

Pawling

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fall/Winter 2018 Newsletter



Dear PCSD Community Member:

This fall has been a busy time in our school district.

Our Students

The high school athletic teams had one of the most successful fall seasons in recent memory. Volleyball, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, field hockey, and our new 8-man football team all made it to the playoffs, with Field Hockey capturing a Section 1 Championship and Boys' Cross Country winning their 17th league championship in the last 18 years. (Page 4.)

In addition to athletics, our students continue to be actively involved in academics and community activities. As an example, check out the article on our high school Peer Leadership group. This volunteer group, led by high school teachers Kerry Pinelli and Melissa Pugliese, is fully involved in the Pawling community, setting a positive example for all of us. (Pages 2-3.)

Our students continue to excel academically. Seniors Brigid Barrick and Sean Walsh were recently named as Commended Students in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Brigid and Sean placed among the top scorers of the 1.6 million students who took the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam.

Superintendent Search

Our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William Ward, recently announced that he will be retiring in July, and the Board of Education has begun seeking out experienced firms to assist with the search process. We anticipate opportunities for members of the public and staff to provide input that will assist the Board in selecting a new superintendent of schools. Following Board decisions about the search process, we will provide information on the District website regarding opportunities for community participation.

BOCES Capital Project

On **Tuesday, December 11th**, you will have the opportunity to vote on the Dutchess BOCES proposed capital project. A letter from BOCES Superintendent, Dr. Richard Hooley is below.

The \$36.8 million project will be funded by school districts throughout Dutchess based on each district's proportion of the total student enrollment in the County. Pawling's share would be 3.02% of the total cost or approximately \$1.1 million. Voting will be available throughout the County, including Pawling Elementary School, from noon to 8:00 p.m. on December 11th.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeffrey Asher, *President*
Pawling Board of Education

Dear Members of the Dutchess County Education Community:

After more than 50 years, Dutchess BOCES is seeking voter approval for a \$36.8M Capital Project to shore up its facilities, relocate its highly successful Alternative High School and improve the flexibility of the facilities. Ultimately, the project will be cost neutral by extinguishing rising leasing costs, controlling maintenance and utility expenses, and reducing expenditures in transportation and information technology.

The project will generate approximately \$24.6M in BOCES construction aid for most of our districts resulting in a per household cost (based on an average home value in the County of \$275,000) of between \$6 and \$14 per year.

Even with ongoing maintenance, the facilities are in poor shape after 5 decades without a major capital project. This venture will make significant improvements to student and staff security and address ADA compliance issues. Innovative design of the expanded and renovated spaces will offer flexibility in our instruction, create opportunities for new educational programs for some of our neediest students, and generate space for project and problem based learning across our career and trade classes. At the same time, moving the alternative high school to the Salt Point Campus will eliminate escalating lease costs.

For more information go to the BOCES website at www.dcboces.org/capitalproject or call our offices (486-4983). We are happy to discuss any aspect of the project. The vote is open to all qualified residents of the County and is set for **Tuesday, December 11, 2018** from noon to 8 pm. We have 14 polling sites in school districts around Dutchess County (locations are at the website). A simple majority will determine the outcome of the resolution. Watch for a mailer in late November.

Richard M. Hooley, Ed. D., *District Superintendent*, Dutchess BOCES

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Be sure to check out our "Did-You-Know?" fact feature.



PCSD WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Ben Bardenett

Ben Bardenett is the new music teacher at the middle school, replacing Mr. Barrow who moved to the high school. Mr. Bardenett earned his B.M. in Music Education at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and his Master in Music Degree at Syracuse University with a specialty in wind instruments. Previous employment has included Baldwinsville Central School District as a marching band staff member and substitute teacher. At Syracuse University Mr. Bardenett was a Graduate Assistant teaching Marching Band, Concert Band, and other music classes in the school of music. At the middle school he teaches general music classes, 7th and 8th grade band, and jazz band.

Kimberly Burke

Kimberly Burke joined the middle school as the leave replacement teacher for Ms. Colleen Denema, 6th grade special education teacher. Ms. Burke obtained her Master's in Early Childhood Education and Literacy as well as Advanced Certificates in Childhood Education and Students with Disabilities from Long Island University. Prior to working at PCMS, Ms. Burke held two extended leave replacement positions, working as the general education teacher in a 1st grade integrated co-taught class in Hastings, NY, and also as a math AIS teacher in Crompond, NY.

Alyssa Dulin

Alyssa Dulin is serving as a 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher at the middle school. She replaces Mrs. Strang who retired. Ms. Dulin received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Master of Science degree in Adolescent Education from Pace University, graduating Magna Cum Laude for both degrees. Prior to Pawling, she taught in three different districts—Rye, Somers, Ossining—as a leave replacement for various grade levels, but most recently she worked in Harrison at Louis M. Klein Middle School teaching 7th grade ELA.

Jackie Fama

Jackie Fama is a special education teacher at the elementary school, currently working with 3rd grade students. She graduated from SUNY Oneonta with certifications in Childhood Education and Spanish. At SUNY New Paltz, she completed her certification in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL). Her graduate work in teaching students with disabilities was done at Mercy College. Ms. Fama has been a special education teacher for both the New York City Department of Education and Greenburgh-Graham Union Free School District. She also teaches dance at Dutchess County Performing Arts Center.

Nicole Hesari

Nicole Hesari is the new 4th grade teacher at the elementary school, replacing Ms. Como who retired at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Currently in her sixth year of teaching, Ms. Hesari's previous five years were in Arlington, VA. Originally from New York, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary and Special Education from Syracuse University, where she also earned a Master of Science in Literacy Education. Ms. Hesari's hobbies include reading, traveling and spending time with her family.

Kaitlin Koestner

Kaitlin Koestner began the year as a leave replacement teacher in ESL at the elementary school for Mabel Boutros. Ms. Koestner now serves as the permanent sub. She recently received her Master of Arts in Teaching in Childhood Education at Manhattanville College and previously earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of New Hampshire. She has served as a substitute teacher in North Salem and Danbury and interned at West Patent Elementary School in Bedford Hills for a year and a half.

Kelly Mastrogiovanni

Kelly Mastrogiovanni is the new 4th grade special education teacher, teaching with Mrs. O'Brien. Mrs. Mastrogiovanni previously taught special education in the Bronx and in the Monticello Central School District. She is a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent where she earned a Bachelor Degree in Psychology and dual-certification in Childhood and Special Education. She also earned a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from The College of New Rochelle.

Jaimie Montebello

Jaimie Montebello is also a new ELA teacher at the middle school and high school. She received a Bachelor in English Teaching at Brooklyn College and her Master in Literacy from Hunter College. Ms. Montebello began teaching in Brooklyn and the East Village, before moving to Putnam County. Most recently she has been an English Teacher at both John Jay and Briarcliff middle schools. Ms. Montebello replaces Ms. Hudson who retired in June.

Did You Know?



PHS senior Annamarie Leske (front left) was selected to be a U.S. delegate to Peru during their Spring Festival in September. Leske, one of the top-ranked twirlers

nationally, was handpicked to represent our country with the trip sponsored by the International Lions Club.

PHS National Honor Society Inducts New Members

The Pawling High School Mary F. Tabor Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) held its annual induction ceremony in late October. Twenty-five new members joined the eleven current senior members of the Honor Society.

Major Anthony Bucci was invited to make the keynote address prior to the induction ceremony, and he was introduced by his daughter Veronica, Vice-President of the Honor Society. Major Bucci discussed his experiences in officer candidate school and the principles learned that remain with him today. He advised the students that perseverance, persistence, supporting others, and contributing to team efforts lead to lifetime rewards. NHS inductees are recognized for their achievements in the four pillars of National Honor Society—Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. Each of the new members was introduced by the Society's President or Vice-President, Brigid Barrick and Veronica Bucci respectively, along with a brief summary of the inductee's accomplishments. The PHS Chorus performed under the direction of Ms. Hannah Geiling.



The new inductees, Kaleigh Ainsworth, Michael Bai, Irene Bravo, Lauren Casey, Danielle Chu, Caitlin Dazi, Elizabeth Farquhar, Robbin Gerber, Stine Isak, Karen Jackson, Grace Lena, Corinna Lozano, Pasquale Matera, Morgan McCarthy, Daniel Mygan, Julianne Pelegrino, Thayle Reid-Hellberg, Alex Santana, Alex Santeramo, Christopher Schmidt, Jerome Scott, Tia-Andrea Scott, Lauren Sullivan, Kiera Tucci, and Sean Walsh. The new inductees were escorted to the stage by current members, Jacob Golodner, Bryan Hodge, Lauren Hollander, Annamarie Leske, Shannon Maynard, Carly McGrath, Kayla Nappi, Lahra Walker, and Garrett Watkins.

The ceremony was organized by Ms. Lisa Horn, Advisor to the Honor Society, and attended by family and friends.

Peer Leaders

The high school Peer Leadership club strives to be a force to promote kindness and inclusion throughout the Pawling community. Club members seek to serve not only the high school but also the broader community beyond the walls of PHS. Peer Leadership, open to all students in grades 9-12, is involved in many community service projects throughout the school year.

High school teachers and club advisors, Ms. Kerry Pinelli and Ms. Melissa Pugliese, work to create an atmosphere free of stress where students can learn important skills that will last a lifetime. Focusing on teamwork, cooperation, communication, listening, leadership, and self-expression, the teachers often involve students in projects that serve the larger community.

At one of the first meetings of the club this year, returning Peer Leaders held an

evening Ice Cream Social in the newly renovated high school cafeteria. With over 50 students participating, the group played games, socialized, and got to know new members over ice cream sundaes.

In many instances the activities are created, planned, and carried out by the students based on their interests. A recent Peer Leadership meeting saw the group, led by Senior Peer Leader Lauren Hollander, write notes to the families of the victims of the Oct. 27th synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh.

The students wanted to let the families know "...we care, stand with them and oppose the senseless violence."

Some activities are annual traditions. The Peer Leadership visit to Christ Church Nursery School on Halloween is a favorite fall event. The high school



students travel to the nursery school to assist with their Halloween party, supervising games and activities for all the 3 and 4-year olds. Peer Leaders and the nursery school children always look forward to an afternoon of food and games.

Other annual Peer Leadership events include two overnight trips, one for seniors and one for new Peer Leaders, assisting with Freshman Orientation, Pawling Decemberfest Tree Lighting, Pawling Triathlon, Jump Rope for Heart, and Cram Jam exam study events.

Postal Patron

PHS Fall Sports Roundup

The **Boys' Soccer** team finished the season with their best record (8-7) in more than ten years. The team went from 1-48 over the past 6 years to a Section 1 tournament appearance in 2018. With a number of younger players on the team, the Boys' Soccer team has an optimism not seen in many years.

Our **Cross Country** teams had outstanding seasons, with the **Boys'** team capturing their 17th League Championship in the last 18 years, and the youth-laden **Girls'** squad finishing just two points shy of a League Championship. With many quality runners returning in fall 2019, we have every right to expect dual Championships next year.

Our **Eight-Man Football** team finished their inaugural regular season with an outstanding 6-1 record and a 3-way tie for first place. Following a draw for game opponents in the Championship bracket, the Tigers faced Pine Plains, their only defeat of the season, in the first round of the playoffs. A hard-fought battle led to a 40-38 overtime loss in the semi-finals. With wins over Fallsburg, Sullivan West, Tri-Valley, Eldred, Downsville/Roscoe, and Dover, the team looks poised to compete for a championship in 2019.

The **Field Hockey** team finished the season with a 6-3-3 record, earning the sixth seed in the Class C, Section 1 Championship. After winning their first-round game against 3rd seed Pleasantville, the team went on to beat North Salem to earn the Class C, section 1 Championship trophy. Following a 1-0 victory against Taconic Hills, the Section 9 Champion, in the first round of Regional play, Pawling was ousted by a 1-0 count at the hands of Hoosick Falls.

The **Girls' Soccer** team also finished with one of their best seasons in many years, earning an opportunity to compete in the Class B Sectional Championship. After finishing as runners up in the Class C, Section 1 Championship game last year, the Girls' Soccer team was hungry for another successful season. This year's route to a sectional game, let alone a title, was bound to be more challenging, as the team moved up to Class B, competing against larger and stronger teams.

The girls had a strong season, finishing up with a 7-6-2 record, earning them a spot in the competitive Class B, Section 1 Championship Tournament for the first time in 9 years. The Tigers suffered a heartbreaking 1-0 loss in the first round against a strong North Salem team, but we are proud of their efforts and are hopeful for the future.

The **Tennis** team lost many veterans to graduation, resulting in a rebuilding year for Tigers Tennis. A dedicated group practiced daily to improve their skills for competition against teams from Westchester and Putnam, competing on every point throughout the season. As this group continues to develop, a return to their winning ways is expected. Our team was recognized by opposing coaches and players for their outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season.

The **Volleyball** team placed 3rd at the Pawling Invitational that included 7 teams from Class A, B and C. The team finished the season with 7 wins earning them a 5th seed in the Class C, Section 1 Championship where they upset 4th seeded Yonkers Montessori Academy in the quarterfinals of the tournament. In the semi-finals, the Pawling Tigers lost to the eventual Section 1 Champions, the Valhalla Vikings, completing another successful season.



Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, our middle school students once again had the opportunity to study environmental science and build teamwork skills in a variety of engaging activities at the New York State YMCA's Greenkill Outdoor Educational Center in Huguenot, NY.



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PCSD NEWSLETTER

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Genevieve Kellam, Director;
Désirée Gagnon, Public Information Officer