



Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve

Pleasantville Schools

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

pleasantvilleschools.com

Winter 2018

Vol. 66 No. 2

Dear Neighbor:

As members of the Pleasantville Board of Education, we are firm supporters of public education. However, we believe the current school financing structure must be reformed to provide adequate, equitable, sustainable, and stable funding for all schools, not just the most needy. Our NY State income tax dollars continue to be siphoned away from our area to be redistributed to other parts of the state. While we have no problem helping those in need, we would like Albany to STOP THE SHIFT of tax dollars away from our school district.

Some of our major increases in costs are due to unfunded or underfunded mandates, which are not controlled by local Boards of Education, are not addressed via the state's basic Foundation Aid formula, and are not compatible with the Tax Cap. For the last eight years, the governor's budget has not lived up to the constitutional and legal support for public schools as articulated via the establishment of the Foundation Aid formula. Our school district has been underfunded by over \$2 million every year since 2008. We have received a paltry \$272 increase per student in aid since then. This is unsustainable.

We need to ask our legislators in Albany to:

- Provide the promised Foundation Aid to our district.
- Increase our High Tax Aid, since our property taxes are some of the highest in the country.
- Revise the Foundation Aid Formula to address the high cost of living in this area.
- Adjust the Formula to provide additional financial support to allay the higher costs associated with educating students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Reject the proposed cap on expense-driven aid, which diminishes work we have done to share services and cut costs.

A letter is available on our school website under Advocacy, which speaks to these points. We ask that you take the time to read the letter and send it to our legislators in Albany urging them to STOP THE SHIFT!

Thank you,
Your Board of Education

2018-2019 School Calendar

First Day for Students
September 6, 2018

Last Day for Students
June 26, 2019

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Schools are closed on these days.

September 10 & 11, 2018

Rosh Hashanah

September 19, 2018

Yom Kippur

October 8, 2018

Columbus Day

November 6, 2018

Election Day/SCD*

November 12, 2018

Veterans Day

November 22 & 23, 2018

Thanksgiving Recess

December 24, 2018–

January 1, 2019

Holiday Recess

January 21, 2019

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 18–22, 2019

Winter Recess

March 15, 2019

SCD*

April 15–19, 2019

Spring Recess

May 27, 2019

Memorial Day

*Superintendent's Conference Day

Board Election & Budget Vote

There will be two vacancies for the Office of Member of the Board of Education for three-year terms, July 1, 2018—June 30, 2021. Nominating petitions are available at the District Office. They require a minimum of twenty-five qualified voters' signatures and must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018.

To be eligible to vote in the Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election on May 15, 2018, you must be:

1. A citizen of the United States;
2. At least 18 years of age (by May 15, 2018);
3. A Pleasantville UFSD resident at least 30 days immediately prior to the day of the vote;
4. Registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections OR registered to vote with the school district no later than May 10, 2018.

Registering at the District Office does not register an individual with the Westchester County Board of Elections.

If you have previously registered and voted in either a school district or general election in the last four calendar years, re-registration is NOT required.

For more information, select Voter Registration from the Forms menu on the District's website.

Coming Soon...

The District website soon will have a new look and what we anticipate to be a more user-friendly structure. Should you have problems finding the information you need, first try entering the keywords of what you're seeking in the Search field. If that doesn't help, send an email to jschwartz@pleasantvilleschools.org describing your problem.

Also debuting about the same time as the new website will be BoardDocs, a paperless management and archive service for our Board of Education agendas, minutes, and reports. Click on BoardDocs under Board of Education to access these items. Meeting minutes and reports that pre-date our use of BoardDocs can be found at Minutes and Reports to the Board under About the Board.

Transportation Requests

Requests for transportation to private and parochial schools for the 2018-2019 school year must be submitted in writing to the District Office by Monday, April 2, 2018. A family moving into the District after this date must submit a written request to the District Office within 30 days of occupancy if transportation to a private or parochial school is required. These deadlines are strictly observed.

A new request must be submitted each year, even if transportation is currently being provided. A Transportation Request Form is available on the District website under Forms. For more information, contact the Business Office at 741-1400, x10521.

Board Meetings through June 2018

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings of the Board of Education begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Pleasantville High School Library Media Center. Reports scheduled are subject to change. Information on the upcoming Board meeting is available at www.pleasantvilleschools.com and 741-1460. Every meeting provides an opportunity for comments and questions from the audience.

Tuesday, March 13

- 2018-19 Budget Review

Tuesday, March 27

- Winter Athletic Season Recap
- Proposed 2018-19 Budget

Tuesday, April 17

Board votes on adopting proposed 2018-19 Budget

Tuesday, May 1

Budget Hearing followed by Public Meeting

Tuesday, May 22

- Strategic Plan/2017-18 Board Goals Update

Tuesday, June 6

- 2018-2019 Board Goals

Tuesday, June 20

- Spring Athletic Season Recap

School News — Achievements & Awards

Football Brings Home First-Ever Class B NYS Championship...



AND second consecutive League, Section, and Region Championships

Team Members: **Dubem Anyichie, Leonard Balducci, Owen Ball, Julio Barco, Logan Bronkema, William Cahill, Vincent Carway, Jack Collins, Justin Corcoran, James Daniele, Cullen Dell, Matt DeSousa, Pat Doherty, Tim Driscoll, Sean Durrang, Nolan Egan, Colin Finnegan, Jack Fitzgerald, Jacob Graj, Blerim Hoti, Zenun Hoti, Jack Howe, Kyle Hutter, Matt Jankowski, Jadan Kammer, Thomas Kavanagh, Justin Lupo, Julius Marchi, Jack Martin, Andrew Mathew, Michael Matica, Declan McDermott, Charlie McPhee, Danny Melillo, Danny Minerva, Jack Minerva, Jack Mueller, Alex O'Reilly, Michael Perlleshi, Victor Perlleshi, Justin Perlman, Ethan Pickens, Raymond Raefski, Brian Reda, Cardel Robinson, Jude Safieh, Nick Salzarulo, Michael Santander, Nicholas Satriale, TJ Togneri, Jared Wilens**

Coaching Staff: Head Coach **Tony Becerra**; Assistant Coaches **Pete Christie, George Lamar, Brian Maceyak, Mike Minerva**; JV Coaches **Dillon Clark, Kevin Nugent, Logan Schneeweiss, Pete Salzarulo**; Trainer **Justen Lopez**

and Are Honored by the Village with a Grand Parade



School News — Achievements & Awards

Boys' Cross Country Wins League & Section Championships*



*Fifth consecutive League Championship and fourth Section Championship in the past five years

Kneeling: **Ethan Baletta, Devon Seixas, James Blasdell, *Nevan Lewis*, Kyle Largey, Aidan Sullivan, *Ben Trombetta*, Max Coleman, Ethan Spanierman, Patrick Walsh, Jack Minelli, Phil Yahia, Brendan Cooper.** Standing: **Assistant Coach Patrick Watts, *Robert Feeney*, Thomas Carty, *Drew DiPietro*, Brendan Connelly, Estuardo Mejia, *Ryan Dirgins*, Aidan Lynch, Andrew Scardina, *Gabe Finehout*, *Devin O'Neill*, *Kieran Moran*, Charlie Allen, Ian Cotter, Matthew Mackanesi, Jack Cooper, Sam Conte, Coach Rebecca Demetropoulos.** (Photo: PHS Yearbook)

Schools are allowed a limited number of runners for Section, County, and State meets. Those whose names are italicized participated in and won the Section I meet and helped earn a third place finish for Section I Class C at the NYS Championship Meet.

Boys' Soccer Earns League Championship



Kneeling: **Jack Roye, Daniel Merritts, Daniel Keon, John DiGilio, Devin Juros, Oscar Diaz Reyes, Thomas Merritts, Zachary Braverman, Anthony Cardona, Adrian Rippstein, Vikrant Bakshi, Marc Kyriakidis.** Standing: **Assistant Coach Jim Campbell, Christian DeJesus, Guy Barzilai, Luke Scopino, Brendan O'Neill, Eli Cunniffe, Ian Ward, Jan Becerra, Jake Stipo, Tony Kang, Jacob Coleman, Quinn Agabob, Timothy Peacock, Ryan Lee, Samuel Raffalli, Samuel Lord, Head Coach Savvas Kyriakidis.** (Photo: PHS Yearbook)

Science National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Twenty-four juniors were inducted into the Science National Honor Society in November. Front: **Guy Barzilai, Iman Behbehani, Andrei Captan, Anisha Chandy, Akimoto Cornelius, Patrick Doherty, Andrew Skrzypczak, Nicholas Pugliese.** Middle: **Julia Goodman, Rosa Hahn, Daniel Igielski, Mark Indriolo, Devin Juros, Shannon Kauber, Brendan O'Neill.** Standing: **Asher Stein, Julian Loring, Melanie Ipyam, Amanda Santos, Emma Murphy, Sarah Whyntott, Anthony Pepdjonovic.** Not pictured: **Catherine Kauber, Evelyn Lee.**

Art and Writing Awards



Andrei Captan, Devon DelCastillo, Charlotte Harter, Sydney Shulman-Arno

Artwork and writings by four PHS students were recognized by the local affiliates of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program.

Andrei Captan received three Gold Keys, two in Digital Art (The Four Elements and Life; Discovery) and one in Comic Art (Dragons). He also was awarded two Silver Keys in Digital Art (Killer Irony; Night Night). Devon Del Castillo received a Gold Key in Digital Art (Mosaic Face) and a Silver Key in Printmaking (Block Island Beach). Sydney Shulman-Arno received a Silver Key in

Humor (“How to Be a Girl”) and Charlotte Harter garnered an Honorable Mention in Poetry (“A Day in the Life”).

All Gold Key winners are forwarded for consideration at the national level. Awards will be announced in March.

Thespian Society Inductees



The International Thespian Society inducted ten new members at a ceremony held on January 25. Seated: **Jordan Goodman, Logan Bronkema, Sam Selesnick.** Standing: **Victoria Craig, Charlotte Harter, Madison Kelly, Lyndsey Minerva.** Not pictured: **Shannon Kauber, Sydney Shulman-Arno, Sofia Tomé.**

National Merit News



Allegra Copland

Allegra Copland was named one of 15,000 Finalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship competition. The selection of approximately 7,500 scholarship winners from this group is in progress, with results to be announced throughout the spring.

Science Research



Devin Juros

Junior Devin Juros received a Mini Research Grant Award from the New York Institute of Technology for his research proposal, “Sexual Dimorphism in the *Drosophila* Model of Cancer Cachexia.” Now in its second year, the program awarded approximately 35 mini-grants to students whose research focuses

on biology, biotechnology, biomedical engineering, chemistry, or health.

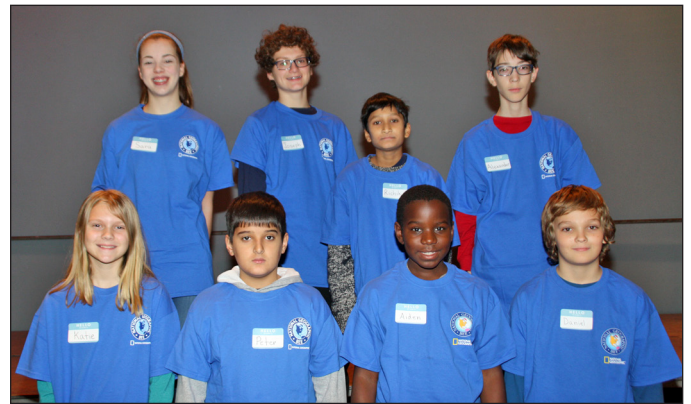
Devin also placed second in the Medicine and Health category at the Fifteenth Annual Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held on February 3.

MS Geography Bee

Seventh grader Alex Kylander repeated as the winner of the Middle School’s sixth annual National Geographic Bee, held on January 2. Joseph Sdao was the runner-up.

Alex subsequently took a qualifying test for the state-level competition and is awaiting the results.

Eight finalists — two grade-level winners per grade — competed for the school championship.



Front: fifth graders **Katie Wildey & Peter Pepdjonovic**; sixth graders **Aiden Kayizzi & Daniel Sadreyev**
Back: eighth graders **Sara O’Leary & Joseph Sdao**; seventh graders **Richik Acharya & Alex Kylander**

5th & 6th Graders Take the Stage in *Dr. Dolittle*



In December, approximately sixty fifth and sixth graders “talked to the animals” as cast and crew members of *Dr. Dolittle*, directed by BRS music teacher Katherine Hughes. They were assisted by teachers Hillary Johnson and Dorian Nuccio along with a number of MS PTA volunteers.

School News — Achievements & Awards



Middle School Art Show — Mt. Pleasant Public Library

Fall Varsity Awards

***Boys' Cross Country.** *All Section:* Robert Feeney. *All County:* Robert Feeney, Aidan Lynch. *All League:* Drew DiPietro, Ryan Dirgins, Robert Feeney, Aidan Lynch, Andrew Scardina, Ben Trombetta. *All League Honorable Mention:* Nevan Lewis, Devin O'Neill. *LoHud 2nd Team:* Robert Feeney.

***Girls' Cross Country.** *All League Honorable Mention:* Kaylei Raefski, Mallory Watts, Mary Beth Whalen.

***Field Hockey.** *All Elite Honorable Mention:* Katie Keane. *All League:* Victoria Craig, Charlotte Keane, Katie Keane, Callie Sullivan. *All League Honorable Mention:* Delaney Cotter, Emma Hickey, Sophie Ruhl, Kiara Vedovino.

Football. *All Section:* Tim Driscoll, Jack



NYS Class B Football Coach of the Year Tony Becerra and Player of the Year Tim Driscoll

Howe, Declan McDermott, Charlie McPhee, Nick Salzarulo. *All League:* James Daniele, Cullen Dell, Tim Driscoll, Nolan Egan, Jack Fitzgerald, Jack Howe, Kyle Hutter, Jayden Kammer, Declan McDermott, Charlie McPhee, Danny Melillo, Jack Minerva, Nick Salzarulo. *All League Honorable Mention:* Owen

Ball, Vincent Carway, Pat Doherty, Colin Finnegan,

Zenun Hoti, Julius Marchi, Andy Mathew, Michael Matica, Danny Minerva, Jack Mueller, Alex O'Reilly, Cardel Robinson, Jude Safieh, Jared Wilens. *Class B Most Outstanding Defensive Lineman:* Tim Driscoll. *Class B Most Outstanding Defensive Back:* Nick Salzarulo. *Westchester/Putnam All Stars, First Team:* Tim Driscoll, Jack Howe, Charlie McPhee, Nick Salzarulo; *Second Team:* Declan McDermott; *Coach of the Year:* Tony Becerra. *Golden Dozen:* Declan McDermott, Charlie McPhee. *MVP Defense, State Semi-Finals:* Charlie McPhee. *MVP, Class B State Championship:* Jack Howe. *NYS High School Football Coaches Association, Class B Football Player of the Year:* Tim Driscoll; *Class B Coach of the Year:* Tony Becerra.

***Boys' Soccer.** *All Section:* Marc Kyriakidis, Ian Ward. *All Section Honorable Mention:* Jan Becerra. *All League:* Quinn Agabob, Jan Becerra, Zachery Braverman, Marc Kyriakidis, Daniel Merritts, Adrian Rippstein, Ian Ward. *All League Honorable Mention:* Christian DeJesus, Oscar Diaz-Reyes, Devin Juros, Thomas Merritts, Brendan O'Neill, Sam Raffalli, Luke Scopino. *League Coach of the Year:* Savvas Kyriakidis.

***Girls' Soccer.** *All Section:* Lyndsey Minerva. *All Section Honorable Mention:* Kaitlyn Moses. *All League:* Sydney Levine, Lyndsey Minerva, Kaitlyn Moses, Analese Picart, Skylar Schneeweiss. *All League Honorable Mention:* Grace Capko, Carolyn Lee.

***Tennis.** *All Section:* Olivia Ashton. *All League:* Olivia Ashton. *State Qualifier:* Olivia Ashton.

***Swimming.**

***Volleyball.** *All League:* Briana Tucci. *All League Honorable Mention:* Allie Hogan, Lily Rosenbaum, Sarah Whynott.

**NYS Scholar/Athlete Team — a team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00*

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Board Meetings and

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Kindergarten Registration

A Letter of Intent was mailed to Bedford Road School's list of households with children eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2018 (five-years-old on or before December 1, 2018). Those with eligible children who did not receive this letter can either print one from the District website (on the BRS home page, click on "Incoming Kindergarten Letter of Intent for 2018-2019" under News and Announcements) or call the school (741-1440).

Important Dates

- March 20 at 7 p.m. in the BRS Little Theater: "A Peek into Kindergarten," an orientation program for incoming kindergarten parents
- March 27 & 28, 7:45–11:15 a.m.: In-person registration (parents only)
- May 16–18 at BRS: Kindergarten screening, by appointment

PHS Performing Arts Presents:



Performances, PHS Auditorium: March 9, 10, 16, and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and March 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at phsplay.org, by phone at 1-866-967-8167, or, if available, at the door one hour prior to all performances.