

# THE FOCUS

THE OFFICIAL BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

- YAC/ONE WORLD BENEFIT SHOW
- BHHS ARTISTS SHINE IN NATIONAL K-12 CERAMIC EXHIBITION
- STUDENT ART AT KATONAH MUSEUM
- SPEECH & DEBATE NEWS
- SCIENCE OLYMPIAD RESULTS
- GLOBAL SCHOLARS INSPIRE AT CHANGEMAKER PROJECT GLOBAL PITCH
- STUDENT-ATHLETE HIGHLIGHTS
- MYBOBCAT APP
- THERAPY DOGS
- PARENT & TEACHER TRAINING FOR THE BHCS D INTERVIEW COMMITTEE
- SPRING BREAK
- SOFT SKILL
- A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR
- A MESSAGE FROM THE EMOTIONAL WELLNESS SUPPORT TEAM
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- ATTACHED FLYERS

## YAC/ONE WORLD BENEFIT SHOW

Congratulations to the Youth Against Cancer and One World clubs for organizing a fantastic talent show and benefit concert on February 7th. The concert successfully raised over \$3,000 dollars, which will be donated to various cancer-fighting organizations worldwide. The event featured exceptional performances, with the following students earning recognition from our audience votes.

Third place was awarded to **Sean Newman** for his impressive juggling act. **Valentina Marino** secured second place with her rendition of "It's a Man's Man's Man's World" by James Brown. **Eashan Goel** and **Rocco Pedone** clinched first place with their dynamic performance of "Seek and Destroy" by Metallica.

Click on the thumbnail below to view the event.



## BHHS ARTISTS SHINE IN NATIONAL K-12 CERAMIC EXHIBITION

Three BHHS students have been chosen to showcase their incredible artwork at this year's annual National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition: senior **Carissa Chung** with 'White Rabbit', junior **Summer Feng** with 'Koi pot', and junior **Eve Nepo** with 'Cerberus Pot'. Their work stood out among 1169 entries and will be featured at the exhibition in Richmond, Virginia, from March 20-22. This event, held during the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference, welcomes visitors worldwide.

Check out their amazing pieces!



## STUDENT ART AT KATONAH MUSEUM

Congratulations to **Samantha Abraham, Carissa Chung, Zach Goldman, Eerika Karttunen, Andrew Petlyuk, Lila Raff, Ruby Smalheiser, Avery Talbot, Alex Woodworth, and Olivia Zodda** for having their work selected to be shown at the Katonah Museum of Art's Young Artist Exhibit! The exhibit features the remarkable work of 365 high school seniors representing 43 schools across Fairfield, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. It debuted on Sunday, February 11th and will be available until March 3rd.

## SPEECH & DEBATE NEWS

On February 2nd and 3rd, members of the Byram Hills High School Speech and Debate team participated in the Pennsbury Falcon Invitational Debate competition hosted at Pennsbury East High School in Fairless Hills, PA. The team showcased their skill and dedication as they competed against schools from across the northeast.

- **Anisha Bobra** and **Alice Tardieu** reached Semi-Finals in Novice Public Forum

- **Alyssa Chen** and **Lindsay Coady** reached Octofinals in Varsity Public Forum

- **Avni Sundaram** finished 5th in Declamation Speech

- **Isabella Vasquez** and **India Edwards** finished 2nd in Improv Duo Acting

Additionally, the team competed at the annual University of Pennsylvania tournament on the weekend of February 11th and had three students make the finals. **Allegra Jooss** finished 5th in Oral Interpretation, **Emi Nagura** finished 4th in Declamation Speech, and **Valentina Marino** finished 3rd in Dramatic Interpretation.

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD RESULTS

Congratulations to both Science Olympiad Teams on their performance this weekend in the Lower Hudson Valley Regionals! Medals on the A Team were won by **Jake Fenster** and **Lily Anchin** in Chemistry Lab, **Daniel Ndocaj** and **Casey Goldstein** in Geologic Mapping and **Rocky Yang** and **Teah Reichenbaum** in Robot Tour. Medals on the B Team were won by **Asiya Karim** and **Daniil Lebedev** in Anatomy and Physiology, **Sienna Cavada** and **Anika Bobra** in Write It/Do It and our stars of the day **Chloe Ferreira Szilagyi** and **India Edwards** for medals in both Forestry and Fossils (first overall).

# GLOBAL SCHOLARS INSPIRE AT CHANGEMAKER PROJECT GLOBAL PITCH

On Sunday, February 11, Global Scholars students competed in The Changemaker Project Global Pitch event in which they pitched their action plans to address global problems to win funding for their initiatives alongside students from around the world

The following students were awarded best projects in the following categories:

## Social Justice

**Molly Malter, Sammi Keltz, Michael Solow, and Allegra Jooss-Mangerini, Meal Mission,** are working to address healthy eating and food insecurity by creating and distributing a healthy cookbook with recipes made from ingredients available at the Mt. Kisco Food Pantry.

## Youth and Education

**Ava Schoenhaut and Sarah Bershad,** Study Pals, are working to improve Tanzanian education through the creation of a tutoring exchange and a website.

## Health and Safety

**Charlotte Karp, Darien Messina, and Emily Goldman,** The Water Girls, are creating a fundraising event to fund the implementation of a Water Filtration System for a primary school in Uganda.

## Animals and Environment

**Leila Miles,** Cruelty-Free Club, plans to educate high school students on animal testing so they can make informed decisions when purchasing products and advocating for animals.

## Featured Projects

**Alexa Goldberg,** Fashionably Green, aims to educate teenagers

about the negative environmental impacts of fast fashion through the creation of a sustainable fashion magazine. Alexa's project was voted the overall winner of the featured projects.

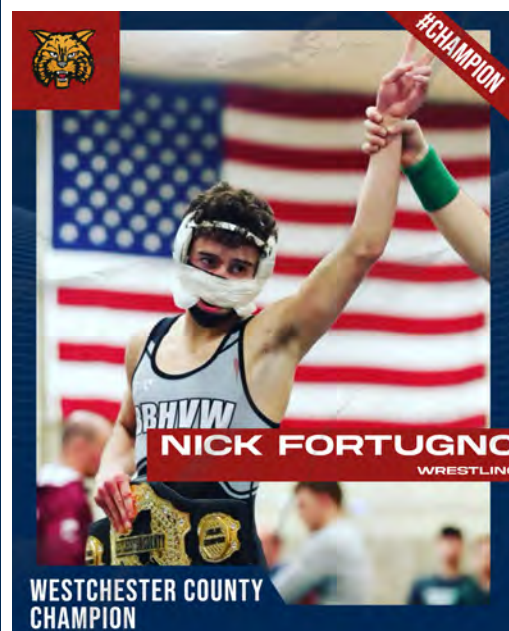
**Ashley Stangel,** Do What's Write, will create an advocacy campaign to increase access to frequently banned books through the creation of a website and book fair.

All the students will present the results of their action plans at The Changemaker Project Showcase on June 2.

To learn more about the event and all the projects [click here](#).

## STUDENT-ATHLETE HIGHLIGHTS

Wrestler **Nick Fortugno** won his second consecutive county title at 108 pounds. Nick won 4-0 with 3 pins and one major decision during the championship.



This winter season three members of the boy's ice hockey team have surpassed 100 career points joining an exclusive club of hockey players at Byram Hills. **Ryan Nichols, Erik Cipriano, and Alex Cutier** have helped lead the team to a very successful season and continue to look forward to a long postseason.



**Lincoln Lentini** set a new school record in Weight Throw by throwing an impressive 42 ft 5 inches.



**Varsity Cheer** took 3rd place at the Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational.



## STUDENT-ATHLETE HIGHLIGHTS CON'T

Congratulations to **Devan DiCintio** and **Lily Stanzione** along with their North Avalanche Girls Hockey teammates! The Avalanche beat the Rockland Rockies 5-0 in the Section Championship game. This is the first year the Avalanche has been in existence, what an amazing inaugural season!



## MYBOBCAT APP

Senior **Ben Levy** has relaunched MyBobcat, an innovative app tailored for Byram Hills High School students, building upon the foundation laid by alumni Zach Malter's previous app. The new build and restructured app offers automatic schedule updates, personalized class schedules, event submissions, grading calculators, and Mental Health Resources. Ben collaborated with the BHHS Marketing & Media Club to promote MyBobcat within the student community. MyBobcat's introduction signifies a significant enhancement in student communication within Byram Hills High School, streamlining students' daily routines and providing essential resources for academic and mental well-being, thanks to Ben Levy's dedication and ingenuity.

## THERAPY DOGS

On February 9th, Therapy Dogs from the organization "Therapy Dogs of Rockland" made a visit to BHHS during lunch. As part of our ongoing efforts in alignment with Challenge Success initiatives, these therapy dogs provide students with a chance to "Paws & Relax" right here at school. Well-established and trusted research consistently demonstrates that animals, particularly dogs, have a profound positive impact on human comfort and overall well-being. Students can look forward to the presence of therapy dogs in Bobcat Hall throughout the entire school year, offering them ongoing support and comfort.

## PARENT & TEACHER TRAINING FOR THE BHCS D INTERVIEW COMMITTEE

Each year, the Byram Hills Central School District establishes interview teams for the hiring of teachers and administrators. The District has been 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](mailto:lcoughlan@byramhills.org) with the upcoming session date:

**Session 2: Tuesday, March 5th, 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**

## SPRING BREAK

"Spring Break" has grown into a major industry that now attracts as many high school students as their college counterparts. The potential for abuse of sex, drugs, and alcohol remains a major concern. In addition, the popularity of international resorts as Spring Break locations has occasionally led to the exploitation of students who are vulnerable as minors and foreigners in unfamiliar cultures

Before confirming any plans, we suggest that you check into <http://travel.state.gov/> for more information about travel advisories and the country under consideration. We also suggest that you check references for any charter companies that you are depending on for flights and accommodations. Canceled flights, switched hotels, and even exploitation by local police have occurred to Byram Hills students in the past. This information is provided to give parents as much information as possible to make informed decisions. The school district does not organize, support, endorse, or partner with any travel companies providing "Spring Break" vacations or services to our students. Additionally, student-athletes should fully understand the consequences of missing games or practices over the break prior to making Spring Break plans.

## SOFT SKILL

**EMPATHY** - The action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another of either the past or present without having the feelings, thoughts, and experience fully communicated in an objectively explicit manner. For an interesting perspective on empathy, please read [THIS ARTICLE](#).

## A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR

National Children of Addiction (COA) Awareness Week, February 11-17, sheds light on the struggles of children with parents having Substance Use Disorder, affecting 1 in 4 children in the US. BHHS's Youth 2 Youth (Y2Y) Club actively raises awareness through various activities. Remember, if you need help, reach out to a trusted adult, and the Student Assistance Program is there to support students in making healthy choices.

***THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - HELPING STUDENTS REMAIN SUBSTANCE FREE, ENHANCE WELLBEING AND MAKE HEALTHY DECISIONS.***

## A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teen dating violence (TDV), also called dating violence, is an adverse childhood experience that affects millions of young people in the United States. Dating violence can take place in person, online or through technology. Teen dating violence profoundly impacts lifelong health, opportunity and wellbeing. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. The good news is violence is preventable and we can all help young people grow up violence-free.

**CLICK HERE** for additional information.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday, February 15th

- Gr. 5, Gr. 8 & BHHS Chorus Festival @ BHHS
- BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm

### Friday, February 16th

- Gr. 5, Gr. 8 & BHHS Band Festival @ BHHS

### Monday, February 19th

- Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule
- Winter Recess
- Presidents Day
- Schools & Offices Closed

### Tuesday, February 20th

- Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule
- Winter Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Open

### Wednesday, February 21st

- Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule
- Winter Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Open

### Thursday, February 22nd

- Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule
- Winter Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Open

### Friday, February 23rd

- Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule
- Registration Deadline for 3/9 SAT
- Winter Recess
- Schools Closed/Offices Open

### Monday, February 26th

- Schools Reopen

### Thursday, February 29th

- 2024-2025 Kindergarten Parent Orientation 6 pm
- Spring Sports Preseason Mtg. (Gr. 7-12) 7 pm
- C.H.I.L.D. Event 7 pm

### Friday, March 1st

- Spring Sports Online Registration Begins (Gr. 7-12)

### Tuesday, March 5th

- School Counseling Discussion Group 9 am
- PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am
- Board of Ed. Mtg. Presentation of Administration's Proposed Budget 7:30 pm

### Thursday, March 7th

- The Varley Players Performance 7 pm

### Friday, March 8th

- The Varley Players Performance 7 pm
- Registration Deadline for 4/13 ACT

### Saturday, March 9th

- SAT
- The Varley Players Performance 2 & 7 pm

### Sunday, March 10th

- BHEF Harlem Wizards
- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Ramadan Begins

### Monday, March 11th

- Spring Sports Begin

### Tuesday, March 12th

- Senior Fashion Show Dress Rehearsal 7:30 pm

### Wednesday, March 13th

- Senior Fashion Show 7:30 pm

### Friday, March 15th

- Superintendent Conference Day (Staff Only)

**CLICK HERE  
FOR UPCOMING  
ATHLETIC  
EVENTS**

# FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 - 4	2 - 5	3
4	5 - 6  Last Day for Schedule Changes Jennifer Wallace Presentation	6 - 7  Grades Posted Board of Ed. Mtg. 7:30 pm	7 - 8  Byram's Got Talent/One World Benefit 7 pm	8 - 1	9 - 2	10  Science Olympiad ACT Lunar New Year
11	12 - 3	13 - SNOW DAY  Site-Based Team Mtg. @ BHHS 4-6 pm PTSA Exec Mtg. @ DO 9:30 am	14 - 4  All District Orchestra Festival Gr. 5, Gr. 8 & BHHS @ BHHS	15 - 5  All District Chorus Festival Gr. 5, Gr. 8 & BHHS @ BHHS BHEF Board of Directors Mtg. @ DO 7 pm	16 - 6  All District Band Festival Gr. 5, Gr. 8 & BHHS @ BHHS	17
18	19  Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Winter Recess Presidents Day Schools & Offices Closed	20  Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Winter Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	21  Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Winter Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	22  Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Winter Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	23  Regular Varsity Athletic Schedule Registration Deadline for 3/9 SAT Winter Recess Schools Closed/Offices Open	24
25	26 - 7  Schools Reopen	27 - 8	28 - 1	29 - 2  Spring Sports Preseason Mtg. (Gr. 7 - 12) 7 pm C.H.I.L.D. Evening Event 7 pm		



**proudly present**

# MAMMA MIA!™

**Music and Lyrics by**

**Benny Andersson**

**Björn Ulvaeus**

**And Some Songs with Stig Andersson**

**Book by**

**Catherine Johnson**

**Originally Conceived by**

**Judy Craymer**

**March 7th at 7 pm**

**March 8th at 7 pm**

**March 9th at 2 and 7 pm**

**Tickets available at**

**[showtix4u.com/events/byramhills](http://showtix4u.com/events/byramhills)**

**\$10 in advance**

**\$15 at the door**



Mamma Mia! is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)