



THE CULTURE OF COMMITTING TO COLLEGE

BY ALYSSA IRYAMI

ADVERTISEMENT REPRESENTATIVE & OPINION EDITOR

You've done it! You put down your deposit and you've committed to college. However, now, you have an entire slew of things to do before you can rest.

Step One: Tell all your friends and invite them over. This is your "commitment party" a.k.a. there will be a cookie cake saying congratulations and food with your future school's colors. This can be as small or as large as you'd like, as either a casual get-together with a close group of friends or a party-esque atmosphere with a lot of your friends.

Step Two: Post about it! This means you update your Instagram bio and post a picture of you decked out in your college's attire. However, you also must post on Facebook so your grandparents and other relatives have a public

way to say how proud they are of you. This is now the time to get the word out and more openly share where you will be spending your next four years.

Step Three: Your friends will now ~secretly~ get in touch with your parents and schedule a date to surprise you. Everyone will split the cost, with individuals paying upwards of \$20 on clothes, decorations, balloons (\$10 per letter), and everything in between. Then, your friends decorate your room and bed with everything they bought and surprise you! Your friends will go to great lengths from parking far away and hiding their shoes and jackets, to decking your room out in your school's colors.

Step Four: Prepare for May 1st! National Commitment Day... this means you dress in complete attire

for your college-- hat, socks, shirt, pants... truly anything you want. Oh, and of course, take pictures, pictures, and more pictures.



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA.COM

The process of committing to college has become not only a chore but a major expense. It began with humble bed-decorating parties a few years ago and has exploded into an entire process. Businesses like Max and Gino's in Hicksville have capitalized on

this, offering trendy, customized gear for each school-- whether it be a sweatshirt, a beanie, or even a choker. However, many students have also taken it into their own hands to provide their peers with a more affordable alternative for these unique items with many starting Instagram pages to sell this attire.

The culture of committing to college has drastically changed, and it will be interesting to watch the trends transform over the next few years. Is it necessary? No. Are we crazy for buying into this system? Most likely, yes. However, is it fun and a great way to celebrate your accomplishment with your friends? Yes! Good luck to all seniors on their college commitments!

BAND AND ORCHESTRA TRIP

BY EMILY ZHANG

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

During the days of March 14th to March 17th, members of POBJFK's Orchestra and Band spent their days immersed in an educational trip to Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida. There, they attended a musically-enriching workshop and were presented with a once in a lifetime opportunity to perform in front of the public. The band marched down Main Street in Magic Kingdom and the orchestra filled an entire amphitheater at Disney Springs. The workshop, called "You're Instrumental," allowed students to perform a variety of pieces from popular Disney movies, including Mulan, Moana, and The Little Mermaid. Then, they were able to hear back what was sampled, over the actual scene from the respective film. The pieces are not available to the general public and can only be played at the workshop. Mr. Carter, Director of Bands at POBJFK, comments on the role of the workshop. "In the workshop, students focused mostly on performing articulations and dynamics on the first try - all things we try to achieve in our regular rehearsals, but with the added pressure of having

a short amount of time to prepare." Besides the workshop and the performance, students and chaperones spent the rest of the time exploring the four theme parks. Mr. Rubin, director of the POBJFK Orchestra, noted that this trip was the "perfect balance of education, performing experience, and fun." He particularly notes the moment where it started heavily downpouring on the band's parade, when they marched down Main Street. "Every single student in the band was just beaming. I felt a real spirit

around them, and the whole orchestra that was watching on the sidelines was wrapped up in all of that. It was a very memorable moment I'll never forget." Mr. Carter also mentioned that moment as one he will always remember. He continued to say that, "Despite the fact that the sky basically opened up on us at the worst possible moment, it was truly a memorable experience that all the students and faculty will cherish for the rest of our lives."



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL RODGERS

For Mr. Rodgers, Director of Music and Performing Arts at POBJFK, he believes that this trip has had a great impact on all student musicians. "Learning how to prepare and travel as a musician is paramount to growing as a student musician. The preparation and anticipation allows you the opportunity to cultivate a sense of rehearsal and technique. You are not performing in your local space, but you are welcoming people to your musical experience in a very public, but very personal level." Mr. Rubin adds onto this point, speaking about Toni Nargentino, a senior at POBJFK, who intends to pursue music education as her career. "Her (Toni) having had that experience means that when she gets to be a music educator, if the idea of traveling as an Orchestra comes up in her school district, she won't be afraid to do it. Her experience and her memory will propel her to step out of her comfort zone." To end, Mr. Carter reflects on the lasting impact the trip had on faculty and students. "In preparation for the trip, both ensembles worked tirelessly to prepare for their performances and when we got to Disney, it felt like we were truly a family."

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THE HAWK EYE

is an open forum, in practice and policy, for student expression and the discussion of issues of concern to its audience. We therefore welcome *signed* letters to the editor and/or guest columns from students, faculty, support staff, administration and community residents.

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SHOULD WE SAY SOMETHING?

BY ATUL GERA
OPINION EDITOR

On February 25, students returned after a much-needed break to listen to Scott Lowry, a representative from the Sandy Hook Promise, give a presentation on preventing students from harming themselves or others. The Sandy Hook Promise was founded days after the tragic event on December 12, 2012, that took 27 innocent lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The organization is designed to teach students and adults about gun safety to prevent another school shooting. Lowry did more than this; he targeted suicide, bullying, and depression, on top of gun violence.

For 40 minutes, Lowry spoke directly to students with a big agenda that, despite its best intention, resonated poorly largely because of two controversial ideas he had put forth. The first fallacy was in the statement “seniors have the responsibility to enhance the culture of the school...and juniors have the responsibility to keep the school safe for future generations.” In the line about the seniors, I assume Lowry meant that Seniors have to set an example for the rest of the school, especially the new freshmen, about how to participate in school activities, navigate the halls, and survive high school. When a freshman walks into the building on the first day of school, the first thing they probably see is the main lobby filled with the graduating class wearing their custom senior t-shirts, taking dozens of pictures from every angle, and having a great time. From that moment, we all looked forward to becoming a Senior and having just as much fun on our first day, if not more. I completely agree with this responsibility if it is what Lowry was referring to. However, the second half of his remark took me aback.

Unlike what Lowry emphasized, I believe that it is the duty for students and staff to promote and nurture a safe learning environment. Lowry declared that the students are responsible for preventing violence in schools, and did not acknowledge the principals, the faculty, or the security guards. He assumed that “someone always knows what’s going to go down” through either word-of-mouth or social media, and that students have a moral obligation to report everything immediately to an adult or on the Say Something app. Lowry cited reports that people looking to do harm usually share their intentions on social media. While this fact is true, it does not always mean that every implication is literal. Moreover, all the adults in the building have the job of protecting students from threats with security protocols. It’s not the other way around. Our administration did take the initiative this year by issuing all of the high school students ID badges. Nevertheless, if the ID badges are going to have even the slightest chance of keeping us safe, they need to be scanned before a student even gets in the building. It seems quite simple for anyone to walk in with a lanyard around their neck, especially when hundreds of kids are buzzing by at the same time. Plus, students have to remember to wear their badges everyday.

Lowry’s second-biggest fallacy is when he brought up the Say Something app. The “anonymous” reporting system is supposed to encourage students to speak up about anything and everything. The app has outlandish categories for complaints ranging from “forgery” to “planned parties” and even “general school complaint.” When

Colby Kusnitz asked, “Is this going to create a culture of the red scare where everyone is at risk of being reported?” Lowry immediately responded with “no.” He thinks that because the app is meant for serious issues, people won’t mess around on it, especially since all the reports can easily be traced back to the source, despite anonymity. My main concern was not with this “red scare” possibility, but rather with the effectiveness of the app itself. I wanted to know how long it would take for a report to go through a third party system before it gets to the police or a school counselor. A quick glance at the reviews of the 2.1-starred app added to my trepidation, particularly when I read the comments from user “wwkrrn.” This parent’s child was appropriately dealing with some issues “when someone decided to ‘anonymously’ report her as depressed and suicidal, therefore sending the police to my residence and pretty much embarrassing her and upsetting her even more. I’m not sure how you can say it helped in any way. Not [to mention] that I had to explain our whole PERSONAL business to the officer. My concern is why wasn’t the PARENT contacted first?” This incident, true or not, sheds light on a possible outcome to a naive report. Someone can

easily make problems worse by trying to help via the app, whereas simply telling an adult member of the school or even the parent directly would do justice to the child who is suffering. To test whether our school was directly reviewing and acting upon all submissions, I filed a report against Scott Lowry’s assembly in the “general school complaint” category with the argument that it was unnecessary and not worth missing my first-period class. To this, I received the following unsatisfactory response from the Say Something Team: “The Say Something program is here



Photo Credit: Atul Gera

for those in need-- or for those who want to provide information (anonymously) to help someone who is in need or in a dangerous situation. If you have a legitimate tip, please provide the information to us, and we will do our part. Other than that, please do not use this program for anything other than its intended use.” So if the app is only meant to help someone in need or in danger, why are there so many useless categories under which someone can publish a grievance? How is reporting a forgery helping someone in need or in danger? Clearly, the app is not a viable method of voicing complaints in our school anonymously notwithstanding the option of “general school complaint.”

The Say Something app is highly flawed in its purpose and performance, so when Lowry recommended every student in the gym that day to download the app and use it like it’s hot, he damaged his credibility with the audience. On top of this, he ignored the responsibilities of the school staff and only seemed to target us as if we are the sole line of defense in the school. Don’t get me wrong, Lowry made some great points in his presentation about being kind to everyone whether or not we like them, and doing the right thing over the popular one. However, as I was walking out of that gym, the only thing I could do was disagree with his commentary and solution to gun violence and depression amongst adolescents in this country.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROM

BY ALISON CHERTOFF
STAFF REPORTER

On March 23, 2019, Plainview- Old Bethpage hosted the 12th annual Senior Citizen Prom. The event was held at the JFK gym from 5pm to 8pm. Approximately, one hundred and fifty seniors living in the community came from assisted living facilities and senior’s clubs in Plainview. There was an immense increase in the number of seniors that attended compared to last year. This year’s theme was the “wild west”, with decorations that reflected a western theme and a student staff that dressed in boots and flannel shirts. Bandanas and cowboy hats were provided for the seniors to wear and catered food was brought in from a nearby restaurant that was served by the students. Club members were required to wear black dress pants and white dress shirts. The students took drink orders and served the desserts.

In addition, there was a DJ that helped keep the seniors on their feet all night with some of their favorite music and dances. Community service board members collected raffles from local stores and the prom participants enjoyed buying raffles with the hopes of winning. Each member of the Community Service Club was required to bring in a baked good to serve at The Senior Citizen Prom. According to the president of the community service club, Rahi Shah, this year’s prom was the most successful. The senior citizens really enjoyed the music and socializing. This years unique theme along with support from the clubs members made the night a huge success. Many guests expressed their interest in attending the next event. Personally, I enjoyed the opportunity to meet seniors in the community and provide a great experience for them.

NEW FRENCH BAKERY MAKES U.S. DEBUT ON LONG ISLAND

BY MIRANDA COHEN
MANAGING EDITOR

With 500 locations throughout France, Marie Blachère, a very popular and successful French bakery, has just made its U.S. debut here on Long Island with its first location in Great Neck. Since the bakery was only 20 minutes away and there was so much buzz generated about its excellence, I had to try it for myself.

With a modern French market design, Marie Blachère offers fantastic and unusual French pastries, sweets, breads, croissants, sandwiches and salads, providing authenticity of French cuisine. Additionally, the bakery serves traditional American food such as pizza, club sandwiches, donuts, muffins, cookies, and wraps.

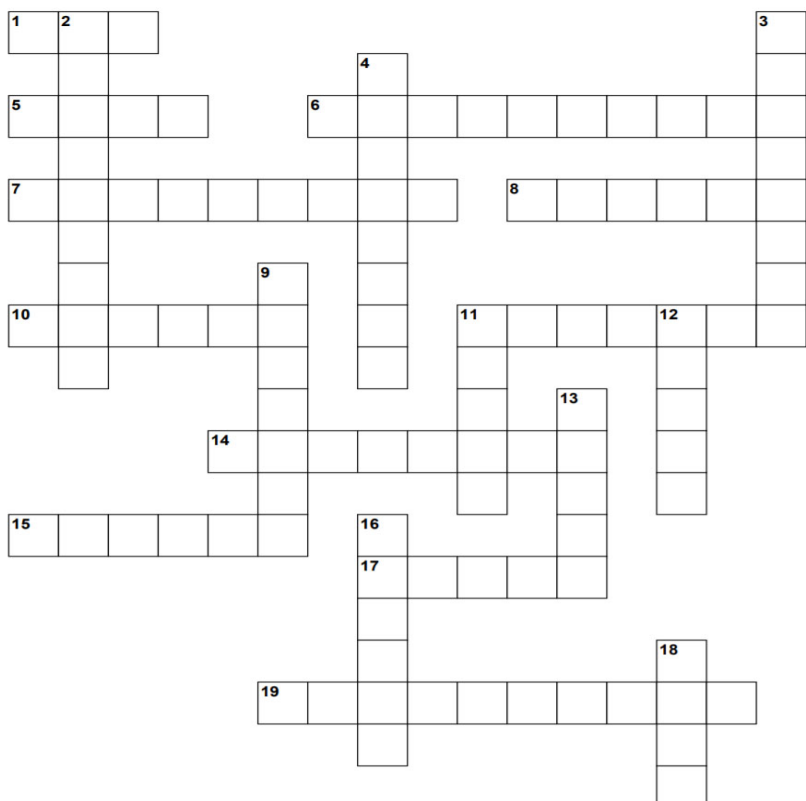
When you walk into the bakery, you are in awe of the size of the bakery, which is huge —6,000 square feet! There is so much to choose from. Artisanal breads including famous Marie baguettes, sourdough bread, multigrain bread, corn bread, and brioche buns. There are also smaller individual sweet brioche rolls that have sugar on top and French tartes such as raspberry fruit and apricot fruit. You can also find meringues, flan, fondant, and puff pastry. You can order your baguette well-baked, baked, or half-baked and then bring your half-baked baguette home to complete the baking and serve piping hot! The servers in the market are all very welcoming and many of the staffers moved to the U.S. from France in order to work in the new bakery. So if you are taking French in school, you can order your food in French.

There are 40 seats in the bakery and this spring, a rooftop terrace will open with another 40 seats – a perfect hangout for you and your friends. People can sit for hours and enjoy their treats along with a beverage. Drinks include espresso, macchiato, cappuccino, latte, house coffee and hot chocolate to cold brews, teas, waters, juices and more. Customers can also ask for complimentary tastings!

“For 14 years, Marie Blachère has been a household name throughout all of France,” said Christophe Besnard, the International Business Development Director of Marie Blachère, “Now we are thrilled to bring our authentic artisan breads, baked goods, and food items to the United States, where traditional breads and pastries have unquestionably gained in popularity over recent years. We see huge growth potential here and look forward to delighting Long Islanders at our first U.S. location.”

Menu items are prepared in front of customers and average \$10 an item, starting as low as \$2.00. Hours for the Great Neck location are 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM and the bakery is open seven days a week. Marie Blachère is located at 550 Middle Neck Road. If you are planning a trip into New York City this spring, you will also be able to visit their second U.S. bakery in the West Village. You can find Marie Blachère on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and at www.marie-blachere.com.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Most Valuable Player
- 5 Round metal ring attached to backboard
- 6 Player who replaces another team member on court
- 7 Located behind basket off which ball is rebounded
- 8 Net fixed to a hoop
- 10 Rebound after hitting a surface
- 11 Bounce ball repeatedly with one hand
- 14 Loss of ball to other team without taking a shot
- 15 Go beyond what is allowed
- 17 Throw ball toward basket
- 19 Holding or being in control of ball

DOWN

- 2 Infraction of the rules
- 3 Five minute extra period
- 4 Limiting opponent's ability to pass or shoot
- 9 Regaining control of ball after failed shot
- 11 Fast, strong dribble or movement directly to the basket
- 12 Stop movement of opponent or stopping pass or shot
- 13 Annual process of selecting new players
- 16 Pass to a teammate who scores
- 18 Violation resulting from illegal contact

http://www.qets.com/large-print_puzzles/pdf/03/march-madness_lp-ff_crossword.pdf

TWILIGHT PROGRAM

BY EMILY CHERTOFF
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

New to our school for the 2018-2019 year is a program like no other. Introduced by math teacher and Twilight Principal, Mr. Szajna, the Twilight Program offers an alternative education program for students who have not succeeded in the traditional school environment or have trouble getting to school. As a result, this program allows these students to come in at around 2:30 to learn regents based courses necessary to graduate. Twilight is not necessarily permanent and the goal is for students to return to school comfortable and ready to succeed.

Offered in 15 other Nassau County schools,

Twilight runs from Monday to Thursday. There are currently eleven students and four subjects taught plus gym on Wednesday. Math and English are taught on Monday and Wednesday while science and social studies are on Tuesday and Thursday. Each period runs for an hour and a half and the program consists of two periods each day. However, on Wednesday, there is an hour of gym time added to the schedule. Students also have the option of attending gym 10th period and transportation if they so choose. There are eight teachers who participate in this after school program in addition to Mr. DiDomenico, a Guidance Counselor at our

school. Students are free to seek a guidance appointment at any time during the hours they are at Twilight.

The courses that Twilight students can take are decided by teachers, counselors, support staff and administration to keep the student on track for graduation in the future. To be in this program, the student must be referred to by a teacher or support staff. Counselors then meet with the Assistant Principal a Twilight Referral Form is submitted to Mr. Di Domenico. Lastly, a schedule is created and the student is eventually admitted to the program. Mr. Szajna has been working extremely hard to make this program a success

for each individual student. He strongly believes that Twilight is “a nice alternative for education in school hours.”

Some students incorporate Twilight as a part of their academic day. These students participate in the “Bridge” Program. This option allows them to “bridge” into Twilight and take courses as they choose during traditional school hours. This allows them to get a feel for the program and to see where they fit best. Originally starting with one student earlier this year, Twilight is quickly evolving into a family where students can feel safe and succeed in their own ways.

GREEK OLYMPICS

BY ATUL GERA
OPINION EDITOR

This year at the high school, student government created their own rendition of the Greek Olympics in place of the traditional Battle of the Classes. Typically, Battle took place in the last week of February with 4 mini-events including Battle of the Brains, skits, scavenger hunt, and Pictionary from Monday to Thursday coinciding with a school-wide spirit week. On Friday, the full Battle would go down in the gym and each grade would sport their \$20 shirt with a unique design and last names on the back. Not to mention, this unique design would also be drawn on a board to be hung in the cafeteria with past year Battle boards. Last years main Battle events included: sneaker hunt, dress-up relay, musical chairs, mummy wrap, egg roulette, hungry hungry hippos, three-legged spoon relay, hula-hoop loop, message in a pail, food-eating contest, basketball relay, and tug of war.

The change to Greek Olympics came after much debate in student government about spicing Battle up into something new which more people would be willing to participate in. Over the years, attendance at the main Battle event had become increasingly spotty with only 15 sophomores showing up last year (this had decreased to less than 10 by the end of the day). To participate in Friday’s events, a student needed to have purchased the \$20 shirt. However, there were two main excuses last year to not buying the shirt. Number one being that \$20 is too expensive,

and number two being that the shirt design was not their cup of tea. Not one person out of my entire grade last year told me they did not want to participate in Battle because it’s boring or a waste of time; on the contrary, all who did show up had an excellent time and returned this year to do it again with the new theme.

The Greek Olympics week this year was only from Wednesday to Friday with 2 mini-events. There was no coinciding spirit week because it was moved to earlier this year. The mini-events included academic decathlon and scavenger hunt, while the main games on Friday’s event were: javelin toss, chariot race, tug of war, musical chairs, hungry hungry hippos, hula hoop loop, gladiator shoe hunt, coke and pepsi, and broomball. Overall, “Greek Olympics was more successful than Battle has been in a while,” reported Rohit Aggarwal, the Class of 2020 president. “Decreasing the price of the shirts to \$10 really helped attract more people, however, the event itself needs to be hyped up a lot more by teachers and students alike, not just by student government.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 for winning first place in the Greek Olympics this year, and good luck to the grades next year!



Photo Credit: Aya Karimealaoui



Photo Credit: Aya Karimealaoui

COLLEGE TOUR

BY MICHAEL DEANGELIS
STAFF REPORTER

For the fifth Annual College Tour, 50 sophomores were chosen by raffle to visit colleges they might want to apply to and attend. On the frigid morning of January 30th, the Sophomore Hawks and chaperones left their nest at 5:30 a.m. for the three day trip. Everyone was well prepared with jackets, hats, gloves and hand-warmers anticipating the cold New England weather. Our first destination was Brandeis University, a small private university in a suburban area. At the Student Center, the students were introduced by a college advisor and went on a student-guided tour. They then proceeded to other universities/colleges in the Boston area. Such schools included Boston College, Bentley University, Boston University, Northeastern University and Harvard University. The campus size of these schools ranged from 73 acres (Northeastern University) to 5,076 acres (Harvard University), located mainly in urban areas, except for Boston College and Bentley University, which were in suburban locations. At these universities, the sophomores were routinely

greeted by college administrators and proceeded to tour the campuses which included visiting dormitories, student activity centers, dining halls, and athletic centers.

In addition to visiting these universities, the students socialized at Dave and Busters and Shear Madness Performance. They also had the opportunity to tour the historic Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox. On their return, the students also visited the University of Connecticut. The campus is large and located in rural Connecticut.

Mr. Jason Miller, School Guidance Counselor, and Ms. Laurie Lynn, Director of Guidance, provided the students with an extremely beneficial college experience that will help them in the college decision process. Their months of preparation will always be appreciated.

SPRING BREAK PLANS?

BY MICHAEL KHALFIN
STAFF REPORTER

Quarter three is probably the most challenging quarter. The weeks before break are made up of sleepless nights, homework, and stress. To all those juggling sports and extracurriculars: enjoy the spring break. Relax. Check out the tips below for ideas on how to have fun and recuperate before Quarter 4 and finals.

Stay Home

Maybe settle for a movie franchise or binge watch a Netflix series. Find a new book in the library and enjoy staying in your bed all day long.

Get Out

If you don't want to spend all of break on your computer, try to go on a biking trip, or go for a run. Have some fun and enjoy the warmer weather.

Learn Something New

There's nothing more refreshing than picking up a new skill, whether it be drawing, playing an instrument, cooking up something, or trying out a new sport. Get your friends in on this, and come back from the break a more versatile person.

Enjoy

Employ your favorite hobbies and pastimes. Play football, dance, or go ice skating. Do whatever you feel like doing, but definitely don't stress over break. Put school aside and enjoy your time off!

DECA STATES COMPETITION

BY ESHWIN VARGHESE AND BEN POLLARD
CHIEF EDITOR AND NEWS EDITOR

The DECA chapter at POBJFK has been immensely successful as it has continuously represented our school on a regional and international scale. DECA's mission is to shape students in high schools and colleges across the globe to become leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, hospitality, and management. DECA encourages students to be academically prepared, community oriented, and professionally responsible. The club attends many events throughout the year, and recently, they attended the DECA State Competition in Rochester. The Plainview DECA chapter brought 108 students to compete in their respective categories from March 6 - 8. There were many notable moments up in Rochester, however, the most remarkable moments were when students from POBJFK were formally recognized for their hard work up on the DECA stage. Various POBJFK students were named 1st place winners of their category: Overall, the DECA competition in Rochester was another wonderful experience to a year's worth of

hard work from our DECA students. Mrs. DeLuca one of the DECA advisors said, "I am so proud of all of the POB DECA members who participated at the New York State competition. Each of



Photo Credit: Mrs. Tortoso

our members worked incredibly hard in their competitions as they strive for success." Now, 53 students will be going to Orlando at the end of April to participate in the DECA International Career and Development Conference (ICDC).

DECA has definitely impacted the lives of many at POBJFK, shaping them into people that will greatly benefit the business field. As the world around us constantly changes, DECA's programs and activities have constantly evolved through the application of the latest technology and cutting-edge educational research. Congrats to all the POBJFK students who went to Rochester. We know you will do great things for the world!

THE ODELL BECKHAM JR. TRADE

BY JAKE FELDMAN
TREASURER AND SPORTS EDITOR

In mid March, the New York Giants star wide receiver, Odell Beckham Jr, was traded to the Cleveland Browns in exchange for a first-round pick (No. 17 overall), a third-round pick (No. 95), and safety Jabrill Peppers. Many Giants fans are considering this to be a negative trade because their star wide receiver is now gone. However, Giants fans should be feeling hopeful for the upcoming season, especially

since the Giants also have the 6th pick in the draft and can draft a young quarterback. Eli Manning is getting older and not getting much better.

Also, POBJFK students should consider these facts: Beckham has struggled to stay healthy and stay out of trouble. Five seasons into his career,

Beckham has only played one 16-game season. Three were shortened by injuries and a fourth was a 15-game season due to a one-game suspension. In addition, Jabrill Peppers is a young player with untapped potential. Dave Gettleman, general manager of the Giants, notes that he believes in Peppers' ability. Overall, the Giants have two first rounders to help improve their roster and they still have the indomitable Saquon Barkley!



Photo Credit: thebiglead.com

NEW BEGINNINGS

BY BENJAMIN DIAMOND
STAFF REPORTER

With the MLB season kicking off, here are some expectations that stem from the offseason.

The Mets with all of their off-season transactions can be a real force in the NL East, which may end up being one of the toughest divisions behind the AL East. Getting players Like Wilson Ramos and star closer Edwin Diaz headline there great offseason.

The Phillies and the Padres also made great moves in the off season signing Bryce Harper and Manny Machado

respectively. Although they are both great signings I feel that the Phillies got the better deal, to fit in their young core.

The Yankees improved their team during the offseason. It is their expectation to win the AL East this year over the Red Sox, especially with the poor bullpen of the Red Sox and possible loss of closer Craig Kimbrel.

Each team was able to improve themselves in one way or another leading to another great season ahead.

PORZINGIS TRADE

BY AARON ROTHSCHILD
STAFF REPORTER

Kristaps Porzingis, the former face of the New York Knicks, was traded on February 1st to the Dallas Mavericks. Porzingis was taken with the 4th pick of the 2015 NBA Draft by the Knicks and proceeded to make an immediate impact. Porzingis tore his ACL in the 2017 season and had not played since. This, combined with some of the turmoil created by the losing of the franchise since he has been here, contributed to this blockbuster move. Additionally, the Knicks traded shooting guard Tim Hardaway Jr., Courtney Lee, and Trey Burke. In return, the Knicks received Dennis Smith Jr., a promising young point guard, Wesley Matthews, who has since been released and now plays for the Indiana Pacers, and DeAndre Jordan, one of the best rebounders in the league. On top of that, the Knicks received two first round picks.

But perhaps the most important takeaway of this trade is the financial aspect. The Knicks cleared up over 20 million dollars

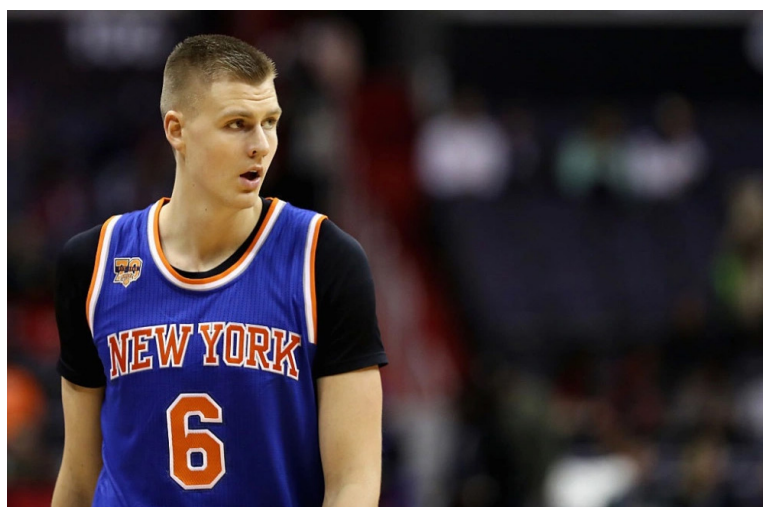


Photo Credit: thebiglead.com

of cap space heading into this Summer. A summer with a free agent class including Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, and Kawhi Leonard. After this trade, the Knicks now have enough cap space to sign two marquee free agents. When you combine this with the Knicks' worst record in the league and the good chance of landing generational talent Zion Williamson, the future is bright.

Reactions to the trade are mixed. Many people were sad to see the star of the team go. Porzingis was a player who touched the hearts of many young fans. However, the recent scandal that erupted with Porzingis devastatingly being accused of rape has led many fans to think maybe trading the superstar was not a bad idea. Regardless, we will have to watch him from but hopefully for Knick fans we will have a new face of the franchise soon and have a winning team to root for.



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL

BY LAUREN PARK
TREASURER

Although the recent college admissions scandal implicating celebrities Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman has been discussed in many classes over the past few weeks, it may not be acknowledged that “Operation Ivy Blues,” the largest sting operation in FBI history, may seem distant and even irrelevant.

Even though it may initially seem as if we can scorn the idea of any parent investing a grossly negligent sum of money to get their child into a selective school, we are ignoring the fact that many families are financially able to contribute to their children’s future in other, more discreet, and completely legal ways. Considering the increased emphasis on a good education in recent years, it’s expected that parents are compelled to see their financial contributions as an investment.

Additionally, recognizing what is not a norm, a “given,”

or an expectation, can be difficult. For example: SAT and ACT tutors are not the norm across the nation; many of us are incredibly privileged to be able to utilize resources outside of school counselors, teachers, and other advisors during the stressful college admissions process. Secondly, many share the viewpoint that any and all advantages are the result of hard work. Many view parents’ success and/or financial well-being as eponymous to or indicative of their own future expenditures, and as a result, many believe that they personally have worked hard to “earn” these tutors, while others who cannot afford them are simply undeserving or less fortunate. The recent college admissions scandal is one of many revelations indicating that a new society is cultivated based on inherited financial gain rather than merit, which could have devastating ramifications for the future.

STEAM NIGHT

BY AVERY GIRSKY
STAFF REPORTER

On March 28th at POB Middle School, one could see an auditorium filled to the brim with families, high school students volunteering their time, and young children exercising their creativity. The Plainview-Old Bethpage held its second annual STEAM Night, an event for students K-8 to visit various stations and have early exposure to engineering concepts. With an increasing focus placed on science, technology, engineering, art, and math, POB has begun to promote this annual event as an opportunity for kids in kindergarten, elementary school, and middle school to both enjoy themselves and test their creativity. Students have responded well to the event as attendance has been consistently increasing and a record number of stations were seen this year.

POBJFK students have been absolutely critical to STEAM Night with numerous volunteers from both the Science Honor Society and Robotics Club. High school students were often in charge of the various stations or involved in the organization and production of the event behind-the-scenes. I had helped run the “balloon-powered cars” station for the past two years, and I saw firsthand the ability of these young children to accomplish incredible things with limited materials. By simply giving up one night, I observed the interest and talent that kids have when it comes to creating something out of nothing. That, in itself, is why STEAM Night is so important for the development of young minds and to foster innovation which can stimulate improvements in the future.



Photo Credit: pobschools.org & Mrs. Rachel Lindsey

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

1. MVP
2. VIOLATION
3. OVERTIME
4. GUARDING
5. HOOP
6. SUBSTITUTE
7. BACKBOARD
8. BASKET
9. REBOUND

10. BOUNCE
11. DRIVE/DRIBBLE
12. BLOCK
13. DRAFT
14. TURNOVER
15. EXCEED
16. ASSIST
17. SHOOT
18. FOUL
19. POSSESSION