

THE FOCUS

THE OFFICIAL BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAMS

MATTEO SINON AND BETH CORELLI

14 BYRAM HILLS STUDENTS HONORED BY NCWIT

The following 14 Byram Hills students have been selected as 2021 Hudson Valley Affiliate recipients in one of three categories of the NCWIT (National Center for Women & Information Technology). They are being recognized for their outstanding aptitude and passion for information technology and computing.

Sophia Cobos
Affiliate Winner

Alexa Cohen
Affiliate Honorable Mention

Lily Deitelzweig
Affiliate Honorable Mention

Talia Dinstein
Affiliate Winner

Kristen Eickelbeck
Affiliate Honorable Mention

Alexa Hershaft
Affiliate Honorable Mention

Madison Jakubek
Affiliate Rising Star

Raquel Kanner
Affiliate Winner

Gabrielle Ripka
Affiliate Winner

Chloe Siegle
Affiliate Honorable Mention

Alyssa Singer
Affiliate Winner

Drew Siskin
Affiliate Honorable Mention

Sophie Stumacher
Affiliate Rising Star

Chloe Weissman
Affiliate Winner

The Award for Aspirations in Computing builds a talent pool for the growing technical workforce and helps academic and corporate organizations celebrate diversity in computing. They honor young women at the high-school level for their computing-related achievements and interests. Each year they select award recipients based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing; leadership ability; academic history; and plans for post-secondary education. Byram Hills would also like to congratulate Ms. Carley Sarracco for winning the **Aspirations in Computing (AiC) Educator Award**. This award recognizes educators who have demonstrated a commitment to encouraging the computing interests of students who identify as women, genderqueer or non-binary.

STUDENT ART AWARD

Samantha Milewicz received a Silver Key Award in the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in the Northeast Art Region-at-Large. These awards are the country's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12. The awards are a platform of expression for creative teens making original work. Congratulations Samantha.

BHHS ARTISTS PARTICIPATE IN EXHIBIT

The following students exhibited at the Katonah Museum Young Artists 2021 in Exhibition:

Brooke Benz, Zachary Berger, Sydney Dooley, Daniel Fontana, Haleigh Francis, Logan Nieves, Zachary Piecyk, Leah Sokol, and Emma Sullivan.

Each year, the KMA celebrates the work of high school senior artists in what has become a perennially popular exhibition, now in its 38th year. In addition to having their pieces exhibited, students work alongside Museum professionals to take part in publicizing, curating, and installing the exhibition. On view are nearly 350 artworks from more than 30 regional schools. Congratulations to our student artists.

SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Once again, YAC is asking for your assistance in supporting the fight against cancer. In keeping with our previous virtual offerings, the Youth Against Cancer club has launched two new instructional videos: one for a "no-sew" pillow, a perfect craft for elementary-age students; and a second for tie-dye cupcakes, a delectable treat for Bobcats of all ages. Students, faculty, and community members can gain access to these videos by making a donation of any amount (\$10 suggested) using their existing mypaymentsplus account. For anyone outside the school community, accounts are easy to create.

To donate, log in to your mypaymentsplus account and click on EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, then DONATION, then your name to donate. Click on the event and after choosing a donation amount add to cart and proceed to checkout.

Previously posted videos are also still available! All proceeds will be distributed to a variety of organizations that are actively engaged in combating cancer or supporting those it impacts.

ACADEMIC TEAM UPDATE

The winning ways of the Byram Hills Academic Team continued into February and March. Competing online and without the buzzers has not been a negative factor in tournament play for these students. In fact, there are some advantages to online tournaments. The new rules emphasize team play over pure speed in answering questions. Teamwork is even more essential for success in competition.

The Academic Team competed in two local tournaments in February and March. Both the Byram Hills A team and B team picked up tournament wins on February 13th. The A team consisting of Luke Coviello, Leon Orlov-Sullivan, Katherine Lin, and John Ndocaj advanced to the finals where they defeated Irvington by a score of 455 to 300. The B team was made up of Bryan Lipton, Sebastian Vasquez, and Caleb Palappillil and finished the preliminary round 3-0. The B team faced off against Valhalla A in the finals and eked out a 5 point victory.

Saturday, March 6th was another great day for the Byram Hills Academic Team. Both the Byram Hills A team and C teams finished undefeated and won their respective divisions. The A team members were Luke Coviello, Leon Orlov-Sullivan, John Ndocaj, and Caleb Palappillil. This is the fifth time the A team has won a tournament and their cumulative record now stands at 29-1. C team members Dylan Pozzuoli-Doyle, Dan Ndocaj, and Greg Parent finished with a 4-0 record.

The success of this year's A team is related to both regular practicing three times a week and the different specializations of the team members. Luke Coviello is passionate about cars, military history, and general trivia. Leon Orlov-Sullivan has been dominant in the fourth quarter with his knowledge of music, literature, Presidents, and Russian and British History. Four-year veteran Katherine Lin typically answers the hardest math and chemistry questions. World geography, world history, and biology questions are answered by John Ndocaj.

MARCH SOFT SKILL

The soft skill for March is **Humor**. Countless studies have shown the tremendous impact that a strong sense of humor has on a student's overall wellness. Being able to see the humor in situations gives a greater sense of perspective and can help students reduce stress and anxiety.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

In celebration of Earth Week, the Byram Hills Sustainability Initiative, in partnership with the Sustainability Committee, is hosting a districtwide spent battery and light bulb collection drive April 19th - April 23rd. Batteries and light bulbs should never be disposed of in the trash as they can leach harmful chemicals and heavy metals into the ground and water supply. Instead, batteries and light bulbs should be recycled. Please send in your spent household batteries and light bulbs with your child to be properly disposed of during Earth Week. We are accepting all types of batteries and light bulbs (EXCEPT for car batteries). If you need assistance, please contact Courtney Bogren at cbogren@byramhills.org.

YEARBOOK UPDATES

As events like spring sports and the big theatrical show are pushed back further in this unusual year, we would like to be able to include more of them in the yearbook. Therefore, as last year, yearbooks will be mailed to students' homes in the summer. We encourage you to order your yearbook now. The cut-off date for receiving a book in the mail will likely be the end of May. Buy your BHHS yearbook here: Yearbookforever.com

ATTENTION 12TH GRADE PARENTS/SENIOR GROUPS

Mrs. Pagan, Student Assistance Counselor, will be meeting with interested Seniors who are ambivalent about leaving school and home and/or have "senioritis." Please talk to your child about participating. Interested students can fill out the Google Form which can be found on the attached flyer. Please see the flyer for more details about Senior Groups.

A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH 2 YOUTH CLUB

February is National Children of Addiction Awareness Month. This awareness campaign helps break the silence that engulfs and traps young people living with parental addiction and offers the chance for children at risk to become children of promise. Members of the Y2Y Club want to remind you that we may have no idea what personal battle someone is facing, but being kind, compassionate, and available to one another can be the first step in showing someone they are not alone. Please see the attached flyer and remember help is available.

QUALITY CONTENT

BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION MARCH 2021



School Counseling Discussion Group



BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
Tuesday, March 2, 2021



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday March 15th

- Spring High School Sports Begin

Tuesday March 16th

- Board of Education Meeting
Budget Hearing II
7:30 pm - **Virtual**

- BHHS Principal's Coffee
9:00 am - **Virtual**

Thursday March 18th

- National Art Honor Society
Induction Ceremony,
6:30 pm - **Livestreamed**

Tuesday March 23rd

- Board of Education Meeting
Budget Hearing III
7:30 pm - **Virtual**

Thursday March 25th

- C.H.I.L.D Evening Event
7:00 pm

Saturday March 27th

- Athletic Games/Practices
End by 5:00 pm
- Passover Begins at Sundown

Monday March 29th

- Regular Athletic Schedule
- Spring Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Opened

Tuesday March 30th

- Regular Athletic Schedule
- Spring Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Opened

Wednesday March 31st

- Regular Athletic Schedule
- Spring Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Opened

UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS

BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL AND
H.C. CRITTENDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRESENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S COFFEE
(6-12)

MARCH 4, 2021



March 2021 - Focus

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1-Black	2-Red School Counseling Discussion Group 9 am (Virtual) Board of Ed. Mtg. Presentation of Administration's Proposed Budget 7:30 pm	3-Hills	4-Navy	5-White	6
7	8-White Fall Season II Begin Gr. 8 Parent Orientation (Virtual)	9-Navy Gr. 8 Student Orientation @ HCC BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm	10-Hills	11-Red	12 Superintendent's Conference Day (Staff Only) Registration Deadline for 4/17 ACT Regular Athletic Schedule	13 SAT Reasoning Test Only (No Subject Tests)
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15-White	16-Navy Principal's Coffee 9 am (Virtual) Board of Ed. Mtg. & Budget Hearing II, 7:30 pm	17-Hills	18-Red National Art Honor Society Induction (Virtual)	19-Black	20 Science Olympiad (Virtual)
21	22-Black	23-Red Board of Ed. Mtg. & Budget Hearing III, 7:30 pm	24-Hills	25-Navy C.H.I.L.D. Evening Event 7 pm	26-White	27 Athletic Games/Practices End by 5 pm Passover Begins at Sundown
28 Holi	29 ** Regular Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	30 ** Regular Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	31 ** Regular Athletic Schedule Spring Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open			



By: Nora Lowe and Sydney Levy

A Tribute to Mr. Vincent Greco: An Instrumental Figure in the Byram Hills Authentic Science Research Program

The Byram Hills Dr. Robert Pavlica Authentic Science Research Program extends their gratitude to the late Mr. Vincent Greco for his invaluable contribution to the school and the program.

Thirty-three years ago, a vote was brought before the Byram Hills Board of Education to decide whether to approve a proposal for a science research program in the school. It was questionable whether the program would be feasible to implement as the expenses required were high and similar programs weren't as widespread at the time. Two board members voted against the program, and two board members voted in favor of it. This left the deciding vote to Mr. Vincent Greco. That day, decades ago, he took a leap of faith and voted to approve the Dr. Robert Pavlica Authentic Science Research Program (ASR).

The legacy of Mr. Greco, who sadly passed away this February, is everlasting; he not only began the program, but he also impacted each and every student in it. While many ASR students have never met Mr. Greco, nearly everyone in the program knows his name and the crucial impact he made. ASR is a community, and Mr. Greco is seen as the "grandfather" of it. Alumnus Alan Chang, now a student at the University of Pennsylvania, says that "Mr. Greco believed in the vision of ASR, and decades later, we have come so far. Having ASR was not only something that I will treasure forever but has certainly impacted hundreds of students as well." In fact, more than 500 students have graduated from the program to date. The program teaches students how to write, present, and handle a heavy workload. However, most importantly, it teaches students how to think, problem-solve, and make a tangible difference.

The first student in the ASR Program, Abe Shahim, is now a doctor working at Lenox Hill Hospital. ASR puts students on the STEM path, enabling them to help invent new technology, cure diseases, and expand the scope of scientific knowledge. Many students struggle to find their identity in high school. However, ASR provides the opportunity for students to explore their interests and learn more about themselves and the world around them. Mr. Greco paved the way for hundreds of students to have this self-discovery. After the first ASR student graduated, the program expanded immensely. Since 1998, there has been at least one Regeneron (formally Intel) Top Scholar each year, a highly prestigious accomplishment. The program has guided 123 students towards becoming Regeneron semifinalists, twenty-one of which have become finalists. Students share their work in competitions and some even publish papers. They are given opportunities that are usually unattainable for high school students.

As Mr. Kenneth Kaplan, a previous ASR teacher, explains, “Mr. Greco was always instrumental in keeping in touch with the program that he helped get off the ground.” Following the announcement of a Regeneron Scholar, Mr. Greco would always go into the classroom and congratulate the student and teachers. He was so greatly invested that the school had an ID badge custom-made for him although he wasn’t a teacher. Mr. Kaplan remembers, “He always used to walk in with a name tag around his neck, introducing himself to people, and stopping in the office.” Mrs. Stephanie Greenwald, the current program director, concurs, remembering, “Every year, whenever ASR students were acknowledged for their accomplishments through awards and commendations, Mr. Greco would soon appear in our room to congratulate our students and marvel as they shared their topics.” She continues, saying, “his constant support of our program was inspirational to us and his warmth and love will be missed.”

Mr. Greco has impacted other aspects of the high school as well. Each year, a graduating senior receives an award named after Mr. Greco for showing great resiliency and adding value to the community. Mr. Walsh, the Byram Hills High School principal, says that “It has been one of the highlights of each year to present this award in his name.” He continues, recalling that “Mr. Greco never failed to attend the ceremony and he went out of his way to get to know the recipient of the award. It was incredibly rewarding to see the impact that he had on the award winners.” Ms. Jen Laden, the Social Studies Chairperson, elaborates that “The award recognizes a student who has overcome significant challenges. Each student who has won the award represents the best of what we are at Byram Hills by focusing on the potential of all of our students and our belief in the ability of all students to grow and succeed.”

Always a believer in the potential of the next generation, Mr. Greco was willing to take a leap of faith by casting his deciding vote. He opted to vote in favor of the program because he was compelled by the vision of what it could become. Mr. Walsh recalls his positive attitude, calling Mr. Greco one of the most “ethical and optimistic people I have had the pleasure of knowing.” He continues, saying, “He took tremendous pride in the school and understood that great communities should be measured by the way that they educate their children.” Mrs. Santini, the science research program’s administrative assistant, adds, “Our program is better and stronger in part from Mr. Greco's belief in the magic of science and our students. I have no doubt

that he had a tremendous effect on all who got to know him as well as the Byram Hills Central School District as a whole.” Where others saw only obstacles and budget-cuts, Mr. Greco envisioned a program endowing students with invaluable lessons and limitless opportunity.

Mrs. Megan Salomone, a current teacher in the research program, captures his values perfectly, reflecting that “he understood one of the most fundamental principles of education: Never underestimate the potential of young people to accomplish great things.” For this, the program extends our deep gratitude for the life, legacy, and faith with which Mr. Greco entrusted us thirty-three years ago.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2021:

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

SENIOR GROUP

WITH MS. PAGAN, STUDENT ASSISTANCE
COUNSELOR

What is senior group?

Senior group is for students who would like a safe space to talk with their peers about feelings and thoughts associated with graduating and moving on to the next phase of their life.

Who can join?

Any senior at BHHS!

When do we meet?

We will meet virtually once a week for several weeks. Once you fill out the Google form, you will be placed in a group.

Can I be with my friends?

Yes! If you'd like to be placed in a group with friends, please put that on the Google form.

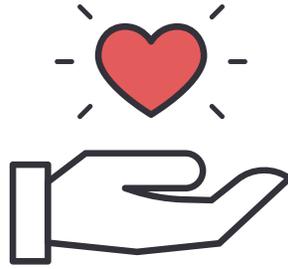
How do I sign up?!

Right here! Please fill out the Google form:

<https://forms.gle/Exg2KWpi4PVuVDaP7>



Bernice Pagan, LMSW, Student Assistance Counselor
Email: bpagan@byramhills.net
Phone: (914) 273-9200 ext. 4943
Office: Room 100B



FEBRUARY IS CHILDREN OF ADDICTION MONTH

**Don't be afraid to seek help if you are or know a
COA**

FACTS:

- 1) According to the National Association for Children of Alcoholics, 1 in 4 youth has a parent that abuses alcohol or suffers from alcoholism.
- 2) Up to 40% of all hospital beds in the US (except for maternity and intensive care patients) are being used to treat health conditions that are related to alcohol consumption.
- 3) Treating substance abuse behavior is a process that may take time, but there are many resources available to help

Resources

Children of Addiction Website: <http://www.nacoa.org/>

Substance Abuse & Mental Health National Helpline: 888-425-2666

Guide for COA: <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/guide-for-children>

At BHHS:

Student Assistance Counselor - Mrs. Pagan

Social Worker - Ms Kelly

Psychologists - Dr. Lanfredi & Dr. Medd

School Counselors -

Ms. Carnevalla; Ms. Hunt; Ms. Levenbrook; Mr. McCarthy; Mr. Quirolo; Ms. Wilson

Byram Hills Central School District
Department of Health Services

2021-2022 School Year Immunization Requirement for Meningococcal Vaccine

Dear Parent/Guardian,

April 2021

NYS law requires each parent or guardian provide the school with an immunization record from a health care provider or health department that shows their child has received, or is in the process of receiving, the required meningococcal vaccine. The date each immunization was given must be included in the record. This vaccination is required for any 12th grader to attend school in September 2021.

- Students in **Grade 7 will require** proof of **1 dose** of meningococcal vaccine.
- Students in **Grade 12 will require either:**
 - 2 doses of meningococcal vaccine with **the booster dose given on or after age 16**
 - 1 dose if your child's first dose was given on or after age 16

Please contact your health care provider to make sure your child has what they need to attend school this fall. Bring the immunization record to the School Health Office where it will be copied and returned to you if you wish.

If you have questions or concerns about immunizations, please contact your School Nurse, Julie Gallagher at (914) 273-9200 x 8

Sincerely,



Julie Gallagher, RN
BHHS Nurse
jgallagher@byramhills.org
914-273-9200 x 8(phone)
273-1256(fax)

Parents are invited to an exciting night of poker and philanthropy to benefit Byram Hills schools!



Choose from a variety of player packages!

BET BIG AND BOLD to win the Grand Prize - a Taco Food Truck Party at your home! More prizes and raffles available!

All player levels welcome! Play by yourself or make it a date night!

BUY A TICKET

