

# THE FOCUS

THE OFFICIAL BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



THE VARLEY PLAYERS PERFORM LITTLE WOMEN

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

- THE VARLEY PLAYERS PRESENT LITTLE WOMEN
- STUDENT LEADERS MAKE HEADLINES WITH IMPACTFUL CLUB INITIATIVES
- SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE MAKES AN IMPACT AT COMAN HILL
- MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS
- SOFT SKILL
- QUALITY CONTENT
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- ATTACHED FLYERS

## THE VARLEY PLAYERS PRESENT LITTLE WOMEN

Louisa May Alcott's timeless tale of the March sisters growing up, finding love, and finding themselves came to Byram Hills High School as The Varley Players performed "Little Women." The play, presented in three shows on Nov. 17-18, told the story of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March.

As the characters found and lost love and experienced sickness, death, and marriage, a range of emotions and feelings was brought to the stage by the talented cast. The students delivered a strong performance of the period piece, paying close attention to the diction and nuances of the era. The play was dialogue-heavy with many monologues, and the actors, in their suits and sweeping skirts, rose to the challenge.

Congratulations to the cast, crew, and production staff for this phenomenal performance!



## STUDENT LEADERS MAKE HEADLINES WITH IMPACTFUL CLUB INITIATIVES

Junior **Harli Rappaport** gained recognition on News 12 for her efforts in establishing the Food Allergy Awareness Club. The segment highlighted the club's commendable work not only in promoting awareness of food allergies but also in ensuring a safe Halloween experience for children with dietary restrictions. The club actively participated in the Teal Pumpkin Project, encouraging families to place a teal pumpkin outside their homes as an indicator that they were offering allergen-free treats. For more details, the archived article can be accessed [HERE](#).

Also, **Junior Zoe Harris** was featured in The Inside Press for her leadership in the Do Something Club, a venture she initiated last year. The article explores the club's impactful campaigns, ranging from spreading joy and increasing climate awareness to fostering community connections. It delves into Zoe's commitment to inclusivity, ensuring accessibility for all students, including those with learning differences. Highlighted projects such as "Bubble Break" and "Mirror Message" focus on mental health, while environmentally oriented initiatives like "Unplug It" underscore the club's dedication to positive change locally and beyond. For the complete article, [CLICK HERE](#).

Juniors, **Mady Testa** and **Sydney Dordik** launched the Connecting Generations club, an independent initiative supported by DOROT. In their inaugural event covered by News 12, the duo led volunteers in delivering Thanksgiving meals and spending quality time with older adults. The students' efforts not only showcased the significance of intergenerational connections

but also emphasized the pressing need to address social isolation, as highlighted by volunteer Patricia Phelan, who shared her personal connection to the cause. The Connecting Generations club, driven by the students' dedication, stands as a shining example of compassion and community involvement. To read more about this wonderful organization and initiative, [CLICK HERE](#).

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE MAKES AN IMPACT AT COMAN HILL

To foster eco-conscious habits among our youngest learners, the BHHS Sustainability Initiative (BHSI), along with the BH-PTSA Sustainability Team, recently presented at Coman Hill Elementary School at a community meeting. This dedicated group of environmental enthusiasts hosted a captivating assembly, focusing on vital topics like cafeteria recycling and composting.

The commitment to environmental stewardship extends beyond the school grounds by recognizing that food scraps are compostable. Starting January 2024, contribute to the cause by dropping off household food scraps at Lombardi Park. For more information on how you can embrace sustainability, email [CBogren@byramhills.net](mailto:CBogren@byramhills.net) or [Sustainability@NorthCastleNY.com](mailto:Sustainability@NorthCastleNY.com).

Take a look at a short video introduction to composting that was created by the BHSI and the Marketing and Media Club, showcased at Coman Hill:



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The BHHS Winter Concert Season is here! On Thursday, December 14th, at 7 pm, come hear the BHHS Choir, Orchestra, and Band perform in the Theatre. All three ensembles have exciting programs to share, culminating with a combined performance of the seasonal classic, Sleigh Ride.

The next morning, Friday, December 15th, between 9 am and 11 am, join band and orchestra students from the High School and Middle School as they come together to perform at the annual Music and Hot Cocoa @ Tazza event in Armonk Square. Come listen to some great music while sipping some delicious hot cocoa!

The Jazz Concert closes the winter music festivities with a performance on Monday, December 18th, at 7 pm, in the BHHS Theatre. The program will feature both High School and Middle School Jazz Ensembles. Doors open at 6:45 pm for all 7 pm performances.

Thank you for all your support! See you at the performances!

Happy Holidays!

## DECEMBER SOFT SKILL

Resiliency: The ability to react positively in the face of a setback, crisis, or trauma. The American Psychological Association has a terrific primer on developing resiliency which can be accessed by using [THIS LINK](#).

## QUALITY CONTENT

### Junior Parents Night

Tuesday, November 21, 2023  
7:00 PM



The Changing Landscape of  
College Admissions

**CLICK HERE**  
**FOR UPCOMING**  
**ATHLETIC EVENTS**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday, December 1st

- NYSSMA All-State Conference

### Saturday, December 2nd

- SAT  
- NYSSMA All-State Conference

### Sunday, December 3rd

- NYSSMA All-State Conference

### Tuesday, December 5th

- PTSA District Office Holiday Celebration  
@ DO 9:30 am  
- PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 10:30 am

### Wednesday, December 6th

- Senior Portraits

### Thursday, December 7th

- Hanukkah Begins

### Saturday, December 9th

- ACT

### Tuesday, December 12th

- Board of Ed. Mtg. 7:30 pm

### Thursday, December 14th

- Winter Concert: Band/Orchestra/Choir  
7 pm

# December 2023 - Focus

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 - 3  NYSSMA All-State Conference	2  SAT NYSSMA All-State Conference
3  NYSSMA All-State Conference	4 - 4	5 - 5  PTSA District Office Holiday Celebration @ DO 9:30 am PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 10:30 am	6 - 6  Senior Portraits	7 - 7  Hanukkah Begins	8 - 8	9  ACT
10	11 - 1	12 - 2  Board of Ed. Mtg. 7:30 pm	13 - 3	14 - 4  Winter Concert: Band/Orchestra/Choir 7 pm	15 - 5  Hanukkah Ends	16
17	18 - 6  Winter Jazz Concert HCC & BHHS @ BHHS 7 pm	19 - 7  Snow Date: Winter Concerts HCC & BHHS	20 - 8  Snow Date: Winter Jazz Concert HCC & BHHS	21 - 1  Alumni Breakfast 10 am Alumni Panel 10:30 am Holiday Party	22 - 2	23  No Athletic Games or Practices
24	25  No Athletic Games or Practices Christmas Day Schools & Offices Closed	26  No Athletic Games or Practices Holiday Recess Schools & Offices Closed	27  Regular Athletic Schedule Holiday Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	28  Regular Athletic Schedule Holiday Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	29  Regular Athletic Schedule Holiday Recess Schools & Offices Closed	30  Regular Athletic Schedule
31						