



## Class of 2021 Valedictorian - Ian Irushalmi

By: Seth Schlank  
Sports Editor

Over the course of his tenure at POBJFK, Ian Irushalmi has been a regular at POBJFK's Model UN Chapter (METMUNC), National Honor Society, and Science Honor Society. Ian is currently the president of METMUNC and the president of Quiz Bowl. Additionally, Ian has been rewarded for all of the long hours and hard work he has put in over his four years at POBJFK, becoming the Class of 2021's Valedictorian.

When he is not in his classrooms or the courtyard, Ian can be found playing video games, working in his garden, or out and about on one of his long bike rides. Although this year was challenging for all students, faculty, and staff, Ian has made the most of it. He led POBJFK's Quiz Bowl team to a 4th place finish in the Long Island regional competition and was a member of the POBJFK National Science Bowl team, which also placed 4th on Long Island in the regional competition.

Ian describes himself as conscientious and motivated, and these traits have most certainly been

displayed both in and out of the classroom. Ian has received several Underclassmen Awards, was a National Merit Finalist, and received Best Delegate awards for Model United Nations.

To the underclassmen and the Middle School eighth grade classes of 2021, Ian has a little advice for you: "If there's something you enjoy or that inspires you - go for it! Whether it's art, music, science, math, or any other subject area, truly invest yourself in what you enjoy doing. Nothing is more rewarding than spending your time and energy on activities you enjoy." Ian has spent many hours volunteering in hospitals and other medical programs, which has led him to pursue a career in science, beginning as a Neuroscience major at the University of Virginia this upcoming fall.

On behalf of the rest of the POBJFK Class of 2021, Congratulations Ian on this well deserved honor! We are extremely

excited to see what you do in the future and we wish you the best of luck during the next four years in Charlottesville and beyond.



Source: Ian Irushalmi

## Class of 2021 Salutatorian - Elijah Blum

By: Amanda Kang  
Co-Managing Editor

A brilliant and industrious student, Elijah Blum, has been named the Class of 2021 Salutatorian. During his years at POBJFK, Elijah has managed to excel within all of his academic and extracurricular endeavors. Not only has he earned the title of president of the school's chess club, but he is also a member of the Science, French, and National Honor Societies, and was named a 2021 National Merit Semi-Finalist.

In addition, Elijah enjoys playing music during his free time and is a talented trombone player, who has played in every ensemble in the district since 4th grade. He has also played in the All Eastern Symphonic Band, All State Wind Ensemble, and All Country Orchestra or Band for the past seven years. This past year, he dedicated his skills to serving as the school band's Drum Major for their Marching Band performance.

Elijah recalled that one of his favorite experiences in high school was being part of the band because he could play music and form new friendships. He expressed that he was able to forge strong connections with his bandmates, and face challenges and celebrate triumphs together. He recounted the little moments of his time as a band member, like "freezing in the stadiums at Newsday, sweating on Memorial Day, realizing you can't reach 7th position at the concert because your shirt is too stiff, [and] Josh using slide grease instead of slide cream." Elijah laments that he misses his bandmates more than ever this year, as they were not able to participate in all of

their usual activities during the pandemic.

He said, "I'll miss most of the friends I've made and the experiences we've shared. This year not being able to participate in many of these events made me realize even more how much I love them."

Furthermore, Elijah harbors a deep love of plants; he finds them beautifully fascinating and has even dedicated his time to studying and researching them. Since September, Elijah has been studying leaf venation architectures with Dr. Navlakha at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL), trying to understand leaf venation formation through algorithmic modeling. His project is called the Algorithmic Modeling of Leaf Venation Architectures. He said that essentially, "I've been looking at lots of leaves." He has even presented his research at the CSHL research symposium in April. He stated, "I love the beauty of plants, and understanding that beauty through mathematics makes it even more fascinating and brilliant."

During the upcoming fall semester, Elijah will be studying at Cornell University, where he hopes to further his understanding of plants.

On behalf of the Class of 2021, congratulations Elijah! We wish you all the best.



Source: Elijah Blum

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## WELCOME!

The Hawk Eye is always accepting new members and entries! Please listen to the announcements for the time and locations of our weekly meetings! Thank you for reading!



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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.

Since *THE\*HAWK EYE's* content is determined by the editorial board, it may not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, its student government, faculty, administrators, or the

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Source: The Rampage

## Hawkeye Weekly

By: Michael Khalfin  
Editor-In Chief



At the beginning of this year, the POBJFK Hawkeye launched the Hawkeye News Feed, our own school blog. This platform enabled board members to write weekly articles, on remarkably current topics and miscellaneous subjects that are often absent from the quarterly issue. Also available on the website is every edition since 2017, for our readers' enjoyment. These "online editions" will always be accessible, along with the usual printed paper copies.

We are including a QR code to the blog. Simply scan this link, and gain access to hundreds of articles.

We are proud to announce that next year we are pushing the frontier even further. Our new website, the Hawkeye Weekly, will include articles from all students in the club, and other inspired writers from across the school. Students will all have a voice; their opinions will be heard and resonate far and wide.

The world is becoming increasingly digitized, and the POBJFK Hawkeye will take advantage of any opportunities to expand news coverage in the school. We hope our online format will be appealing, and welcome any future suggestions.

## Hawkeye On The Street

By: Jesse Ray Sheps  
Incoming Editor-In Chief



The POBJFK Hawkeye is about to embark on a new adventure, with our first video news report! The goal of this video, Hawkeye On The Street, is to introduce our readers to the various topics we will dive into within each issue of the Hawkeye that you will really not want to miss!

Before each issue is released, a short uplifting video introduction will be uploaded and accessible on our website (See previous article).

Our pioneer video blog will cover the big ideas of our issues. I believe that this will work out to be an exciting and informative method for our fantastic viewers. In the end, the goal of our new branch is to excite our viewers and highlight why they will enjoy reading each issue of our newspaper. Overtime, the video may change and grow – this will keep the Hawkeye as this school's trusted and reliable news source!

## Hawkeye Instagram

By: Fiona Wu  
Incoming Multimedia Coordinator



As a final push to this year's initiatives in engaging more students, the Hawkeye will be developing a much greater social media presence.

For each issue and blog post that is released, there will be a corresponding post to the official Hawkeye Instagram allowing followers to stay updated on the dates. We may even feature shortened versions of some articles in the form of an infographic! This way, you can understand the basics of the topic before heading over to the website and reading the article in greater depth.

Additionally, there will be exclusive photos and fun "get to know us" posts of this year's board to help you become familiar with

the friendly faces behind the screen. Since you will be getting to know us a bit more, we would love to get to know our audience as well! To accomplish this, we plan on posting occasional polls and trivias using the Instagram Story feature. This way, you have something to look forward to in between articles, and we will be able to continue improvement based on audience responses.

If you would like to be a part of the growth of the POBJFK Hawkeye, follow us @pobjfk\_hawkeye on Instagram!

# We'll Miss You Mr. Campanelli

By: Nicole Graubart  
Staff Reporter

The first time I heard Mr. Campanelli's name was from my older sister, Rebecca. Going into my sophomore year, my sister crossed her fingers and told me, "You need to get Camp! He's the best!" I hoped I'd get the chance to have the famous Campanelli as my teacher. Checking my schedule, I saw that my wish had come true, and I'd be awaiting a year with a great global history teacher! Although Mr. Campanelli is very intimidating at first, throughout the year his students get to see how great his teaching strategies and humor are. Mr. Campanelli started teaching in 1987, and started teaching in Plainview in 1990. He attended Union College and Stony Brook University. Initially, Mr. Campanelli was studying law and intended on being a lawyer. However, his interests in teaching actually began in physical education. So, I asked him, what made him start teaching global history? He explained that at the time, most social studies teachers preferred teaching American history, so the new guy would grab whatever was available, but he didn't mind--for he was always interested in global in this aspect. If you haven't known already, Mr. Campanelli also teaches Facing History. He considers this course to be one of the best and most essential courses that a student could take at JFK (I agree with him on this one, my sister had him in this class as well, and was very interested in the topics discussed). Throughout his years at POBJFK, Mr. Campanelli coached baseball and was a club advisor for Moot Court. With the help of his facing history class, he even took part in the creation of the school's

beautiful 9/11 memorial in the courtyard. He's chaperoned various events, including prom, trips to Washington DC, and the Junior color war. Getting to interview Mr. Campanelli was a lot of fun. I asked him what his favorite things about being a teacher were, and he told me, "Definitely interactions with the students. Anytime that the students are energetic, lively or have good senses of humor, it makes class that much better. If you didn't like kids or didn't get along with students, this would be torturous! I've been lucky to always have great students, which is the best part of the job, to be honest." I also had to ask Camp if there were any funny memories he experienced during his career. He had PLENTY to look back on! Whether it was a student hiding in his closet and pretending to be on the intercom (which confused Campanelli along with his entire class), or getting free pies on Pi Day with his colleague and nextdoor teacher buddy, Mr. Gunning, teaching could never be boring! Mr. Campanelli even met his wife during his career, who also taught at POBJFK! He's met so many friendly colleagues, including Mr. Gunning, Mr. Buchman and Mr. Herrmann. I also asked Mr. Campanelli what he's looking forward to the most about retirement. While he will deeply miss teaching, he is looking forward to having freedom to do whatever he wants to do, without time constraints, along with not worrying about the dreadful commute to work -- which has become a drag over time. He tells me, "I guess just the ability to do anything I want to do: I won't have to worry about being back on a Sunday night for school Monday morning." And of course, no more grading current events or exams (which he is incredibly quick at doing, thank you Camp)! I saved a very important question for him at the end of his interview: "Why do you like ties so much?" His countless famous ties have left this question lingering. And so he told me the truth behind his signature piece, that his students had gifted him ties throughout his years of teaching and it began from there. Mr. Campanelli, your past and present students, and myself, all wish you the best of luck on your retirement. We will miss you (maybe not your global notes so much) and your encouragement, always pushing your students to do their very best in class and before entering their careers. Thank you for motivating us to go above and beyond, encouraging our personal growth and making school much more enjoyable. On a final note, don't forget to watch the movie Inside Out this summer!



Source: Mr. Campanelli



Source: Mr. Campanelli



Source: Mr. Campanelli



Source: Mr. Campanelli



Source: Mr. Campanelli

# Goodbye Mrs. Mertz: You will be missed!

By Tarunika Sasikumar and Fiona Wu

Incoming Layout Editor and Upcoming Multimedia Coordinator

For the past two years, both of us, Fiona and Tarunika, have been fortunate enough to have an amazing teacher, Mrs. Mertz, during our high school years. We were both former chemistry students of hers. Additionally, Tarunika was a research student of hers, and is now one of Mrs. Mertz's AP biology students. The news of her retirement has saddened all immensely, as she is an incomparable teacher mainly because of her strategies and humor. Fortunately, we had the pleasure of sitting down with Mrs. Mertz after school to talk about her experience teaching at Plainview and her plans for the future.

## **You are a biology and chemistry teacher; did you major in one/or both of these sciences in college?**

In college, I majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry.

## **Was teaching at Plainview your first job?**

No, it was not my first job.

## **Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

There were many reasons why I chose to become a teacher but the main reasons were because I absolutely love working with students and I love the feeling of watching them learn new things.

## **How long have you been teaching at Plainview?**

I believe that this is my 30th year teaching at POBJFKHS.

## **Top 3 Memories of Teaching?**

Watching as my students do well and thrive in their studies  
Learning new things from my students themselves  
Working and becoming friends with the other teachers at the high school

## **Did you experience any turning points in your career?**

The biggest turning point I have experienced in my career is teaching new material.

## **Name a few things you will miss when you retire.**

There's so much but my top three would have to be:  
My students  
Working with my colleagues  
Watching my students succeed in their classes and in life

## **What are your plans for the future?**

To be honest, I have not really thought out exactly what I want to do in the future, but possible ideas include tutoring, proctoring, and simply enjoying my free time.

## **Do you have any advice for future biology/chemistry teachers?**

Hmm, advice for future teachers...I would say that you should always try to learn from your students! You would be surprised to see how smart they are!

## **Fun Questions:**

### **What is your dream vacation?**

My dream vacation is probably going to Europe, specifically England.

If you won the lottery and decided to give up teaching, what would you do instead?

I hope I win the lottery in the future! If I did, I would read, garden, paint, cook, and relax.

What is a hidden talent you have?

I have so many hidden talents. Did you know I crochet, cook, bake, and draw?

For her last question, we asked Mrs. Mertz for a final message to leave her students with. She said "It has been an absolute privilege teaching every single one of you and getting to know you all and what you enjoy doing outside of school." We also asked former/current students to chip in and give their own little memories and experiences when they had Mrs. Mertz:

Carolyn Miao: "Something I miss about her is her jokes and humor which always made chemistry so enjoyable."

Nicole Hilber: "Mrs. Mertz's class was just full of amazing memories! She was extremely funny when teaching us lessons and all I remember is laughing so hard during all the labs we did in chemistry!"

Rachel Gordon: "I had the opportunity to have Mrs. Mertz for both chemistry and research and I would say that my favorite memory is doing fun experiments in chemistry with her like the Oreo and the popcorn one!"

Lily Adinolfi: "I will miss the way that she was able to make the class laugh at the funniest times and keep happy energy in the classroom! I always looked forward to her class, and it was the highlight of my mornings! She will definitely be missed!"

Arnav Surjan: "I think my favorite thing about her was how she was always "shipping" me and the people I talked with in class and always told me to ask them out on a date to the movies or something."

Keerthika Divvela: "My favorite memory is when I gave Mrs. Mertz a game of thrones notebook and she gave me a hug!"

Annie Heischober: "My favorite memory is her jokes and hanging out with her in remedial! She always had a happy spirit. She will be missed so much!"

As her students, we are sad to see her go but we are sure that she will continue to do incredible things after her retirement. We wish her all the best and a happy retirement.

## Hawk Eye Advertising Initiative

By Michael Khalfin & Jesse Ray Sheps

Incoming Editors-in-Chief

Every year, the Hawkeye Newspaper Club participates in community outreach and fundraising. This year, we supported a local organization by collecting funds from businesses. We collected \$450 in exchange for local advertisements. All monetary donations from businesses are going to the Plainview JCC's Adler Center which provides a comprehensive range of programs and services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Specifically, all funds will go toward Camp Adler, a fun, nurturing, and supportive environment, where campers are assisted with professional staff to develop skills, build self-confidence, and make lasting friendships.



MID ISLAND  
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*In education, business and in life: "Believe you can and you're halfway there."*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*



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# India's Struggle to Breathe

By Christine Song  
Incoming Managing Editor

India is currently dealing with a massive surge of COVID-19 cases, becoming the global epicenter of the pandemic and breaking devastating records. The alarming rate of rising cases has much to owe to the multiple mutations of the virus. The lack of hospital beds, medicine, facilities, oxygen, and other health necessities have been the subject of public anger as many struggle to save their loved ones. The overflow of patients in medical spaces has even led to Sikh temples opening centers and hospitals for strangers. This was done to aid and supply free oxygen to those in need even

as hospitals were struggling. Rural parts of India are experiencing shortages of wood, a resource that is necessary for Hindu cremations. Due to this, many villagers have been leaving bodies in the Ganges River, instead of the ashes that are ceremonially spread. The residents of the capital, New Delhi, are also finding themselves leaving their relatives' ashes to volunteers. These volunteers take up requests to wash, pray, and scatter ashes into the river, a ritual usually done by the deceased one's family.

The South Asian country has a staggering 26 million confirmed cases and over 295,000 deaths to date as of May 22 (according to data from Johns Hopkins University).

Unfortunately, many experts speculate that the numbers are severely underreported because many never make it to hospitals, which are currently overflowing with patients.

India now holds the record for newly reported cases in the span of 24 hours. Despite the fact that India is the world's biggest producer of COVID-19 vaccines and has administered millions of vaccine doses, less than 3% of the 1.37 billion population (as of May 16) has been fully vaccinated.

Criticism has also been directed toward the government and the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, for allowing massive crowds to gather for Hindu religious festivals and election rallies. Others attribute the crisis to the relaxation of people's attitudes toward the virus due to the government's early announcement of victory against the coronavirus. Ramanan Laxminarayan, an epidemiologist at Princeton University, said, "There was a public narrative that India had conquered

COVID-19." He added that following this declaration, those in India dropped their guard and went back to socializing, traveling, and hosting large parties. Moreover, other risk factors which have made India vulnerable include its high population density, fragile health care system, and large population of poor workers.

Although the media has labeled the new variant the



Source: Reuters

"double mutant," virologists explain that it isn't simply a double mutation but more than a dozen. The official variant is called B.1.617, and it carries mutations found separately in other variants. Kristian Andersen, an infectious disease scientist, states, "We also know B.1.1.7 [the variant first detected in the UK] is circulating in India, and we know that P.1 [the variant first detected in Brazil] is also

circulating there, too. So they could also play a role in this surge. We simply don't have the data yet." While research and data is limited, preliminary evidence suggests that the B.1.617 variant is more contagious than previous strains of the virus and has an increased ability to evade the immune system.

Because we live a continent away, some people may look at these events with indifference. However, even in our POBJFKHS, many students have family members in India and



Source: Reuters

are affected in some way by this ongoing issue. Lea Mecheril, a sophomore, expressed her personal concern for her grandparents living amidst the recent surge. "It's scary seeing the news reports of how many people are dying left and right because of the lack of medical resources in India, especially for someone like me, whose grandparents are right at the heart of the problem, extra susceptible from old

age, and other preexisting conditions." She adds that "even before the pandemic, they [her grandparents] were constantly going in and out of the hospital, so it's heartbreaking having to always be worried that the next phone call from our home in India would be of bad news."

What can YOU do to help? There are many fundraisers that raise money to support India. UNICEF, American India Foundation, Project Hope, International Medical Corps all offer an online platform for COVID relief. These organizations have specific fundraisers available so individuals can donate to boost oxygen supply, provide cash support to families of the deceased, help set up more COVID care centers, and others. Remember that every dollar matters in order to overcome this crisis.



# National Honor Society Welcomes New Members

By Justine Choi  
Incoming News Editor

POBJFK's Robert F. Savitt Chapter of the National Honor Society recently welcomed 194 juniors from the class of 2022. POBJFK is fortunate enough to have several honor societies that recognize students' achievements in a wide variety of subjects. Unlike other honor societies, however, the National Honor Society highlights students' overall academic achievement across all classes. In addition, the POBJFK's Robert F. Savitt Chapter is a part of the larger National Honor Society, a nationwide organization that recognizes students who display the qualities of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The honor society is an unparalleled opportunity for high school students to become leaders in community service, stand out to colleges, and gain access to scholarship opportunities.

All of the prospective members of the National Honor Society must complete an application after meeting the required standards, demonstrating why they deserve to be a member of the organization. Applicants must have a minimum weighted grade point average of 90.0 in order to be considered for membership. However, a high GPA is not the only thing expected of prospective members — they must also demonstrate clear evidence of leadership, character, and service, which are the topics of the application essays. Applicants should not only be accomplished scholars, but they must also be active members of the school and community through participating in community service projects, having leadership roles in clubs or other in-school organizations, or participating in out-of-school activities. All of these activities and leadership roles are listed on a

set of four resumes, one for each quality (leadership, character, service, and scholarship). The essays and resumes are then reviewed by a faculty committee, which decides whether or not to accept each applicant. Through this process, those 194 new members were accepted.

Once accepted into the National Honor Society, members must register with the official, nationwide organization. This is to allow students to gain access to scholarship opportunities, and to allow colleges to potentially keep track of membership. New members then take part in an induction ceremony (The spring 2021 induction will take place on June 9). After this, students must maintain their membership by attending a certain percentage of meetings, keeping their GPA above the 90.0 threshold, and completing ten hours of community service through the National Honor Society. Some of these community service activities include, but are not limited to, one-on-one tutoring, high school homework help, senior-to-senior tutoring, and fundraising. The students in the National Honor Society play an integral role in helping their peers, the school, community, and serving as role models to younger students.

Mrs. Verdi, the faculty advisor of National Honor Society, says, "I am excited to see all the amazing and wonderful ways this talented, well-rounded group of our community's finest leaders will give back. I expect great things from the class of 2022 and can't wait to start giving back to the POB community with these fine young men and women."

Congratulations to the new members of the Robert F. Savitt Chapter of National Honor Society!



Source: Oxford School District

## Girls Learn International at POBJFK

By Annie Heischober  
Incoming Arts & Entertainment Editor

This year, the Girls Learn International Club at POBJFK High School had the great opportunity to be partnering with a nonprofit organization: One World Girl. Together, the organization and the high school students in the chapter at our school collaborate to make a positive difference in the lives of others, especially in their community.

The Girls Learn International club, GLI, increases awareness about human rights and tries to improve them around the world. The club is globally known. It's purpose is to connect everyone through their common goal and motivation to fight for what is right in many situations. It is mainly geared towards empowering girls' education as well as rights and shaping all to become activists in hope of social change. This overall idea is extremely important and crucial for everyone to learn because essentially, all it takes is one brave person to have their voice heard and make a difference among those around them. Instead of sitting back and watching, those involved in GLI do their best to be proactive and provoke conversations on certain issues discussed. GLI was involved with One World Girl for the 2020-21 school year and has had a great experience working with each other. It has been a pleasure for all to learn from Lesley Mazzota, the Founder and Executive Director along with her interns who mentor the students in their individual projects, lead workshops, and support the members in becoming changemakers. One World Girl is similar to GLI. Both are non profits that unite girls to become their best selves and speak up in the world that we live in.

Club meetings usually consist of 3 parts. The beginning starts off with a mindfulness activity. This is meant to center oneself and calm the mind before we start our main activity or discussion of the day. These little projects are sent to the students so that they can practice good mental health on their own and have a "tool box" of calming exercises to utilize. For the bulk of the

meeting time, we may discuss a particular issue, give updates on our take action projects, or simply engage in group conversations. Each person has the chance to share how an activity may have impacted them in that moment, in the past, or how they might be able to use these thoughts in the future.

Towards the end of the One World Girl workshop series, the students started to create their own "take action projects." With the help of a mentor, the members of the club have chosen a topic that they are passionate about, and created a "project" where they will make a positive impact in our community. Many have partnered with outside groups, other schools in the district, or created websites or social media pages to nourish change among all people.

Clubs such as Girls Learn International are important to our school community because they promote values such as inclusion, social and educational empowerment, leadership skills, and aid in developing other qualities that a young changemaker must possess. Get excited for the 21-22 school year! All should become involved in this wonderful opportunity to make a difference!



Source: Facebook

# Senior Banquet Prom

By: Jessica Levy  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The coronavirus pandemic has had a large impact on the high school seniors' experience this year. Whether it be missing out on classes with friends or a team's last sports season together, this year has definitely disappointed the senior class of 2021. With that being said and COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, the senior class is fortunate enough to be having a real senior prom, after a few complications of course!

Originally, the senior class was not going to be able to have a prom. With coronavirus regulations being in place and lack of time to plan, the school found it impossible to give the senior class a prom. Instead, the senior class was planning to have a "senior banquet." The announcement of the senior banquet was upsetting to students because of its unprecedented rules, regulations, and activities. Some of the rules for this banquet included no dancing, wearing masks, and no moving from one's seat except when instructed to do so. The banquet would have been held in the school parking lot. Once students and parents found out the main activity at this banquet was eating and sitting at tables, many were upset.

After CDC regulations and NYS rules changed, the impossible suddenly became possible, and the school announced a new plan for the senior prom. This prom is taking place on Monday, June 14th at Lenard's Palazzo, a dual party venue and banquet hall in Great Neck. This prom will now include dancing, sitting at tables with friends and other typical prom activities. The students of POBJFK's senior class of 2021 are extremely excited for their prom to be a joyous and "normal" occasion after a difficult year of hybrid learning and stress.

It is great that the senior class of 2021 will be ending their senior year on a high note and will remember their high school experience well. The class of 2021 has shown much resilience throughout the year and deserve to let loose and have fun at their prom.

Source: Kanas City Prom



# Junior Prom Remix

By: Alison Chertoff  
Incoming Managing Editor

As a result of the global pandemic, having a typical Junior prom was not feasible for this school year. After many creative ideas were suggested, the Junior class student government board decided to implement the idea of Color War. This idea was a way to still have fun while ensuring safety and maintaining all guidelines.

I had the privilege of speaking to Junior class president, Ava Amore, who explained all the hard work that went into planning this event. There were many accommodations that had to be met: food could not be served and the event must be held mostly indoors. She said, "We planned this event for over three months and it was a huge hit!" The Junior Color War was held on May 21 at two o'clock. Sign ups were sent out a few weeks prior where each student was able to choose their teammates and the team color. The listed teams were blue, purple, black, white and red. Each team had a different number of students depending on how many people signed up. In addition, each board member was assigned to a different team where they would act as the referee. They would help assist the events and make sure each team was connected through a Google Meet due to them being placed in separate classrooms. Once all the students arrived, the first competition, trivia, began. Each team member was asked a series of questions relating to anything about math, history, entertainment or any other school subject. This was a fun way for students to show off their school intelligence as well as their outside knowledge.

The next event was "escape the room." This took the most planning because there were many different components that went into it. Each classroom was scattered with hidden QR codes. Once one QR code was found, it would be scanned to read the next clue. After each QR code was found the students were led to a golden key which would declare them the winner. The festivities were then moved outside where miscellaneous events took place such as hula hoop contests and egg spoon races.

The final two events of the afternoon both involved inclusion of the teachers. First, they played teacher impostors. Several teachers from the school were recorded on voice audio and the students needed to decipher who it was. The tricky part was that the voices were edited to make the person's identity less obvious. Lastly, the game "what do

you meme" was played. Funny pictures of teachers were distributed and each team came up with their own way to caption it. This game caused many laughs and some of the captions were very clever!

Although this was not the expected prom activities, Junior Color War worked out great and everyone in attendance had a lot of fun. I spoke with Rachel Fuggini who was a participant on the red team. She said, "I had a lot of fun with all my friends. We participated in a bunch of different activities and I am so happy that I decided to come even though my team didn't win." Once the scores were tallied, the first place winner was the blue team. This was such a memorable experience and a creative way to close off Junior year!



Source: POB Schools

# “Housekeepers” or “Directors”

By: Michael Khalfin  
Editor-In-Chief

Many AP Psychology students are familiar with an age-old assertion: “Neurons that fire together wire together.” Supposedly, every individual contains long-term memory, or unlimited storage space, enabling them to acquire, store, retain, and later retrieve information. As our brain cells, called neurons, communicate with one another, these pathways become stronger and stronger. The memories become more and more embedded. Students are familiar with this idea called neural potentiation (or at least before the AP exam on Thursday, May 20).

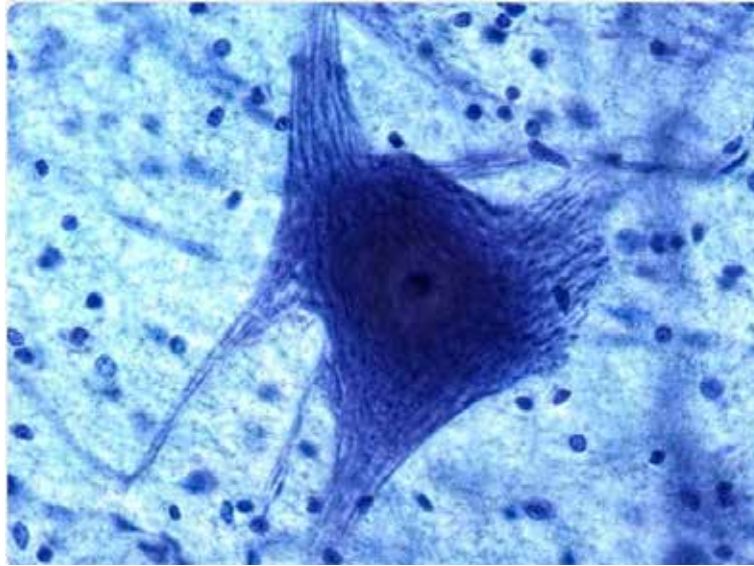
But modern-day neuroscientists are now turning to a novel, more nuanced theory: the importance of glial cells in regulating neurons. MRI scans have revealed that professional thinkers and artists (painters, musicians, etc.) have different brain structures. Glial cells are responsible for “synaptic pruning” or reducing connection between neurons. Important neural connections are always being strengthened (potentiation), but there is another element in that various connections are being eliminated as well. Brain cells that are not being used are dying all the time, and glial cells are the ones deciding “who survives” and “who gets exterminated.”

Merely seven hours after his death, famous physicist Albert Einstein’s brain was removed and preserved for future research. Scientists who studied his brain observed that he had more glial cells relative to neurons than other people, especially in the left anterior parietal area – a part of the brain used for mathematical reasoning and synthesis of information. Among other studies, his brain provides direct empirical evidence in support of this new theory.

Neuroscientist and author R. Douglas Fields, PhD, is a major proponent of the new theory. In his book *The Other Brain* he tells the

story of glia, and their blatant omission in neuroscience. Fields states EEG machines, which measure electric brain activity, missed glial cells because they communicate using chemical neurotransmitters. On the other hand, neurons use sodium-potassium ion channels to send action potentials across their axon branches.

In The World Science Festival conference “Beautiful Minds:



Source: News Medical

The Enigma of Genius” readily available on YouTube, glial cells are portrayed in another perspective. Every neuron has a “myelin coating” which speeds up message transmission. Myelin sheath is formed by glial cells. Although scientists have always known this about glial cells, they never quite pinpointed the significance of this relationship. In everyday traffic, cars are expected to travel faster on some roads than others, as indicated by prevalent road signs. This minimizes accidents and gives citizens a peace of mind. Similarly, since glial cells control transmission speed, they essentially time every link in the human

brain appropriately so they never crash with one another.

And electric signals always seem to come the moment

they are needed.

It is certainly an exciting time for neuroscience enthusiasts and scientists alike. In addition to this incredible new theory, the Human Connectome Project is well underway. The project aims to map all neural connections in the human brain. Harvard University Professor Jeff Lichtman is one of the major names in this line of research. The results of the project will be revolutionary, like the Human Genome Project for genetics and genomics 20 years ago. Glial cells have been dismissed as the “housekeepers” in the Central Nervous System for hundreds of years. But this myth is finally being readdressed, and textbooks are being rewritten.

## Pandemic Puppies

By: Elif Koch, Christine Song, and Isabella Chen

Layout Editor + Incoming Managing Editor + Incoming Opinion Editor

During the pandemic, many people have found a source of companionship by welcoming a new puppy into their lives. Especially during the early stages of lockdown, many people led lonely lifestyles and had too much time on their hands. For these reasons, roughly 12.6 million households have bought or adopted a pet since the start of this pandemic (according to the American Pet Products Association). Dogs are able to reduce stress, encourage physical activity and provide companionship. However, as restrictions ease and life slowly begins inching its way towards normal, new problems arise.

Dogs are social creatures who require interaction and proper socialization with both humans and other animals. Without this, dogs can become overly aggressive or anxious. The most crucial period of socialization for dogs lies around the first few months of their lives. Dogs should continue to socialize with others during their adolescent phase as well. Of course, during quarantine, this was not an easy goal to achieve. In a study by Itch, a pet wellness company, over a third of 1000 adults living in the UK have never visited the park with their newly adopted/bought pandemic dog. The New York Times reports that more and more people are bringing their puppies to dog trainers due to the lack of socialization from months in lockdown. These concerns only continue to grow as restrictions ease and social interaction with others becomes more frequent.

The pandemic has also caused pets to become more accustomed to always spending time with their owners. After this long period of constant attention, dogs have grown very attached to their owners, and reverting back to normal work life has caused a rise in separation anxiety among dogs. This distress can manifest itself into destructive behavior, as well as excessive vocalizing and attempts at running away. This type of behavior is only exacerbated in puppies or adolescent dogs.



Source: Fortune

After seeing this recurring pattern of problems, there has been growing concern of people returning their dogs. Thankfully, the New York Times reports that there has not been an alarming increase in the abandoning of pets. These dogs have become family, accompanying many during these difficult times. Despite this, lack of socialization and separation anxiety is still projected to cause issues. Moreover, dogs adopted as puppies are now approaching adolescence, a time where behavior problems are most prevalent. Those worried about their pandemic puppies should consider the following tips to help them adjust to life after the pandemic .

- Develop a routine to build predictability and stability. This routine does not have to be extremely strict, but it should be regular.
- Gradual exposure to separation can address and prevent separation anxiety. Leave your puppy alone in small increments of time at first (a few minutes), then slowly increase it.
- You can set up a video feed to monitor for signs of separation anxiety.
- Slowly start increasing your dog’s social interaction, with both humans and other animals. Avoid immediately putting the pet in an intense social situation. This method is called flooding and it is very overwhelming and stressful, possibly causing long term emotional harm. Instead, gradually introduce your dog to others and stop at any signs of stress.
- If these issues still prevail or you are still concerned, do not hesitate to contact a veterinarian.

We must remember that pandemic puppies are not immune to the adverse impacts of quarantine. They have been a source of joy and companionship during these hard times. As the world returns to normal, the best way to repay their love is to help them adjust to this new lifestyle

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*Wishing POBTFKHS Students, Faculty, Staff  
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# Catpurrccinos: A Cat Cafe

By Isabella Chen  
Incoming Opinion Editor

Step into Catpurrccinos, and you will be greeted by the smells and warmth of a classic cafe. Take a step further, and you are met with the sight of adorable cats and kittens in their adjoining cattery. Catpurrccinos is a cat cafe that first opened on December 1, 2019. The combination of a cafe and a cattery allows people to enjoy delicious food, while also giving them the opportunity to hang out with cats (and potentially adopt one). I had the pleasure of volunteering at this cafe for almost half a year, and I would highly recommend a visit.

I was able to interview Brittany Olivia, one of the owners of Catpurrccinos along with her father, Jim Olivia, and her fiance, Christopher Cafiero. They are all from Huntington Village, where Catpurrccinos is located. Both her father and herself have experience in the business aspect of owning a cafe. She said “I graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business & Economics with a minor in Management and Finance and always loved the business side of things. Jim also has extensive experience in the industry - owning an extremely popular and remembered Italian Deli in Huntington Village, Renaissance Gourmet, 30 years ago.”

Ms. Olivia explained, “Our cafe serves coffee, breakfast, lunch and dinner and is the perfect spot for animal and non-animal lovers, as the two main portions of our cafe (food vs. cats) are completely separate!” The cafe and cattery are in different rooms and have independent ventilation systems. She added, “Even if you have allergies, you are still welcome in to enjoy some yummy food and drinks!” Their menu includes a variety of coffee, other drinks, sandwiches, wraps, and so on. The cafe also offers fun events like “Yoga with Cats”.

The story behind this cafe began two years ago. Ms. Olivia recounted, “In early 2019, we officially established our own cat rescue, Feral to Family Rescue, after two years of helping rescue, medicate and find homes for homeless kittens and cats. For the first two years, everything was out of pocket. Anyone that is familiar with animals,

[knows] these expenses add up, and quickly. It came to a point where we needed to stop, or find another outlet to help fund our organization. Cat cafes came to the US back in 2014, but didn’t make its way to the NY area until the more recent years. When we heard about this experience, we thought it would be the perfect fit for us. Not only was the rescue becoming expensive, but adoption rates were not high, as everything was done out of foster homes and exposure was low.” And thus, Catpurrccinos was born.

The cat cafe is able to provide funding and increase awareness of the Feral to Family animal rescue, ultimately helping the cats. Ms. Olivia explained that “opening a cat cafe not only skyrocketed our adoptions, but all revenue (from food or cattery entries) is used to fund the rescue - after payroll, rent and utilities, of course.” Catpurrccinos has been extremely successful. Ms. Olivia said, “from opening day to the end of 2020 (approximately nine months) we have found homes for over 200 cats and kittens - even having less business than normal due to COVID.” For the future, Ms. Olivia described their goals to improve the cafe. She stated, “Our main goals for the future is to grow our food & beverage side - most people that walk in just think we have cats, but it is much more! Although we opened for the animals, food and beverage profits are what is going to continue to help fund the rescue and allow us to continue our work. More long term goals are opening a second location!”

Catpurrccinos is a great place to visit, whether you go alone or bring along family and friends. Ms. Olivia recommended, “for anyone looking to check us out - we allow 12 guests at a time in the cattery. If you are looking to come on a weekend, we highly recommend making a reservation in advance (on our website) as weekends book up extremely fast. Walk-ins are welcome as long as there is space. For those who are interested in the food portion, we have online ordering, curbside pickup & delivery!” Next time you’re looking for a bite to eat, or you want to hang out with some adorable cats, Catpurrccinos is the place to go!



Source: @catpurrccinos on Instagram

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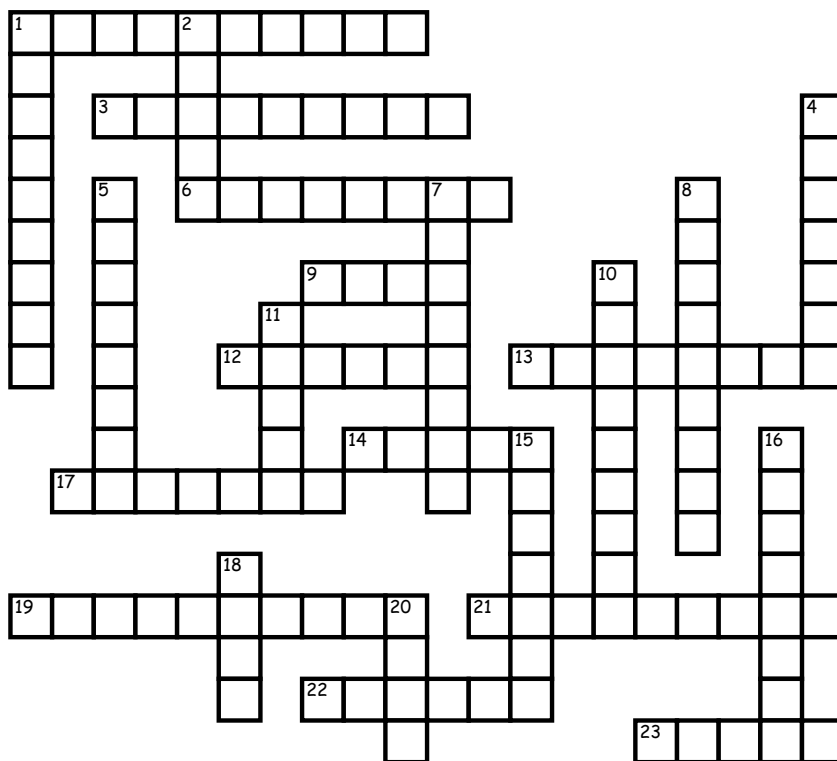


#### Crossword: Summer Fun at the Beach



#### Word Bank

seashells	sand	sandcastle	ocean	kite	sunburn	sunscreen	umbrella
pail	seagull	crabs	blanket	flipflops	lemonade	suntan	clams
boardwalk	towel	souvenir	surfboard	sailboat	sunglasses	cooler	icecream



#### Across

- something you build at the beach
- wood walkway with rides, games, shops and food
- something you buy to remember your trip
- a flying toy that's fun to use at the beach
- place to keep food and drinks cold
- something that floats that uses the wind's power
- small sea creatures with pincher claws
- a type of bird seen at the beach
- worn to protect eyes from the sun's glare
- a lotion that protects your skin from the sun
- you get this by laying in the sun
- salty water with waves

#### Down

- pretty things you find on the beach
- sea creature, has shell, find by digging for them
- a cloth you can lay on at the beach
- a cool drink for a hot day at the beach
- frozen treat, eat before it melts!
- large object used to ride the waves
- beach shoes
- dries you when you come out of the water
- what you get if you stay in the sun too long
- makes shade for you at the beach
- another name for a bucket
- very tiny tan grains of rocks on the beach

Source: Mooijie

# Top 8 New York Sports Teams

By Benjamin Kule  
Incoming Sports Editor

With the NHL and NBA in the playoffs, the MLB season underway, and the NFL looking towards their upcoming season, sports fans of POBJFK High School have a lot to look forward to. Each of the four major sports has two teams in the New York area, and each has a large fan base in our school. Some of New York's sports teams are one of the best in their leagues, but not others. So, here are the current top eight sports teams in New York.

Brooklyn Nets  
Source: Forbes



After two mediocre seasons, the Brooklyn Nets had a magical year in 2021. Superstars Kevin Durant, who returned from an injury that sidelined him last season, and James Harden, acquired via trade from the Houston Rockets, helped the Nets become one of the best teams in basketball. Their 48-24 record was good for second place in the Eastern Conference, and it was their best season since moving to Brooklyn in 2012. Now, the Nets have their eyes on the prize as they enter the NBA playoffs with one of the best chances of taking home the trophy.

New York Islanders  
Source: NHL



After their improbable run to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2020, the Islanders did not take their foot off the gas pedal. The Islanders finished their season 32-17-7, finishing in fourth place of a challenging East Division. The Islanders acquired pieces, including winger Kyle Palmieri, at the trade deadline to help bolster their roster. They have also had superb goaltending from Semyon Varlamov and Ilya Sorokin. "I feel like they can beat any team in the league," says 10th grade Islander fan Matt Becker. The Islanders have a shot at the Stanley Cup with another strong playoff performance.

New York Knicks  
Source: USA Today



After a long, frustrating rebuild, the Knicks have finally had their breakout season. 2021 will be the first year for this team's inclusion in the NBA playoffs since 2013. Due to Julius Randle's huge bounce back season, strong play from young star RJ Barrett, and a center duo of Nerlens Noel and Mitchell Robinson, the Knicks went 41-31. That record set them fourth in the Eastern Conference and gave them home-court advantage to begin the playoffs.

New York Yankees  
Source: NorthJersey



After four consecutive top-two finishes in the AL East Division, the Yankees have remained successful in 2021. The Yankees struggled to start the season, but have risen to 20-17 as of March 23. The Yankees are in a tight race for the AL East, currently trailing the Rays and Red Sox by half a game. "The [Yankees'] starting pitching has not let up a run in the

past 34 innings," notes 10th grade Yankees fan Alex Berko. The strong performance on the mound can lead to great success in the Bronx.

New York Football Giants  
Source: Empire Sports Media



After going 6-10 in 2020, the Giants missed the NFL playoffs in heartbreaking fashion. The loss of superstar running back Saquon Barkley was a huge blow. However, a strong offseason leaves Giants fans hopeful for the new season beginning in September. The Giants made big signings in free agency, including wide receiver Kenny Golladay and cornerback Adoree' Jackson, and had a strong draft. So, the Giants will look to compete with the Dallas Cowboys, Washington Football Team, and Philadelphia Eagles for what will be a tight NFC East Division.

New York Mets  
Source: Amazin' Avenue



It's been four years since the Mets' last playoff berth, but 2021 could be the year to end the drought. The Mets made big offseason moves under new owner Steve Cohen, which included the acquiring of star shortstop Francisco Lindor from the Cleveland Indians. As of March 23, the 21-19 Mets are first in the NL East. However, they are closely trailed by the Braves, Marlins, Phillies, and Nationals, so it will take a long season of wins to remain in the playoff picture.

New York Rangers  
Source: Blueshirt Banter



The Rangers are coming off a disappointing season, falling well short of the 2021 playoffs. Losing superstar forward Artemi Panarin on two instances was tough for the Rangers. However, the season had its bright spots, including a big step forward from rookie goaltender Igor Shesterkin. Furthermore, Long Island native Adam Fox was one of the best defenseman in hockey this season. The Rangers have tons of young talent, such as Alexis Lafreniere and Kaapo Kakko, so the future is looking bright.

New York Jets  
Source: Gang Green Nation



The New York Jets went 2-14 last season, which was second-to-worst in the entire NFL. Jets fans definitely hoped for more success than they got. However, large changes were made that can help the Jets turn around the ship. They hired Robert Saleh as their head coach, who was previously the defensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers. Secondly, the Jets drafted BYU quarterback Zach Wilson with the second overall pick, so perhaps a new leader can lead to prolonged success for the Jets.



By Brianna Rogers  
Incoming Treasurer

Instead of sleeping in late and drinking hot cocoa by the fire after playing in the snow, what if you had to sit by a computer for seven hours learning math and science? Everyone knows that with the coronavirus going around, there has been a pull towards online learning. With the ability to teach students from the comfort of their own homes, schools are finding more opportunities to teach virtually on days where attending in person is not possible. But what does this mean for snow days?

Many schools feel that snow days could be turned into all-virtual days. If schools were to eliminate snow days, that would mean more days off for students during the warmer months in spring, when they can sit by the pool or spend time outside. This year, the POB Central School District (POBCSD) believed that on a blizzard day, many families could lose power or have slow internet due to high winds. As a result, they decided that we would have traditional snow days. But now that online learning has become more accessible for everyone and we know a little more about the world we live in, the debate about whether or not to make snow days virtual school days is still up in the air for future years.

New York City has already decided that there will be no more snow days this year. New York City, the largest school district in the nation, felt that having an unscheduled day off from school would be inconvenient after working so hard to get as many people back to in-person school as possible. Although the POBCSD is not as large as New York City, we still live in close proximity, meaning we get the same type of weather that they do. Again, we don't know much about what school will look like in future years, but the one question that continues to remain is whether or not snow days will become virtual school days.



Source: Black & White

## Entertainment

# GODZILLA VS. KONG

By Jesse Ray Sheps  
Incoming Editor-in-Chief

“Godzilla vs. Kong” is the ultimate action thriller for those who love movies where monsters smash up cities, destroy lots of buildings, and fight each other to the brink of death. The movie has some of the most incredibly massive fight scenes and visually impressive explosions to have ever been seen on the silver screen. If that sort of action, along with a heart pounding journey to the center of the earth, and heartwarming bonding between the monsters and their human friends, tends to heat your inner soul, then this jaw dropping battle for the fate of humanity is the perfect ticket for your next weekend movie choice!

The movie is incredibly well directed by Adam Wingard. This monster-verse mash up is a non-stop visually impressive thrill ride that will keep you on the edge of your seat. The only stress you will have is deciding whether to root for the mighty King Kong or the all powerful Godzilla. Who will win in this epic battle to the death? (I must apologize, in advance, for any journalistic bias in this column's reporting, being that this author is a very huge fan of the ginormous gorilla).



Source: Den of Geek

The movie starts its journey in what first appears to be Kong's native home of Skull Island. We learn immediately, however, that this jungle is really only a man-made prison-like dome structure built to contain the powerful Kong. Kong's only friend is a young girl named Jia, whom he previously rescued when her parents were killed. The two surprisingly communicate together through sign language and she seems to soothe the savage beast. Unfortunately, this peaceful living arrangement does not last very long as we soon learn the more aggressive Godzilla is spending all of his time searching for Kong to kill him and win the title of the baddest and most destructive monster

on Earth. The way to avoid a planet destroying epic battle between the two becomes clear to the scientists - find Kong a new home so that these two beasts never have a chance to see each other again. These same scientists search and find Kong in an underground hidden world below the earth and they begin to escort Kong to this dangerous new area. This is where the fun really starts in this movie.

The two beats have been causing havoc and destruction since King Kong debuted in Hollywood in the 1930's and Godzilla appeared as his counterpart in Japanese films about twenty years later. Kong

and Godzilla have met before in movies, and this film is a culmination of several individual movies about the two monsters. These two beasts have incredible raw brute power but it is always their sense of humanity that has drawn generations of viewers in by the millions.

The movie places Kong as the kinder of the two, with a personality that is certainly enhanced by his relationship with the cute little girl he saved

and communicates with. Godzilla is portrayed as the evil aggressor of the two but, without giving away any spoilers, he has a chance to redeem himself and save all of humanity in the process. No city building is safe when Kong and Godzilla use the streets like a wrestling ring.

The movie has pure action and is a fun do not miss for lovers of great fight scenes. The film successfully weaves the legends of the two monster universes into one big epic adventure. This movie is much more than a battle between a large gorilla and an enormous reptile with missile-resistant skin. Indeed, Godzilla v. Kong is a movie that allows even the largest and most destructive of beasts to display their humanity, explore friendship, and finally find redemption.

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# The Truth About Tik Tok

By: Rachel Miniman  
Staff Reporter

## What is TikTok?

The new YouTube-like platform, TikTok, is a short-form, video-sharing app that allows users to create and share 15-60 second videos on any topic. It is owned by Chinese company, ByteDance, and it was released in the fall of 2016. Tiktok took the place of Musical.ly, a platform previously used for lip-sync videos, which was also owned by the same company. This app was first prioritized as a dance-based program, but as time went on, it slowly evolved into something much more than just doing the “renegade” or “hitting the woah.” Now, it has transformed into a platform for tips, challenges, inspiration, comedy, singing, with, of course, the dancing factor as well. As of February 2021, there are approximately 689 million users, with a portion of whom make actual cash from that user’s follower count, amount of likes/comments, and views. TikTok has been the fastest growing social media app, and it has been estimated to become one of the most popular in that category, only second to Facebook. Isn’t that astonishing?

## What are its implications?

The first benefit to TikTok is the social aspect and how people from all over the globe can interact and communicate by using this app. Simply private messaging a user or commenting on someone’s video, friendships, and even relationships, can start! TikTok actually suggests thousands of videos on that particular subject when liking a video, which is called the “For You Page.” For example, if you interact with multiple videos on Criminal Minds, your For You Page can be filled with lots of videos regarding that one show. TikTok’s algorithm is so intelligent, I once saw a person asking if viewers could find a certain boy from their cruise five years ago, and some users eventually found that boy’s account! Children, adults, and even the elderly have installed this app for pure entertainment, which is why this app is so diverse. On the other hand, certain users can create videos which include helpful content, such as significant world occurrences, tips for succeeding in high school, life-hacks, and recipes for food like whipped coffee and pancake cereal. Who would’ve thought? Lastly, even one 15-second video can make someone else’s day and encourage them to continue scrolling through the app for a long time. A handful of TikTokers create inspiring, humorous, and positive videos, which makes this app so addicting.

## What are TikTok’s weaknesses?

Despite the many advantages to TikTok, there is an unfolding tragic truth about this popular app that is causing red flags in some individuals’ mental health. For instance, seeing a teenage girl in a video can cause another person to feel guilty about their appearance, making them think that “their stomach is too big” or “their legs are too thin.” Yes, this is an issue for every social media platform, however seeing thousands of short videos like this can make things a lot worse. In addition to comparisons, there can be cyber bullying that takes place on this app, which includes commenting hateful words or making fun of how someone looks. This results in people feeling self-conscious and losing passion for what they enjoyed doing. Popular creators who have a decent following can receive backlash and hate in the comments section for pretty much anything. Another part of this is known as “cancel culture”- the popular practice of withdrawing support and “cancelling” a person for being problematic or having different values than our own. Since users can find most things on the Internet these days, past scandals or remarks can resurface on the app and create controversies and unnecessary drama. While the problem of the lack of privacy is a concern, it also causes a lack of motivation and unhappiness in some creators. Even though it can produce smiles, this app can impact a person’s mental health and make them feel anxious, ashamed, and in a dark place.

## What now?

Studies like one from The American Medical Association showcase that social media platforms like TikTok can lead to a decrease in a person’s attention span. TikTok may be a larger part of this since its 15-second videos are much more appealing than 15-minute videos on Youtube. Well, this is the future of our generation, and it’s quite big for new technological discoveries and companies. As a matter of fact, teachers are starting to incorporate TikToks into their everyday lessons to make the class more interesting and interactive. Businesses are also using this app to advertise their product and bring their company into the public eye. Is this the new start of something huge for society? Will this cause other social media networks to become irrelevant due to TikTok’s rise? We will have to find out in the next couple of years, but in the meantime, go install TikTok if you haven’t already and create fun, inspiring videos with your friends and family!



Source: ABC

# Netflix Review

By: Nicole Graubart  
Staff Reporter

The coronavirus has taken a huge toll on people around the world, both physically and mentally. However, during this tough time, streaming platforms have helped get us through the boredom and stress of the pandemic. To be specific, Netflix has done an excellent job of curing our boredom. It has provided us with something to talk about with the select few people we have been in contact with. Since March of last year, Netflix subscription rates have increased drastically. Over 10 million additional viewers have subscribed to this streaming service. Whether it be binging new shows (such as the Outer Banks, Tiger King and The Society) or watching classic movies, Netflix has been one of the key hobbies for all ages this past year. As restrictions begin to ease and the pandemic approaches an end, we should all remember to thank the creators of this service for being our “pandemic savior” and being there for us during these difficult times.



Source: Netflix Help Center

# To Freshman Self: Lessons from the Editor-in-Chief

Editorial

By Jake Feldman  
Editor-in-Chief

Dear Freshman Self,

I hope this letter finds you well. If I told you that, in four years, you would be the Editor-in-Chief of the Hawkeye Newspaper, finish at the top of your class, and be attending the University of Pennsylvania, you would be astonished. I bet you would think it's impossible. I want to provide you with insights into your High School adventure. For starters, the ride will be like a roller coaster. Your journey will be a long one. However, you were always destined to reach your supreme personal goal.

## Lesson 1. The Power of the Word NO

"Hi Jake, we are not accepting any more summer research positions."  
"Hi Jake, unfortunately, we will not be able to submit your application."  
"Hi Jake, while I'm not able to provide guidance on specific research questions or analysis..." "Hi Jake, unfortunately, you were not selected for this program." In my Junior Year, I yearned for a summer research opportunity. Rejected by over eight research professors, I received countless email responses that said "no."

However, one of the last programs I heard back from informed me that I was accepted: the program was the prestigious Garcia Center for Polymers at Engineered Interfaces at Stony Brook University. I am grateful that I persevered through the adversity. It was such a valuable experience to attend this summer program. I was ensconced in a community of dedicated and intelligent peers and instructed by world-renowned faculty. I listened to daily lectures by professors located across the globe from places as far away as Israel and Korea. I ask only one message to learn from this story: do not fear failure, but please be terrified by regret. Giving up is the birth of regret. Throughout high school, you will have countless moments filled with someone telling you no. I ask you not to be afraid of no: be afraid of the possibility of a yes that you have prematurely destroyed because you decided to quit before the clock strikes 12. I love a good no. Telling me no is like adding fuel to the fire that is now set ablaze. I challenge you to believe so heavily in your aspirations that you will not fear the word no, but instead, you will choose to welcome it. A simple two-letter word can have so much power.

Lesson 2. A sea of water can't sink a ship unless it gets inside it  
Ships don't sink because of the water around them; ships sink because of the water that gets in them. Don't let what's happening around you weigh you down. Put it another way. From the wise words of NFL Wide Receiver Marquise Goodwin,

if you have \$86,400 in your bank account and someone stole \$10 from you, would you get upset and throw the remaining amount of \$86,390 away? No. See, we have 86,400 seconds each day. Do not let a negative 10 seconds ruin your entire day. If you have a bad day at school, receive a failing test grade, or lose a sports game, do not dwell on the negativity and drag yourself down. You need to accept it, learn from it, and move on from it.

## Lesson 3. Live through high school with no regrets

High School is four years. This may seem like a long period of time. However, it goes by within the blink of an eye. I urge you to partake in any activities that pique your interests and get involved with the rich amount of opportunities that POBJFKHS offers. I know many high school seniors that have at least one regret from high school, whether it be not taking a class, partaking in a specific club, or giving their best effort in school. As you go through high school, always remind yourself not to live with any regrets. Do not be afraid to try out an interesting club, challenge yourself in a difficult class, or approach someone you have not met before.

As I emotionally finish writing my final article and end my high school journey, I thank POB for all it has offered. I would like to thank all my classmates, friends, and family for joining me on this adventure. I would like to thank Dr. O'Meara, Mr. Murray, Ms. Beltrani, Dr. Stergiopoulos, Mr. Farrelly, Mr. Cestaro, Dr. Coladonato, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Gray, and all the other fantastic administrators for providing me with this amazing and rewarding journey at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District. From grappling with the meaning of my Macbeth presentation with Mr. Yagaloff, to methodically examining my summer research project with Ms. Barry, I would like to thank all the department chairpersons for providing individual guidance and support in facilitating my eclectic and challenging curriculum. Moreover, I would like to thank all my incredible teachers, mentors, and advisors from kindergarten to 12th grade that have helped me grow as an individual and gain invaluable knowledge, which I will carry throughout my life. To all the future POBJFKHS freshmen, I hope you take to heart the lessons that I have shared with you. With that said, I hope everyone has enjoyed reading my Hawkeye articles for the past four years.

Forever and always,  
Jake Dylan Feldman



Source: Jake Feldman

# Takeaways from Freshman Year of College

By: Julia Park

Editor-in Chief '18 and UPenn '22

*\*disclaimer: based on my own experience..these are my two cents!*

*school = life?*

During my first year of college, I lived on campus, so the people I lived with were the same people I went to class with and the same people I studied and hung out with. There was no physical boundary between home and school. By nature of spending so much time with people, you'll start to get close to others really fast. It's super fun, but can also get super tiring. So set healthy boundaries. With the adrenaline of freshman year, there may be a constant feeling of having to keep up with everyone else, but I will say it's okay and good to set boundaries. I realize how easy it was to get "lost in the moment," and the "moment" was like an entire year! Slowly getting to know people, carving out time for yourself, and knowing your physical, mental, and emotional limitations and letting yourself find rest will help you in the long-run.

*professors are people too!*

When I entered my first physics lecture, I was intimidated by my award-winning, well-spoken professor. I was fearful that he would see through me—a student who really struggled in high school physics and had the audacity to register for his class. However, after attending office hours and participating in our school's "Take Your Professor to Lunch" program, I realized our professors were once students too. They struggled in school and failed and failed again, but with the help of their own professors, they persevered and succeeded. Your professors are supposed to teach you and help you. Shamelessly take advantage of all the resources that your school has available to undergraduate students and seek to get to know your professors. Whether they express it or not, in my experience, professors really value speaking honestly and learning from us students!

*hold the first things first*

What are your "first things"? By this I mean, take time to recognize your most important priorities in life. This can look like asking why you do what you do on a daily basis. College is a great time to learn more about yourself and what things bring you the most joy! In freshman year, your surroundings are likely to change and every day is jam-packed with a whole lotta life. It's really easy to get swept up in the momentum and excitement of it all, so sticking to your life's priorities can help ground you. And it's okay if your priorities are different from that of others; it probably will be based on your values and beliefs. For me, one of my "first things" was my budding friendships. Being intentional about getting to know the people in my life and understanding where they come from was major in developing my closest friendships.



Source: NBC News

Freshman friends may be the friends you spend the next four years with, or they may not be. Either way, forming life-giving friendships have been one of the college's greatest gifts to me. Stay true to you and hold your first things first.

*comparison is the thief of joy— enjoy doing you!*

Many people have different expectations entering their freshman year of college. Some expect it to be the best time of their lives and others dread even starting college. Wherever you are, whether you are excited or fearful or somewhere in between, I hope you are able to let yourself have fun and enjoy the place you end up in. Once you enter college, especially in the first few months, most people will look like they're having the "ultimate freshman experience"—whatever that means—and maybe you will experience that too! But when things do not go your way, even the smallest comparisons and entertaining of "what ifs" can quickly steal whatever joy in your life and put you in a place of deep dissatisfaction. It will be easy to lose yourself looking at others' lives and envy what you don't have, but when you look at all the good—small and big—you have in front of you, you'll soon realize that living in contentment makes it much easier to start enjoying what you have in the present. Please do not bound yourself in comparison and do not be discouraged if freshman year is different.. in all ways. It is almost guaranteed that freshman year will be a mix of crazy, hard, fun, and new. Enjoy the start to this new chapter of your life!



Source: The Business Journals

# Advice to Incoming College Freshmen

By Emily Zhang  
Editor-in-Chief '20 and UCLA '24

Writing this article feels surreal; a part of me still feels like I'm in high school. Perhaps it's because I never got to experience full closure with the ending months of my senior year being cut short due to COVID-19. Even if the pandemic never happened, I wonder if I would still feel this way. I still remember waking up everyday at 6:30 in the morning to try and catch the bus, speed walking from Orchestra to Precalc Honors so I wouldn't be late for my test, and staying at school until five everyday to meet the publishing deadlines for this newspaper. All of a sudden, that stopped. My last day of high school was in mid-March, which rolled into summer in the blink of an eye. Before I knew it, it was late September and I found myself standing in John F. Kennedy airport. In one hand, I held a plane ticket to Los Angeles, California. In the other hand, I held an abundance of feelings. Excitement, anxiety, nervousness, hope. I moved across the country to attend the University of California, Los Angeles; a school that not many people from Long Island commit to. The past eight months haven't always been smooth sailing; the water I dived into was rocky and turbulent, unexpectedly switching courses at tumultuous times. In spite of it all, I've laughed the most, and learned more about myself than I ever thought was possible.

College can be lonely. The stress alone is enough to make you feel like never leaving your dorm. In my darkest times, my friends were the ones to lift me off of the ground and set me upright. I think one of the most pivotal things to achieve in your first year of college is establishing a strong support circle. When I first arrived at the dorms, they imposed a mandatory week-long isolation period. We weren't allowed to leave our rooms, and had meals delivered to us three times a day. Anxiety plagued my mind during this timeframe; I believed I was never going to get out there and make friends. In the normal college season, this fear still holds true. Everyone's afraid they're not going to meet anyone, that they'll be alone in a place far away from home. In my first week, I went up to everyone I crossed paths with and started conversing. What their name was, where they were from, what they were studying, etc. My advice would be to get to know as many people as you can. The people you bond with the most could often be ones that you never thought you would talk to. It's important to keep in mind that not everyone you meet is going to stick around: it's only natural. But, the ones you do will stick with you forever.

In the midst of my fall quarter, I was struck with a sudden feeling of imposter syndrome. I'm not going to sugar coat it; classes in college were extremely difficult. In high school, I was able to easily breeze by and still achieve an excellent standard of academia. College

is a completely different game. Even though we had all gotten into the same school, I felt like I didn't belong in the same crowd as all my peers; I wasn't intelligent enough, I didn't speak eloquently or had nuanced takes. I had honestly thought it was a mistake that UCLA accepted me. Maybe it was a result of burnout from online classes, or maybe I wasn't putting in enough effort, but I was suddenly hit with a freight train of homesickness. I had spent years dreaming of a life outside Long Island, and became bewildered by these thoughts. Unlike many of my peers who were from California, I was more than 2,000 miles away from home. I wouldn't have any problems just because I was moving across the country to a place where I could start over. It may shock you to learn that it wasn't the case at all. I wanted to come home because as soon as I was faced with a problem I didn't know how to tackle, I found myself running away. The bubble of Long Island was comforting; I never had to worry about any real issues. I missed the comfort, the familiarity. I would advise incoming college freshmen to learn from my mistakes and to not run away from the unknown. Sooner or later, you're going to have to learn how to tackle issues on your own. There is no hand holding in college; professors will only give so much instruction. The rest is up to you to figure out. Half of the time, I expected someone to solve most of my issues for me. You'll have to work harder than you ever have before. It may be a lot, but the reward is worth it.

College burnout is real: even the best of us can't escape it. While academics are important, so is your mental health. Make sure to take care of yourself because at the end of the day, you're the one who's holding it all together. Don't be afraid to reach out to professors/TA's; they've been in your shoes multiple times and are greatly understanding. From the get go, make sure to stay organized. Always lay out anything you have to do so you're not procrastinating at the last minute. Lastly, please remember to go outside and explore. This may sound like a given, but I spent so long feeling trapped in my room by the weight of anxiety that I had forgotten about the outside world. I'm sure your campus is beautiful; do your best to explore it while you're there.

Finally, remember how hard you worked for this. All the late nights studying for exams, the long hours preparing for the SAT/ACT, staying late at school for extracurriculars that you piled on, all of it led you to where you are now. I hope you make the best of these next four years.

Congratulations to all graduating seniors, I wish you all the best of luck!



Source: Clip Art Key

This year, we asked one of our advisors to write an article for the Hawk Eye newspaper. Mr Beck and Mrs Candelaria have done a truly phenomenal job overseeing our endeavors. We have thrown a lot at them throughout the year, and they have always been there to help. We felt it was appropriate to give them a voice in the last issue. In response, Mr Beck wrote this intriguing fictional “origins” story. We hope you like it!

Michael Khalfin  
Jake Feldman  
Jesse Ray Sheps

## Grave Circumstances

By Mr. Beck  
Advisor

It was just another ordinary morning at JFK High School. It was the week before Halloween and cold winds from cloudy skies whipped crusty leaves around the building. Kids stood in clusters around their lockers and talked. Some sat Indian style in circles on the floor. The warning bell rang and the slow migration to first period began.

Mr. Philbin did sentry duty outside room 145, his English classroom. A demented grin on his old, lined face made him look like a bird of prey. He loved nothing more than catching kids that were late to his class. They scurried in smiling but secretly wished he would get a life. His wry, old wit belonged in a Vaudeville museum and his clothes looked like he peeled them off a sleeping Henny Youngman.

When asked if he was old, his standard reply was “not geologically.” Still, he was a sincere and effective teacher and kids that entered his classroom came out with more than what they came in with.

About ten minutes into his 5th period class something extraordinary happened. Without warning, Beth Vanderhagen, straight “A” student and recent recipient of a perfect attendance record award (10 years of school--about 1,800 days), raised her hand and made history.

“Mr. Philbin,” she said. “May I go to the nurse? I don’t feel well.” The room went dead. Old man Philbin looked over his glasses.

“Certainly, Ms. Vanderhagen. I’ll write you a pass.” She left the room and the lesson continued. Late that afternoon, Mr. Philbin called Beth’s house. The phone rang twice when someone picked up. “Hello. Is Mr. or Mrs. Venderhagen available please?”

“This is Mrs. Vanderhagen, may I help you?”

“Yes, this is Mr. Philbin calling from JFK High School. I’m Beth’s English teacher.”

“Oh, yes, Mr. Philbin. What can I do for you?”

“Well, I’m just calling to see how Beth was feeling. She left my class to go to the nurse today. She really looked under the weather. It’s unlike her to miss class.”

“Oh, well, she told me all about it when she got home. She’s feeling better now.”

“Oh, good,” said Mr. Philbin.

“She even got her homework from a friend.”

“Oh, that’s the least of my worries. Beth’s a responsible young lady.”

“Yes, well, she’s feeling better and I’m sure she’ll be in school tomorrow. Thanks very much for calling. I appreciate it,” she said.

“Have a good evening,” Mr. Philbin said. He hung up and an uneasy feeling tugged at him. Something in Mrs. Vanderhagen’s voice was strained and cautious. He thought about it for a moment and then went home.

Early the next day, Mr. Philbin entered his classroom and was disappointed to see there were no blinds on the windows. The day before, he had asked Ralph, the head custodian, to replace the blinds. Mr. Philbin had tried to repair the old ones and fiddled with them everyday for weeks to get them to work correctly. He glanced at his watch. It was 6:45 in the morning and the kids would not be in the building for a while. He noticed a screwdriver on Beth’s desk. They must have been there to fix his blinds! But-where were the blinds? He put it in his pocket and left the room.

He took a long walk to Ralph, the head custodian’s office. He peered into Ralph’s office and saw Ross, Ralph’s assistant, sitting at his desk. Ross was a trim, short guy with thinning brown hair. He was in his thirties and walked bowlegged. The other custodians nicknamed him “The Cowboy.” He looked sullen and tired. “Good morning Ross,” said Mr. Philbin. Ross looked up, startled.

“Mr. Philbin, hello. What can I do for you?”

“Well, I was wondering if Ralph was around to finish installing the new blinds in my classroom.” Ross looked kind of sheepish.

“The blinds. He is not in today. He is out sick. In fact, he started feeling sick when he was working in your classroom, taking down the old blinds yesterday afternoon. He never got a chance to put the new ones up.”

“Really?” Mr. Philbin. “Well, if you speak with him, tell him I

hope he feels better.” Mr. Philbin suddenly remembered the screwdriver he had in his pocket. He pulled it out and it was hot to the touch. “Ouch!” He dropped it on Ross’ desk. “Wow, that’s hot. Ralph must have left this in my class,” he said. “Just tell him I hope he feels better.”

“I’ll do that. I was just about to go to your classroom and install the blinds myself.”

“Great,” said Mr. Philbin. “I have to go to the main office for 15 minutes or so. The door to my room is open. Thanks.”

A while later, Mr. Philbin returned to his classroom to prepare for his first period class. He looked at the window on the far side of the room. The new blinds were hanging right where they should be. He walked over and opened and then closed them. They worked perfectly. He turned around and spotted a work boot on the floor by his desk. Why would Ross leave his boots here?

He bent down to pick them up and that is when his luck ran out. The boot was still on Ross’ foot and he was lying on the floor, unconscious. His tool belt was ripped, and his tools were lying around him. A hammer was lying on the seat of Beth’s desk. He quickly threw it in his desk drawer. It was also hot to the touch. He ran back to the main office to call an ambulance for Ross.

The few kids that were in school so early watched as the medics wheeled Ross out of the school on a stretcher and into a waiting ambulance. Mr. Philbin was clearly shaken and tried to go on with his day. He knew more students would be arriving in the building soon. He also knew Ross would be in good hands at the hospital and there was nothing more he could do for him.

Despite everything that had happened that morning, the day seemed to be progressing uneventfully, just the way Mr. Philbin wanted it, until his 5th period class came in and sat down.

A few minutes into the middle of a killer vocabulary test, Beth Vanderhagen raised her hand again and asked to go to the nurse. What gives? In the beginning of the period Beth had breezed in, sat at her usual seat, said she was feeling better, and smiled. Beth was one of the few kids who smiled when faced with the potentially lethal vocabulary tests he was famous for.

He gazed at her face before asking for an explanation. There was a pleading fear in her eyes and her forehead was shining with sweat. He asked another student to escort Beth to the nurse. For the rest of the period, Philbin sat at his desk as the rest of the kids finished their tests. Deep in thought, Philbin gazed at the metal legs of Beth’s empty desk and his heart skipped a beat. The legs were covered with water droplets. He stood up to get a better look at the floor below the desk. Burn marks were on the floor tiles around the desk. He stared in disbelief. The desk was slowly changing color before his eyes! It slowly faded from a mustard yellow to a pale gray.

He wanted to yell but fought his disbelief. He could not let his fear show. Kids could smell fear in a teacher from a mile away. His mind went to Beth Vanderhagen. Two times in two days. What was going on? A sweaty desk that changes colors and burn marks on the floor? His mind slid to the screwdriver-then the hammer...A chill suddenly shot up Philbin’s spine, paralyzing him for a moment-one of those moments that last forever, where your thoughts are crystal clear and a hundred fleeting thoughts on top of those are clearer still.

He jumped up and ran to the calendar on the wall. Two days before Halloween. Oh, no. Oh, please no. It cannot be true. This cannot be happening. His brain screamed and he walked to the closet and grabbed his hat and coat (most demented old men wear hats) and ran out of the room. Heads popped up and blinking, questioning eyes watched Mr. Philbin run out. He yelled down the hall for a sub to watch his class.

A hall monitor suddenly appeared in the room and supervised the rest of the test. Some of the kids watched Mr. Philbin run for his car and race off. Something was wrong, dangerously wrong.

A few minutes later his car screeched to a halt in the parking lot of Central General Hospital on Old Country Road, a mile from the school. He slammed it into park, hopped out the door, and ran inside. He arrived at Ross’ room, breathing heavily. When Ross saw Mr. Philbin, his eyes widened. Philbin approached his bedside. His face was gravely serious.



“Ross. What do you know about my classroom? When were you working on the blinds in my classroom?” Ross looked confused. Philbin did not give him a chance to answer. “What do you remember about this morning?”

“What are you talking about?” Ross was sleepy and confused.

“Something is happening in my classroom. Ross, I need to know what happened to you. I’m beginning to think what happened wasn’t an accident-that you didn’t just fall when you were putting up the blinds.”

“I don’t remember anything,” said Ross.

“Try. Please.”

“Well, the last thing I remember, I began to feel dizzy and really tired, so I decided to sit down for a minute and have my breakfast. When I got up my pants felt really warm and then everything went black.”

“Where were you sitting?”

“I don’t know. Why?”

“Please, try and remember.”

“Somewhere in the front, I think. I just sat at a desk to have breakfast. What’s the big deal?”

“In the center of the room, in the front?” Mr. Philbin grilled Ross.

“Yeah,” said Ross.

“That’s what I thought.” Philbin turned around and pulled a cell phone from his pocket. He punched a few numbers. Ross listened.

“Hello? This is Mr. Philbin from the English department. Yes. Could you connect me to the nurse’s office please? Thank you. Hello? This is Mr. Philbin from the English department. Do you have a Beth Vanderhagen there? Yes? Could you put her on the phone please? Hello Beth? Beth, this is Mr. Philbin, I know you are not feeling very well, but I wanted to ask you a question. Do you mind? No? Great. Did you begin to feel sick when you sat at your desk today? Yes? What else? Did you feel better when you left the desk and my classroom? Yes? Thanks. Hope you feel better. Bye.”

Mr. Philbin hung up the phone. His mind kept searching for some explanation-a clue about what might be going on. He knew that Beth’s sickness, Ross’ sickness, and Ralph’s sickness were all related-and had to do with Beth’s desk. He just did not know how. Too many unexplained events. Too many coincidences. How else could one account for the screwdriver and hammer being hot to the touch after they were lifted from the desk?

Philbin turned around to face Ross again. He was crying. “Ross, what’s wrong?”

“It’s back. It’s back.” He was sobbing.

“What’s back?” Mr. Philbin asked.

“The spirit of Haiyawatha!” This voice was a woman’s voice. It was cold and flat. It came from behind him, near the open door to Ross’ hospital room. Mr. Philbin wheeled around and saw a nurse standing in the doorway holding a shovel over her head. She ran at him, swinging it wildly at his head. He jerked back quickly, and she tripped over his outstretched leg and fell forward. Her head struck the bedrail, and she was knocked unconscious. Mr. Philbin stood there, paralyzed. Ross sat up in bed. “Oh, my God!” he said. Mr. Philbin suddenly recognized the woman’s face. “That is Helen Vanderhagen, Beth’s mother! I recognized her from back-to-school night. I just spoke with her yesterday!” She was coming to and he started helping her up. He called for help and put her in a chair.

“Yes, it is Mr. Philbin,” Ross said, wiping a tear from his eye. “She works as a nurse here,” he said.

“Why did she attack me?” Mr. Philbin was visibly shaken and trying to calm down. “And why did she scream Haiyawatha? What was that all about?” Ross motioned for Mr. Philbin to sit in at the end of the bed.

“Mr. Philbin, I think you’ll want to sit down for what I’m about to tell you.”

“Really?” he said.

“This is going to sound crazy to you, but here it goes. When I was a young boy, my great grandfather told me a story about old Plainview-before even any Europeans were there. When it was still forests and people traveled on foot or horseback on narrow Indian trails all over Long Island. He heard the story from his great grandfather who heard the story from his great grandfather-and on and on. Get it? We are talking about 16th century land that P.O.B.J.F.K. High School was built on. Now, here is the reason I took a job as a custodian here. I have a secret about this place. A secret I’ve never told anyone.” Mr. Philbin took his hat and coat off and listened with rapt attention.

“The story is that the land the school sits on was once a thriving Indian Village in the late 1500’s. The people who inhabited

the village were called Merriacks. They were superb horsemen and children were riding expertly by seven years old. The greatest rider in the village was a boy who was small for his age but rode with the agility of a panther and the courage of a lion. His name was Hawk-Eye. He also happened to be the son of a chief elder of the village. When he was twelve, his father got him his own horse. It was a young white and brown-spotted mustang. The horse and he grew up together. They were inseparable. He named the horse Haiyawatha.”

Mr. Philbin dropped his hat. He pointed to the nurse slumped in the chair. “That’s what she screamed at me.”

“Yes,” said Ross.

“Why?”

“You see, she also knows the secret of the land and what’s beneath the school. Mr. Philbin, she is, my sister. Her daughter Beth, your student, is my niece. I only took this job as a custodian to protect her,” he said.

“From what?” Mr. Philbin was confused. Ross looked deeply into Mr. Philbin’s eyes.

“From what lies beneath your classroom,” he said.

“What?!” The blood drained from Mr. Philbin’s face. His jaw dropped open.

“Haiyawatha. You see, the legend goes like this-one night around what they used to call All Soul’s Day (like our modern Halloween) a dangerous thunderstorm started. A bolt of lightning hit the crude wooden stable where Haiyawatha slept at night. It burned down the stable and she died in the fire that night. He was buried in a peaceful ceremony, but Hawk-Eye was so distraught they say he put a curse on anybody or anything that would ever disturb Haiyawatha’s sleep. Anyone messing with the grave was doomed forever.”

“So, what does this have to do with me? Or my classroom?” Mr. Philbin asked.

“Every Halloween, for the last 10 years, for some reason, weird things have happened in room 145 of the school. You see, we had an archaeologist come in and do some soil sample studies with sophisticated electronic and magnetic equipment.” Ross stared gravely at Mr. Philbin.

“Mr. Philbin, there’s no easy way to tell you this so I’ll just say it. Haiyawatha is buried just eight feet down, directly under your classroom,” Ross said. “That is why I took the job there, when weird things started to happen and Beth’s mother, my sister, asked me to look after her. That is why Beth’s mother went berserk on you. I noticed a few days ago she was beginning to act strange. I never thought it would go this far. Every year around Halloween, someone goes nuts and people get sick in one area of the classroom (where Beth’s desk was) because Haiyawatha’s sleep was disturbed. This year it happened to be Beth’s mother.” Mr. Philbin sat straight up in his chair.

“What did the archaeologist tell you? Could they move the grave?”

“I tried calling him. After he worked at the site, he disappeared. Nobody ever heard from him again. I did a little investigating. It turns out his reputation was a little murky anyhow. There’s a very thin line between archaeologist and grave robber.”

“But this happened 500 years ago, when this place wasn’t even called Plainview,” he said.

“Right. And Haiyawatha was not disturbed for 490 of those years,” Ross said.

“So, what happened 10 years ago to unleash this horrifying curse that lay dormant for so long?”

“From what I hear, some English teacher named Mr. Beck was digging a hole outside his classroom to plant some pine trees with his students. The sound of his shovel hitting the dirt woke Haiyawatha and now he and Hawk-Eye will not give Beck a minute’s rest.



Source: Dreams Time



## POST-PANDEMIC RUNNING EVENTS ARE RETURNING TO PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE!



**Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School  
Heart & Sole 5 Kilometer Run  
to benefit Plainview & Syosset Hospitals



**Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

Jonas Chiropractic Sports Injury Care 10 Kilometer  
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H.B. Mattlin Middle School



**Tuesdays at 7:00 PM**

GLIRC-hosted track workouts under the direction of Coach Ed Melnik  
Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School track

Please join us!

For information call (516) 349-7646 or email [info@glirc.org](mailto:info@glirc.org)



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## Senior Send Off

By Jake Feldman  
Editor-in-Chief

Congratulations Class of 2021!

High school: many emotions stem from this simple two-letter word. It was some of the best of times; it was some of the toughest of times. It was the age of discovery; it was the period of digression. It was the spring of hope; it was the winter of despair. It was the period of ease; it was the season of difficulty. It was relaxing; it was stressful. Undeniably, our high school experience was unforgettable.

We had many memorable events in high school: pep rallies, senior BBQ, senior spirit week, Homecoming, Prom, and sports games. We reveled in the sweet victories during the Battle of Classes events. Despite the trials and tribulations associated with Covid-19, we persevered and learned to make lemonade out of lemons. We all shared in similar phrases that represent our POB experience: top bagel place in town, buffalo chicken slices, Plainview Diner, Ralphs, top pizza place in town, last school to call a snow day, cafeteria wraps, stressing about finals, greetings in the mornings from the Principal, remedial, grandparents in Florida, PAL, MAP, Little League, 7:25 am start, rumors spread fast, writing out our long names on all of the important exams and the list goes on and on.

Before we leave, we must thank our teachers: the mentors who helped us get through the most challenging of times. We had them all: the strict teachers, the chill teachers, the disorganized teachers, the brilliant teachers, the fantastic teachers, and the kind teachers. Through all the types of teachers, they helped us grow as individuals and gain a deeper understanding of a plethora of subjects. As much as you dreaded the frightening tests

and long assignments, you most likely grew to understand the rewarding experiences stemming from your classes. I urge you to thank all the amazing teachers throughout your years at POB!

Moreover, please remember to thank all your friends, from the ones that date back to the K-Center to those that you just met this year. Thank them for teaching you invaluable lessons, providing support, and being there when you needed them the most. We are forever POBJFK 21'. As we transition into Plainview alumni, I urge you to stay connected: our friendships will continue to be fruitful.

Four years have gone by in the blink of an eye. We have become so accustomed to the comforts of the "Plainview Bubble." It is bitter-sweet not to be attending POB this coming fall. As we embark on our new adventures - college, work-study, or vocational training - there will be uncertainty in the road that lies ahead. However, we have prepared up until now for the moment when our POB journey would eventually come to an end.

Seniors, please be appreciative of POB and savor the last few months before beginning your next chapter. You have grown old in the wisdom that POB has provided; it is time for you to move on to your next journey. Remember that college is a fresh start, filled with new opportunities. I hope you maximize your college experience, maintain the values you have fostered at POB, and never forget the POB way. Again, congratulations, and see you all at Graduation!



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