



Principally Speaking

Pelham Memorial High School

September - October 2018

[Text](#) | [Link](#)

Newsletter from PMHS

Upcoming Events:

October 30:
Senior Haunted House
7:00 pm

November 1:
Jazz Fundraising Dinner
5:00 pm

November 5:
Varsity & JV Winter Athletics
Begin

November 7:
International Dinner
5:00 pm

November 8:
Financial Aid Night
7:00 pm

November 9:
1st Quarter Ends

November 12:
No School
Veterans Day

November 16 & 17
Fall Play
7:30 pm

November 18:
Fall Play
2:00 pm

November 19:
Tri-M Induction Ceremony
7:00 pm

November 20:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This *Principally Speaking* highlights news about our school and students.

On October 10, while the 12th grade participated in the College Application Boot Camp and the 10th and 11th grades took the PSAT, the 9th grade took a field trip to The Pelham Picture House. In the morning, students viewed *Cool Runnings*, a film that chronicles the story of the 1988 Jamaican bobsled team. After the movie, the students enjoyed their lunch in the park and then returned for an afternoon presentation given by three-time Olympic Jamaican bobsledder, Devon Harris. Mr. Harris shared his story about forming the first-ever Jamaican bobsled team and his experiences with international competitions. During his presentation, he led interactive exercises and shared some advice with the students. He encouraged them to dream big, be persistent and work together. Mr. Harris answered questions at the end of the presentation and posed for photographs with the students.

As a follow-up to the safety letter sent out to parents earlier this month, we have instructed our students to return to their homes or go to the nearest police or fire department stations if blue lights are illuminated on the outside of the building when they arrive at school. You may recall that these blue lights indicate that it is not safe to enter the building. These emergency locations are approved by the local police and fire departments.

I recently included parent information under the Good to Know section of our school website. Updates will be posted every month. Also, keep a look out for quarterly updates on our Student Activities list under the same section of our website.

Lastly, I hope to see all of you at *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, our fall play, in a few weeks and then again at Parent Teacher Conferences at the end of next month. Information about these conferences will be sent home shortly.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Clark

National Honor Society
Induction
7:00 pm

November 21:
Early Release
Noon Dismissal

November 22 - 25:
Thanksgiving Recess

November 28:
Evening Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 29:
Afternoon/Evening
Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 30:
No Classes
Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 5:
Fall Athletic Awards
7:00 pm

December 6:
Chorus Concert
7:00 pm

December 12:
2 Hour Delay
Start 10:15 am

December 17:
Check Portal Interim Grades

December 17:
Orchestra Concert
7:00 pm

December 20:
Band Concert
7:00 pm

December 22 - January 1:
Winter Holiday Recess

Congratulations

For several seniors, the first months of this school year have been an exciting start to what promises to be an exceptionally rewarding year. **Elise Aronson, Rachel Brewer, Richard Che, Benjamin Glickman** and **Liam Ronan** were designated as semi-finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Competition sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. They are among the 16,000 semi-finalists nationwide to earn this prestigious distinction. Next spring these talented seniors will continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth over \$32 million.

We are also pleased to announce the names of three seniors designated as Commended Students in the 2019 National Merit Scholar Program. **Charlotte Edmunds, Sarah Ellenbogen** and **Michael Salama** have each demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. They are among the 34,000 commended students nationwide recognized for exceptional academic promise.

Last spring 962 Advanced Placement exams were administered to 433 PMHS students. The AP Scholar designations below indicate how well they performed on these exams.

* AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. Our AP Scholars are: **Ethan Archibald, Eleanor Baxter, Eyuel Bekele, Jennifer Bell, Eric Benfaida, Manon Bushong, Cameron Catana, Daniella Cherner, Ian Childs, Christopher Clough, Janet Collens, Lucy Conway, Quinlan Crowley, Sarah Cullen, Kaitlyn Czajka, Rafael DaCruz, Christopher Davis, Claudia Dodge, Katherine Douglass, Henry Driesen, Jane Ely, Alison Emery, Connor Fleming, Jack Fronce, Kathryn Fugazy, Kylie Galiani, Nicholas Garvey, Liza Giantelli, Claire Gilman, Ryan Gregware, Daphne Gutch, Lauren Hade, John Hernandez, John Hopkins, Benjamin Huang, Quinn Humphrey, Fiona Joffroy, Brendan Jones, Adriana Kartanadi, Isabel Kenny, Lauren Kuster, Brian Leichtman, Anais Leon-Kelly, Janne Lewis, James Lisanti, Eli MacColl, Lorena Maggiore, Katherine Maydwell, Lindsay McNamara, Madeleine Mullany, Victoria Nappi, Abigail O'Halloran, Kiera O'Connor, Isabel Orfanoudakis, Ascensy Perez, Alexis Peters, Madelyn Ploch, Julia Plourde, Mateo Rivera, Michael Ruggiero, Leana Rutt, Wyatt Saunders, Ayan Seif-Gerard, Katherine Soifer, Margaret Solimine, Lang Sorice, Andrew Spana, Eleanor Tahbaz, Emily Talamas, Sean Talton, Olivia Ting, Braden Tolan, Priya Varanasi, Melissa Vasami, Sara Veteri, Nicholas Wessman, Helena White, Adam Wisniewski-Jensen, Gavin Woods, Sophie Xu, Abigail Young**

* AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Our AP Scholars with Honor are: **Owen Anastas, Elise Aronson, Lucy Bischof, Nicklas Breskin, Rachel Brewer,**

Madeline Bryce, John Carew, Zoe Casey, Erin Cohen, Kevin Coleman, Samuel Cork, Julien Evans, Matias Facciuto, Athul George, Katherine Hart, Harrison Harvey, James Hupprich, Olivia Imperato, Henry Johnson, Siobhan Joyce-Farley, Sophia Juliano, Charlotte Krause, Ciara Lawless, Zara Levy, Jonathan Liesman, Violet Massie-Vereker, Tara Matz, Conor McNulty, Sophia McSpedon, Jared Morel, John Morrell, Arden Neu, Johannes Riehl, Liam Ronan, Angelina Rosa, Kimberly Rosell, Ella Stern, Meghan Stevens, Christopher Tolan, Daniel Walsh, Elizabeth Walters

* AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Our AP Scholars with Distinction are: **Melissa Altschiller, Daniel Bernstein, Gabriella Bhiro, Mason Brady, Theodora Caminiti, Richard Che, Francesca DiCristofano, George Dunhill, Charlotte Edmunds, Sarah Ellenbogen, Connor Evans, Benjamin Glickman, Saul Glist, Edward Groome, Dylan Gurl, Jillian Harrison, Benjamin Hofflich, Jack Howard, Samuel Imperato, Simon Keough, Justin Limardo, Julia Loughman, Hannah Mackay, Kiera Mallinson, Catherine Maschio, Margaret McCarroll, Hannah McFarland, Christian Morfit, Michael Mottola, Julian Navarro, Harold Neu, Karla Pennetta, Kristina Pompilio, Peyton Rees, Luca Rivera, Patrick Roche, Nathan Rosenberg, Michael Salama, Ryan Shea, William Shelton, Patrick Shiels, Aidan Sisk, Timothy Solimine, William Taubner, Anthony Terraciano, Samantha Tsang, Julian Wisdom, Alyssa Wong, Caitlin Wong, Emily Xue**

* National AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Our National AP Scholars are: **Saul Glist, Jillian Harrison, Benjamin Hofflich, Kiera Mallinson, Hannah McFarland, Harold Neu, Patrick Roche, Timothy Solimine, William Taubner, Emily Xue**

Department News

Art Department

PMHS Advanced Art students for the first time in many years created "Vintage Halloween" themed mural designs on store windows along Wolfs Lane in mid-October. Comments from the general public and store owners have been gratifying. We are hoping this can become a Pelham halloween tradition.

Performing Arts Department

Congratulations to **John Hopkins**, who was selected as an alternate for the upcoming 2018 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All State Conference in Rochester on November 29. His exceptional work on Bass has earned him this tremendous honor.

World Languages Department

Ariadne Livaditis, PMHS World Language teacher recently attended the 91st annual convention of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) held this past July 18-21 in Martinique in the French West Indies. Ariadne was an active participant in this unique gathering of over 300 French teachers from around the U.S. and several other countries.

Participants in the convention were able to learn about the history of Martinique through lectures and presentations as well as excursions to the sugar cane museum (Musée de la Canne). The convention was filled with sessions, discussions and animated conversations about techniques for teaching French and promoting the study of French plus several sessions devoted to the convention's theme, "Creolity and Environment."

October was proclaimed Italian Heritage and Culture Month by the Westchester Coalition of Italian-American Organization and by the Westchester County Executive, George Latimer. Two PMHS students, **Christian Morfit** and **Camilla O'Keefe**, were recognized for Excellence in Italian at a ceremony on October 16 at Eastchester High School. Their teachers, **Mrs. Christina Prignano** and **Mrs. Elizabeth Caparotta** attended this ceremony with our students.

Extra Curricular and Athletics

Athletics

Congratulations to PMHS Volleyball coach, **Mr. Mark Finegan**. In early October he coached his 400th win as the girls' volleyball coach.

Sock n Buskin

In August, the National Youth Arts Awards announced their winners for the 2017-2018 season. Pelham earned eight awards and 10 additional nominations. Our high school productions of the comedy, *Fools* and the musical, *Hello, Dolly!* were honored as well as the middle school production of *Once on this Island, Jr.*

Award Winners:

- * Outstanding Production: *Hello, Dolly!*
- * Artist of the Year: **Margaret Solimine** (Irene Molloy in *Hello, Dolly!* and Sophia Zubritsky in *Fools*)
- * Lead Performance in a Musical: **Athena Woodfin** as Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly!*
- * Supporting Performance in a Play: **John Hopkins** as Dr. Zubritsky in *Fools*
- * Supporting Performance (Junior Division): **Caitlin Winston** as Erzulie in *Once On This Island Jr.*
- * Costume Design: **Neil Schleifer** for *Fools*
- * Set Design: **Joseph J. Egan** for *Fools*
- * Direction: **Thomas F. Beck, Jr.** and **Neil Schleifer** for *Fools*

Nominations:

- * Lead Performance in a Musical: **John Hopkins** as Horace Vandergelder in *Hello, Dolly!*
- * Lead Performance in a Play: **William Shelton** as Leon Steponovich Tolchinsky in *Fools*

- * Lead Performance (Junior Division): **Malia McLellan** as Ti Moune in *Once On This Island Jr.*
- * Supporting Performance in a Play: **Athena Woodfin** as Mrs. Zubritsky in *Fools*
- * Supporting Performance (Junior Division): **Emma Koonce** as Mama Euralie in *Once on This Island Jr.*
- * Ensemble: *Fools*
- * Ensemble: *Hello, Dolly!*
- * Costume Design: **Neil Schleifer** for *Hello, Dolly!*
- * Choreography: **Jesse Pellegrino** for *Hello, Dolly!*
- * Direction: **Thomas F. Beck, Jr.** and **Neil Schleifer** for *Hello, Dolly!*

Forensics Speech Team

On October 7, the PMHS Forensic Speech team traveled to Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan for the Hugh McEvoy Invitational Tournament. Congratulations go to **Nicholas Lieggi**, finalist in Congressional Debate, **Isaac Blackburn**, 5th place in Congressional Debate and **Georgia Connolly**, 5th place in Oral Interpretation of Literature. A great start to the season.

In mid-October, the PMHS Forensic Speech team competed at the New York City Invitational Tournament at The Bronx High School of Science. This invitational tournament was a national circuit contest with schools from all over the nation including Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas and North Carolina. Congratulations go to **Isaac Blackburn** for advancing to the semi-final round in Congressional Debate.

Pel Mel

The 2017-18 Pel Mel was awarded Gold Medal status by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. This is the first year that CSPA is evaluating both the print newspaper and the online edition. Comments from the Columbia University panel of adjudicators included, "All stories are meticulously edited; Headlines are well written; It is clear you have used the AP style guide for all stories; and continue to implement your high standard." We are all proud of our student-run publication.

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