

THE FOCUS

THE OFFICIAL BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



BHHS SEMIFINALISTS IN THE 2023 REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

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FIVE STUDENTS SELECTED AS REGERNON SEMIFINALISTS

Byram Hills High School is pleased to announce that five seniors are among the 300 top scholars in the prestigious 2023 Regeneron Science Talent Search, an honor that recognizes their meaningful and important independent scientific research.

The semifinalists were chosen from about 1,950 students in the United States and abroad in the preeminent math and science competition that dates to 1942. On Jan. 24, 40 of the 300 students will be named finalists, who will compete for more than \$1.8 million in prizes at a weeklong competition in March. The top award is \$250,000.

The Byram Hills students conducted exemplary research in the areas of neuroscience, behavior, and medicine and health. A closer look at their work:

Rohini Das created a software application, The Brain App, to quantitatively evaluate how adults store abstract concepts they experienced while playing a card memory game. She then assessed how sleep influenced their recall of what they learned in the game, providing researchers with a simple, mobile method to investigate abstract thought.

Remi Matza critically analyzed publicly available data on age-related macular degeneration, a debilitating eye disorder, to determine how the density, location and diameter of blood vessels in the retina change in these patients. Her findings provide broader evidence that may help to better diagnose and treat this disease.

Samantha Milewicz used a novel 3D model that mimics the brain's protective layer, the blood-brain barrier, to identify a protein involved in tissue damage from traumatic brain injuries. With a combination of several techniques, she demonstrated that inhibiting the production of the protein MMP-9 restores healthy barrier function post-injury, providing insight into this protein's potential for therapeutic innovation.

Lindsay Miller utilized a newly emerging technique called pupillometry to study aspects of human behavior by observing pupil responses to light. She was the first to find that these responses follow a 24-hour circadian rhythm, meaning they are influenced by the time of day they are recorded. Her results may be essential for research regarding seasonal affective disorder as well as numerous other conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and diabetes.

Samantha Schaevitz investigated the use of focused ultrasound with microbubbles as a method to improve brain cancer treatment by allowing therapeutic drugs to more easily pass through the blood-brain barrier, a protective layer for the brain. She found that increasing ultrasonic pressure with microbubbles demonstrated a noticeable increase in drug penetration deep into the cancerous tumor. With further investigation, this method of drug delivery could hold promising potential as a more effective brain cancer treatment.



From left in the front row Lindsay Miller and Remi Matza, and in the back row from left, Samantha Milewicz, Rohini Das and Samantha Schaevitz.

CONGRATULATIONS CHLOE BERNSTEIN AND JENNA KLEYNERMAN, LOHUD PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

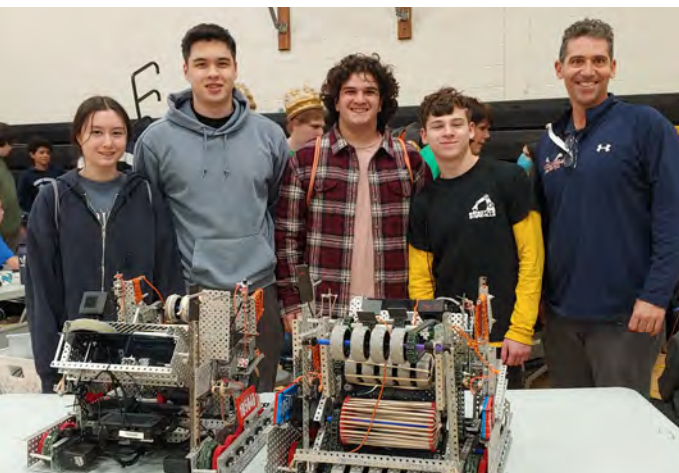
Congratulations to **Chloe Bernstein** and **Jenna Kleynerman** of Varsity Girls Tennis on being named lohud players of the year! Lohud celebrated the dynamic duo as a force on the court, teaming up and going unbeaten on their way to Section 1 and NYSPHSAA doubles titles. In the state finals, they unseated defending champions Darian Perfilev and Ellie Ross of Port Washington, completing the comeback to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. They also played a vital role in helping Byram Hills repeat as Section 1 and NYSPHSAA Division II team tennis champions.



SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM UPDATE

Congratulations to the Byram Hills Speech and Debate team on starting off 2023 strong with a fantastic showing at the January 7th Hunterdon Winter Classic! **Allegra Jooss** finished 4th in Oral Interpretation, while **Aiden Aldea-Lustig** won the Original Oratory competition.

VEX ROBOTICS TEAM UPDATE



Congratulations to the BHHS Vex Robotics Team for placing 9th out of 24 teams on Saturday, January 9th at the Fallsburg Vex Robotics Spin Up Regional Tournament! The team was comprised of **Dylan Shulman**, **Greg Postian**, **Sander Versteele**, and **Mayken Versteele**.

All four students represented Byram Hills with strength, stamina, intelligence, and sportsmanship.

BHHS/HCC WINTER ART SHOW

Congratulations to all of the students who showcased their work in the 2023 HCC & BHHS Winter Art Show! The show featured pieces in a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, sculpture, metalsmithing, photography, graphic arts, and more!



GUEST SPEAKER WAYNE MAZZONI TO PRESENT SEMINAR ON COLLEGE ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT

Byram Hills Athletics and Guidance are proud to present **Get Recruited: The College Athletic Recruiting Seminar** on Wednesday, January 18th, at 7 pm in the BHHS theater. Coach Wayne Mazzoni, a highly regarded speaker and author of 'Get Recruited', will present a seminar explaining everything student-athletes and parents need to know about the college athletic recruiting process. Please see the attached flyer for more information. To register for this free event, please [click here](#).



PARENT & TEACHER TRAINING FOR THE BHCSO INTERVIEW COMMITTEE

Each year, the Byram Hills Central School District establishes interview teams for the hiring of teachers and administrators. The District has been very successful in hiring and retaining excellent teachers and administrators as a result of teacher and parent committee participation.

Gina Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, will be offering two sessions for parents and teachers to attend a training session in order to be part of a hiring committee in the future.

If interested, please email Laura Coughlan at lcoughlan@byramhills.org with one of the following session dates:

Session 1: Thursday, February 16th, 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Session 2: Tuesday, March 21st, 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM



BYRAM'S GOT TALENT/ONE WORLD BENEFIT CONCERT

The Byram's Got Talent/One World Benefit, initially scheduled for December 13th, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 8th at 7 PM in the high school theater. Come see our talented students and faculty members show off their skills.

JANUARY SOFT SKILL

Grit. According to psychologist Angela Duckworth, grit is defined as a distinct combination of passion, resilience, determination, and focus that allows a person to maintain the discipline and optimism to persevere in their goals even in the face of discomfort, rejection, and a lack of visible progress for years, or even decades. To read more about why kids need grit, please [click here](#) to read this excellent article by Jenny Williams.



CLICK HERE FOR
ATHLETICS
EVENTS AND GAMES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 16th

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Schools & Offices Closed
- Regular Athletic Schedule

Wednesday, January 18th

- School Counseling Discussion Group
9 am

Friday, January 20th

- Pink the Rink

Sunday, January 22nd

- Lunar New Year

Tuesday, January 24th

- Principal's Coffee 9 am

Friday, January 27th

- End of 2nd Marking Period
and 1st Semester

Monday, January 30th

- Begin 2nd Semester

BH

January 2023 - Focus

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------|--|--|---|--|--|----------|
| 1 New Year's Day | 2 No Athletic Games or Practices Holiday Recess New Year's Day (Observed) Schools & Offices Closed | 3-1 Schools Reopen | 4-2 | 5-3 | 6-4 Registration Deadline for 2/11 ACT | 7 |
| 8 | 9-5 | 10-6 Scheduling Assemblies for Gr. 9, 10, 11 PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am | 11-7 HCC & BHHS Winter Art Show @ BHHS 8 am - 2:30 pm HCC & BHHS Winter Art Show Community Reception @ BHHS 5 - 6:30 pm | 12-8 HCC & BHHS Winter Art Show @ BHHS 8 am - 2:30 pm BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm | 13-1 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Regular Athletic Schedule Martin Luther King Jr. Day Schools & Offices Closed | 17-2 | 18-3 School Counseling Discussion Group 9 am College Athletic Recruiting Seminar 7pm | 19-4 | 20-5 | 21 |
| 22 Lunar New Year | 23-6 | 24-7 Principal's Coffee 9 am Board of Ed. Mtg. & Budget Hearing I, 7:30 pm | 25-8 | 26-1 | 27-2 End of 2nd Marking Period and 1st Semester | 28 |
| 29 | 30-3 Begin 2nd Semester 12th Gr. Superquarter | 31-4 | | | | |

Byram Hills Athletics and Guidance Departments Present

GET RECRUITED

THE COLLEGE ATHLETIC RECRUITING SEMINAR

What Student-Athletes and Parents Need to Know

SEMINAR INFO

DATE Wed. Jan 18, 2023

TIME 7:00 PM

PLACE Auditorium

COST **FREE** (fee paid for by school)

For Athletes Grades 7-12

REGISTER TODAY

Coach Wayne Mazzoni, highly regarded speaker and author of **GET RECRUITED**, presents a seminar explaining everything student-athletes and parents need to know about the college athletic recruiting process, including:

- How to determine the right athletic level
- How to get colleges to recruit you
- Understanding the NCAA Clearinghouse
- Understanding recruiting rules
- Determining your scholarship potential

⇒ **Learn how Covid19 is impacting athletic recruiting**

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"Wayne is as knowledgeable on this topic as any coach I have ever met. His seminar is a staple at our school."

—Julia Lovenjurski, AD, Princeton Day School

"I have been a coach and administrator for over 30 years, and even I learned a lot about the process. Our parents and students were overwhelmed."

—Wayne Mones, AD, Norwalk High School

"Feel free to use me as a reference. Your seminar was fantastic and we plan to make it an annual event."

—Dave Johnson, AD, Burnell High School



ABOUT COACH MAZZONI

For the past 15 years, Coach Mazzoni has focused his career on understanding the nuances of the college athletic recruiting process and helping high school athletes and parents find the college of their dreams. He is a current NCAA college coach, a national lecturer and author of three books on the college athletic recruiting process. Coach Mazzoni has spoken at over 150 high schools, and has been featured in or appeared on Sports Radio 660 WFAN, Fox News, ABC News, News 12 Westchester, and US News & World Report.

Visit www.WayneMazzoni.com for further information.

BYRAM HILLS VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM PRESENTS THE 11TH

PINK THE RINK

BYRAM HILLS vs MAHOPAC

FRIDAY JANUARY 20 AT 6:15 PM
BREWSTER ICE ARENA

SCHOOL BAKE SALES

BHHS:

FRI JAN 13

TUES JAN 17

WED JAN 18

THURS JAN 19

FRI JAN 20

HCC:

FRI JAN 20

ADMISSION \$5

FAMILY FUN
BAKE SALE
MERCH
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SHOW YOUR
SCHOOL SPIRIT
AND HELP US
MAKE STRIDES
AGAINST
BREAST CANCER



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