged their own community, helping each other grow up, and had greatly benefitted from the support of the larger school community that includes faculty.

Dr. Donohue also advised students not to choose perfection over trying new challenges. “You can’t make the really hard decisions or survive the bad things in life if you haven’t been humbled by your own faults and mistakes,” he said.

School board President Ira Schulman also stressed the importance of community, urging graduates to get involved. He encouraged them to turn to the friends they’d made at Byram Hills when they needed support: “Be kind to each other.”

‘Honoring the Past... Inspiring the Future’



Byram Hills inaugurated its first class of athletes into the district’s new Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony held on May 28 at Brynwood Country Club in Armonk.

Board of Education Honors Four Teachers

Teachers at all four district schools were honored by the Board of Education in June for demonstrating excellence and innovation in the classroom, and helping to make Byram Hills “a great place to learn.”

Jennifer Rowell, a second-grade teacher at Coman Hill; Natalie Reilly, who teaches fourth grade at Wampus; Christina Bonitatibus, an HCC social studies teacher; and Tom Andriello, a high school social studies teacher, were awarded the 2014-15 Teacher Recognition Awards.

Coman Hill

Jennifer Rowell is a master teacher, said Principal Peggy McNerney, known both for caring for children and demonstrating an expert understanding of curriculum, instruction and assessment.

“When you think of a master teacher you think of someone who is able to motivate and excite children to learn,” said Ms. McNerney. “Ms. Rowell can precisely do this on a daily basis.” Ms. McNerney noted how Ms. Rowell uses her ‘Book Buddy’ Partnership with a kindergarten teacher to teach not only academic lessons but listening and communication skills that are important in all aspects of life.

This year, Ms. Rowell helped her students find their own solutions when they told her their Kindergarten buddies didn’t always listen. Ms. Rowell guided her students to find strategies to address their concerns, apply them in their sessions, and later refine them. The whole exercise taught problem-solving, reflection, perseverance, and accountability.

Ms. McNerney also praised Ms. Rowell for getting to know her students as individuals so she could motivate them effectively. This year, as a result of classroom discussions, one of Ms. Rowell’s students became so interested in non-fiction biographies that he created a timeline depicting the books’ subjects that literally wrapped around the classroom.

“This learning goes beyond any Common Core State Standard and will leave a lasting impression for this child,” said Ms. McNerney. “This is the type of work that Ms. Rowell does daily.”

Wampus School

Natalie Reilly is a leader at Wampus in several areas. The fourth-grade teacher volunteered for a Chromebook pilot study and used her knowledge of technology to transform student learning, according to Principal Debra Cagliostro. Ms. Reilly created a Google Classroom that has grown beyond homework and project assignments to also include forums for sharing ideas and relevant quotes, challenges for students, and feedback by her and students. Ms. Reilly volunteered to be a Learning Community Facilitator to support her colleagues’ technology skills. “She quickly became one of the “go to” people at Wampus,” said Ms. Cagliostro.

Ms. Reilly also advises the school’s service club, VIP Jr. This year, she and her co-advisors formed a connection to the Bristol adult living facility, taking the students there to interact with residents. The club also beautified the grounds at Wampus by planting bulbs in the fall and planting a donated tree. Ms. Cagliostro noted that Ms. Reilly often has lunch with students who are facing social difficulties to help them develop social strategies and feel more comfortable.

Ms. Reilly is also a co-facilitator of the Positive Behaviors Interven-

tion Support Committee at Wampus, sparking new life into the effort with a variety of ideas that engaged students.

“Natalie is a teacher who always volunteers when help is needed,” said Ms. Cagliostro. “She has flourished as a leader.”

HC Crittenden

Christina Vezza “is everything a middle school teacher should be,” according to Principal Dr. H. Evan Powderly.

“Her students judge her by the time she spends with them when she doesn’t have to, and she spends many hours before and after school assisting her students,” noted Dr. Powderly. Ms. Vezza organizes service activities and actively participates in all curricular interdisciplinary activities — including dancing down the hallways dressed as Lincoln in the annual Variety Show faculty video.

Since joining the district in 2008, Ms. Vezza has worked to increase her knowledge of history, participating in the Gilder-Lehrman center for the teaching of American history, and Facing History and Ourselves

workshops. She has also continued her professional development with courses in Dimensions of Learning and performance assessments. Dr. Powderly praised Ms. Vezza for continually improving her lessons by collaborating with social studies teachers, and adding debates and interdisciplinary projects to the curriculum.

Ms. Vezza coordinates the annual seventh-grade trip to Boston, and also assists students in the afternoon homework center.

Byram Hills High School

Tom Andriello is an invaluable member of the high school community, said Principal Chris Borsari. To students, he is an excellent teacher who is gifted at creating an inclusive and supportive environment. To colleagues, he is a skilled collaborator and educator who is always interested in being part of the solution.

As a social studies teacher and track coach, Mr. Andriello builds meaningful relationships with young people, said Mr. Borsari, noting that students often gather in his room during his free periods.

Mr. Andriello can always be counted on to tackle department work and initiatives. He has participated in the Tri-States PADI initiative, collaborating with his Global II colleagues in the development of a shared authentic performance assessment. His students, meanwhile, are utilizing a Google community approach to answer the essential question: Can tradition and modernization coexist? “In this work, Mr. Andriello has demonstrated his commitment to professional collaboration and personal growth, both of which serve as hallmarks of his success,” said Mr. Borsari.

For the past two years, Mr. Andriello has coordinated the Freshmen Mentor Program. In this role, he has revised the process for selecting and training senior mentors, and has standardized the curriculum to ensure that all freshmen have a similar mentor experience. In addition, Tom has collaborated with the coordinators of our other senior leadership programs to develop common timelines, expectations, procedures, and communication structures. This more coordinated approach has led to the development of a systemic approach to leadership training for all senior leaders, noted Mr. Borsari.

“Mr. Andriello’s unique ability to unite those around him toward a common end has been invaluable in this work,” he said.



(L-R) Tom Andriello; Natalie Reilly; Jen Rowell and Christina Vezza.

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.

JOANNA MAGAR

ARMONK LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: Awarded to seniors for their outstanding, active, public and/or community service during their high school years.

NICHOLAS BARATTA
REMI ZIFF

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

THOMAS GAGLIARDI

EL CENTRO HISPANO AWARDS: Awarded to students who have helped immigrant families improve their quality of life to achieve a better future.

ELIZABETH CRONIN
JULIA MARKOWITZ

JOHN A. LOMBARDI SCHOLARSHIP: Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding civic service and achievement.

THOMAS GAGLIARDI

ROGER CASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Given to a senior for academic achievement and outstanding community service.

LAUREN KLEIMAN

THE NYS COMPTROLLER'S STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: Given to seniors for academic achievement and outstanding community service.

ELIZABETH KINGSLEY
BRIAN SCHOENFELD

BRYANT UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Awarded to a junior who possesses outstanding entrepreneurial spirit.

REBECCA SIMON

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

SARAH TANG

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

LYNDSAY SIEGLE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BOOK AWARD: Presented to a junior who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and scholarly research in a rigorous college preparatory program.

RYAN INFANTE

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.

ALEXANDER WURM

AMERICAN ASSOC. OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN Outstanding Student Award:

WILLOW BAILON

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

KEVIN CHANG
JOLIE FELDMAN

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

SARAH CRUCILLA

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Presented to an academically-outstanding junior who demonstrates intellectual leadership and strong character.

SELA BERENBLUM

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

Achievement Award:
STUART ROBBINS
Leadership Award:
CARLY SCHWARTZ

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE BOOK AWARDS: Awarded to juniors who exhibit excellent academic achievement and who contribute to the extracurricular activities of the school.

ANDREA CORNELIUS
CHAD SCHWAM

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Given to a junior who has displayed a significant commitment to community service.

BAILEY WINSTON

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.

FIONN CONNOLLY
MARISA KAPLAN

BRANDEIS BOOK AWARD: Presented to a junior who demonstrates commitment to academics and service to his/her community.

DOMINICK ROWAN

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.

REBECCA CAWKWELL

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD: Awarded to a junior who demonstrates both commitment to academic excellence and dedication to community involvement.

KOHRO SHIMIZU

WELLESLEY COLLEGE BOOK AWARD: Awarded to a junior outstanding in her academic performance, character, and contributions to school and/or community life.

DANIELLE SKELLY

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

NICOLE KIM

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

MATTHEW MARJI

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

ROSS WEINFELD

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.

ZACHARY FRIEDEN

ENGLISH AWARDS**AMERICAN ASSOC. OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

Excellence in Writing Award:
ELIZABETH KINGSLEY

SENIOR ENGLISH AWARDS: For outstanding senior English students:

BESSIE JIANG
VALENTINA RIOS

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.

EDEN GORDON

SOCIAL STUDIES AWARDS**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:**

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

SARAH CRUCILLA

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

ANDREW GROLL

NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

SAMUEL BARNETT

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

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

KATY GALLAGHER

MATHEMATICS AWARDS

STUDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM: For outstanding achievement in Mathematics.

Outstanding Senior:
BRIAN SCHOENFELD

Outstanding Junior:
NICOLE KIM

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.

GREGORY CARLIN

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

JARED OKUN

SCIENCE AWARDS**INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH AWARDS:**

Semifinalist: GREGORY CARLIN

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.

NOLAN ABRAMOWITZ
BRANDON DROSSMAN
ALISIA ESCOBAR
SAMANTHA GOLD
ELIZABETH KINGSLEY
ALEXANDER KLEIN
ROSS WEINFELD

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

JONATHAN KROG

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

BRIAN SINGER

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

JARED OKUN

LANGUAGE AWARDS

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

For general excellence in Italian:
DANIELA PEREZ

For general excellence in Spanish:
BRIAN SCHOENFELD

For general excellence in French:
BESSIE JIANG

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

ALYSON ROSENBERG

ART AWARDS**BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL ART AWARD:**

GRACIE MARJI

SENIOR AWARD:

Commitment to the Arts:
GINA DIMAURO

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.

ELLA TAUBENFELD

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.

ANDREW GROLL

THE NATIONAL CHORAL AWARD:
NICOLE CRONIN

TELEVISION AND THEATRE**OUTSTANDING CAREER CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEATRE PROGRAM:**

SCOTT ADELBERG
NICOLE CRONIN

BOBCAT TV AWARD:

SCOTT ADELBERG

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AWARDS**SEZ (Southeastern Zone) AWARDS:**

RYAN BLUM
TAYLOR DAVIS
GUINEVERE MESH
ANTHONY NERI

BHHS SPORTSPERSONS OF THE YEAR:

KELLEN HATHEWAY
GUINEVERE MESH

LYNN ROSENTHAL MEMORIAL AWARD:

Scholar / Athlete of the year:
LUCY GREENWALD

Wm. A. McCOY, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD:

Scholar / Athlete of the year:
PAYTON LEVINE

Congratulations to the Byram Hills High School CLASS OF 2015

Michael Aberman	Nicole Taylor Cronin	Mia Sophia Jacobs	Eliett Rakower
Nolan Scott Abramowitz	Devon Cummings	Reid Jacobs	Sara Hailey Reiner
Scott Isaac Adelberg	Danielle Marie D'Avanzo	Catherine Marie Jankovic	Valentina Rios
Danielle Ann Adiletta	Taylor Lee Davis	Amos Jeng	Anthony Rodrigues
Kiera Ahern	Adriana P DeBenedictis	Bessie Jiang	Nicholas Mason Romanoff
Matthew Brandon Alpart	Gabriela I DeBenedictis	Brandon Paul Jones	Sarah Elizabeth Rose
Samuel I. Altman	Marisa Lucia DeFeo	Lindsay Kaufman	Alyson Paige Rosenberg
Jeremy Alvarado	Gina Marie DiMauro	George Kazazis	Adam Elliot Rossman
Alicia Michelle Alvis	Katie Marie DiMauro	Thomas John Kazazis	Jenna Isabelle Roston
Raquel Lauren Ambroselli	Ofir Dinstein	Michaela Andrea Kennedy Cuomo	Zachary Berman Roth
Kriya Amin	Brandon Samuel Drossman	Allison Kathryn Khouri	Max Simon Rothschild
Valentine Daniel Amorosana	Maria Dubin	Kristen Lynn Khouri	Karl August Samsen
Kevin Aronne	Taylor Rose Duffy	Elizabeth Berenice Kingsley	Michael Vincent Sardo
Gianna Catherine Aversa	Ross E. Ehrlich	Lauren Hope Kleiman	Brian Jake Schoenfeld
Kimberly Ann Bacon	Alisia Rebecca Escobar	Ross Kleiman	April Schur
Sean Francis Bacon	Stephan Fisher	Alexander Seth Klein	Ian David Schwartz
Diana Bajraktari	Lina Marie Foncello	Remi Alexa Klein	Isabel Sydney Schwartzberg
Lucy Bancone	Justin Frankel	Alex Kolaj	Julia Paige Seelig
Nicholas Anthony Baratta	Sydney Leigh Frenchman	Bennett Marc Kramer	Dominique Nicole Segatti
Samuel Jay Barnett	Zachary Robert Frieden	Jonathan Rainer Krog	Andre Seo
Alexander Matthew Baron	Jerome Garcia Friedman	Yianni Lambos	John Shea
Tyler William Batalla	Laurel Emilee Friedman	Andrew Richard Lander	Sophia Shore
Chloe Maher Berger	Joseph Allan Fromer	Kasey Taylor Lenok	Andie Rose Simon
Matt Justin Berger	Michael Jeremy Fruhling	Payton Levine	Ian Singer
Sofia Michelle Berkey	Christopher Gaetano	Alexandria Lichten	Tasha Elena Skotnicki
Jared Matthew Berliner	Nicholas Paul Gagliardi	Niki Isabella Livanos	Hannah Skriloff
Jason Carr Bernard	Thomas Alexander Gagliardi	Danielle Theresa Ljubicich	Ethan Marshall Soloway
Dannielle Bialsky	Katy Marie Gallagher	Garrett Mitchell Ian London	Daniel Alexander Spingarn
Alison Cohl Bidjarano	Raquel Leah Gaudio	Noelle Marion Love	Joshua Sherman Spingarn
Douglas Scott Bidjarano	Jared Maxwell Geller	Ryan Christopher Lynch	Jacob Noah Stuckelman
Ryan Blum	Gabriela Gemelli	Joanna Magar	Holden Ferree Summers
William Chapman Bohrer	Jake Geoghegan	Kevin Maman	Cole Tannor
Michael Joseph Brienza	Matt Gertz	Gracie Marji	Lauren Jessie Taub
Zena Susan Briggs	Emma Paige Giardina	Matthew Marji	Ella Taubenfeld
Elise Briody	Kiersten Paige Giuliano	Ethan Frank Max	Michael Allan Tavolacci
Lorenzo Brook	Melisa Gjakova	Matthew Cole McCarthy	Rayan Tewani
Caleb Anthony Brown	Remi Lyn Godner	Alexander Rips Meltzer-Werner	Shreya Tewani
Gina Bruni	Samantha Michelle Gold	Guinevere Xiao-ke Mesh	Leah Michelle Tobia
Julian Bubb	Paige Eliana Goldstein	Alexander Minder	Aryn Michelle Turk
Caroline Emily Bucher	Alexandra Marie Golia	Nicholas Vincent Monaco	Kyle Louis Vacco
Jonathan Harris Bugbee	Eden Arielle Gordon	Michelle Monforte	Zef Vataj
Krista Nicole Camacho	Claudia Greenspan	Kellyn Melissa Morris	Joseph Dean Venuti
Andrew Jack Capasso	Lucy Michelle Greenwald	Alexander Peter Mykytiuk	Taylor Leigh Verboys
Dillon Joseph Carlin	Andrew Groll	Chloe Dylan Nenner	Zachary Evan Wald
Gregory Robert Carlin	Christopher M. Hadiono	Anthony Frank Neri	Avery Leah Wallerstein
Michael Max Cermele	Nora Hafez	Alessia Michelle Oronzio	Julia Wallerstein
Emma Jaye Chilewich	Glenn Hammer	Zachary Paul O'Shea	Madeleine Weiland
Sarah Chuback	Shiqer Hasanaj	Victoria Alexis Parrish	Ross Jacob Weinfeld
Andrew Cohen	Kellen Patrick Hatheway	Daniela Sottovia Perez	Harrison T. Winter
Victoria Cohen	Mo Herbert	Justin Taylor Perline	Marni Marissa Wolchok
Nicholas Joseph Contillo	Janna Hershey	Jake Robert Pinkus	Remi B. Ziff
Nicole Rose Costabile	Nicole Remi Hoffman	Rachel Hannah Pollack	Brett Matthew Zimmermann
Gabriella Cotaj	Ari Lawrence Ifshin	Brandon Paul Pozzo	

New Athletic Director Named for Byram Hills

Incoming Athletic Director Robert Castagna said he is looking forward to joining a school district with an educational program that embodies developing the whole student.

"I've heard nothing but wonderful things about Byram Hills, and I think it's a place where I can see my philosophy closely matching the district's," he said. Mr. Castagna replaces Athletic Director Michael Gulino, who retired from the district in June after 34 years.

Mr. Castagna comes to Byram Hills from the Rye City School District, where he was director of health, physical education and athletics for the past 12 years. He worked for Rye for 21 years, including nine as a health and physical education teacher. Rye and Byram Hills are similar in their commitment to a strong educational, athletic and co-curricular program, and their willingness to support students' passions in a variety of areas, said Mr. Castagna. He added that he and Mike Gulino also share a belief that athletic programs can play an important role in developing students' character, integrity and a sense of fair play.

Mr. Castagna, who has bachelor and master's degrees from Iona College in New Rochelle, has certifications in athletic and school district administration. He lives in Ridgefield, CT, with his wife and two daughters.

Mr. Castagna said it was an exciting time to join Byram Hills following the Bobcats' first state championship in baseball and successes in other sports this year. "They're going to want to carry that energy into next year's competitions, and one of my goals is to capitalize on that," he said. Mr. Castagna said he was also looking forward to working with the Bobcat Boosters, which will be a change from Rye where each team has its own support club.

"After 21 years, I'm ready for a new challenge," he said.

'Kindness Box' Travels Between Crittenden Classes

A box that circulated among HC Crittenden classes this spring has been filled with a succession of gifts — homemade crayons, bookmarks, decorated postcards, and origami fortune cookies. Packed with those simple items was an important message: Be kind to each other.

As part of its ongoing #Kindness effort, started two years ago to nurture a supportive atmosphere at the middle school, the school created the "Kindness Box" as another way of reminding students that community is built on acts of kindness and respect. Teacher Sheila St. Onge, who has collaborated with Assistant Principal Kim Lapple, the guidance department and student leadership groups on the program, suggested the box as an outgrowth of the school's second #Kindness Week, held in early March. Eighteen classes signed up to receive the box, and it circulated around the school between March and the end of the school year.

"It's very low-key," said Ms. St. Onge, "but it's another way for students to get outside of themselves and think about another kid. As a class, they're asking 'Who can we be kind to?'" When students in Deborah DeFrancesco's sixth-grade class received the box, for example, they decided to send it to Kimberly Zampier's self-contained classroom. Around the same time, sixth-grader Rhys Healy had brought his harmonica to school and he and his friend Zach Binder suggested taking the box exchange a step further. Rhys learned "Here Comes the Sun" on his harmonica, and the class sang it and a few other songs when they passed on the Kindness Box to Ms. Zampier's students.

"It was a surprise for them and a lot of fun for us," said Zach. Student Emma Zdanoff said getting and giving the box was a way for students to know "there are people here who care about me." Said sixth-grader Stephanie Kim: "It's nice to know that other students were thinking about us, and that we can depend on people here."



Emma Zdanoff hands the Kindness Box to fellow student Stephanie Kim.

New Fine Arts Director Chosen

When Director of Fine Arts Joy Varley joked that she'd work for Deepak Marwah, Byram Hills administrators knew they had found the right person for the job.



Mr. Marwah will take over as director of Fine Arts in September following Ms. Varley's retirement from the district. He will direct the fine- and performing-arts program at the district and manage Bobcat TV.

Mr. Marwah was drawn to Byram Hills because of the administration and community's dedication to the arts as an integral part of the educational program.

"My first priority will be maintaining the district's high standards in performing and fine arts, and ensuring that students have a world-class arts experience at Byram Hills," Mr. Marwah said.

A certified educator with a master's degree in voice performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts, Mr. Marwah has most recently served as an arts director at a Long Island school district. He previously taught music at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in Manhattan, the high school made famous in the movie "Fame." A trained opera singer, Mr. Marwah is also an adjunct professor at New York University where he directs the NYU Chorale, the school's largest classical choral ensemble.

Mr. Marwah said he recognized he was stepping into an established, well-run program. In time, he said, he may explore ways of increasing the community's connection to the school's arts program, perhaps by finding additional ways for student-artists to exhibit in town or by finding ways to have performing nights involving students and parents.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Jennifer Lamia said the district was happy to have found an energetic educator who was well qualified to take on the varied roles that Ms. Varley has filled.



Byram Hills School District
10 Tripp Lane
Armonk, NY 10504

Board of Education

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 Mr. Scott Levy
 Ms. Joyce Meiklejohn
 Mr. Michael Sanders
 Mr. Ira Schulman

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**Assistant Superintendent for
 Business and Management Services,
 District Clerk**

Mr. Gregory Carlson

**Assistant Superintendent for
 Curriculum and Instruction**

Dr. Timothy Kaltenecker

**Assistant Superintendent for
 Human Resources**

Ms. Jen Lamia

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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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Wampus Students Hold ‘Olympics’ for Classmates with Special Needs

When a scheduling issue prevented Wampus fifth-graders from holding their usual Special Olympics for visiting students from a nearby BOCES program, Janet Thompson’s students suggested they plan activities for fellow Byram Hills students instead.

That suggestion led to a morning of activities in early June shared by students from two general-education classes and two special-education classes from Coman Hill and Wampus. The students played wiffle ball, tossed water balloons and enjoyed other games. Using props, the fifth-graders from Ms. Thompson’s and Eric Hufnagel’s classes also acted out storybooks they had written.

“It was a successful day for everyone,” said Ms. Thompson, adding that the teachers thought the morning went so well that they hoped to plan more joint activities next year. Ms. Thompson’s students already participate in a peer-mentoring program with students in self-contained classrooms.

Special Education teacher Lindsey Hendricks said the day was exciting for her students: “Our kids are having a day of fun when they can be themselves,” she said during the activities. The teachers said the fifth-grade hosts did a great



Olivia Hazan throws a water balloon to Ali Glusky, who said the toss was her favorite station.

job of running the stations and adapting them to the needs of all students. The morning also offered another opportunity for general-education and special-education students to be together as a part of a larger school community.

“They get to play with peers and take instruction from peers instead of adults, which is great,” said teacher Patricia Michaels.

Teachers, Administrators Are Granted Tenure



At its June 2nd meeting, the Board of Education granted tenure to four administrators: (L-R) Kim Lapple, Assistant Principal at HCC; Peggy McInerney, Principal at Coman Hill; Jennifer Laden, Social Studies Chairperson; and MaryBeth Crupi, Assistant Principal at Coman Hill.



BHHS Spanish teacher Eric Odynocki; BHHS Physical Education teacher Kathleen Healy; HCC Mathematics teacher Kristina Pace; BHHS Psychologist Sean Dolinar; BHHS Special Education teacher John Clark; and BHHS Social Studies teacher Julianne Wilson have received tenure.