

HOMEPAGES

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POCANTICO HILLS SCHOOL

SUMMER 2016



Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Wednesday, June 22, was a beautiful evening for the Pocantico Hills School 84th Annual Commencement honoring the Class of 2016. For the 33 graduates, it was a bittersweet moment, the last opportunity for the classmates to stand together as a class.

With the Pocantico Hills Band playing "Pomp and Circumstance," the graduates marched solemnly to the podium as family, friends, teachers, administrators and members of

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Welcome!

The District welcomes our new superintendent, Mrs. Carol Conklin-Spillane! Her service here began in July. Mrs. Conklin-Spillane came to us from Sleepy Hollow High School where she was principal since 1994.



We simultaneously wish the best to Dr. Marilyn Terranova, who served as Interim Superintendent since January.

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Graduation Awards 2015–2016

Amber A.

Harold Akley Award
PTA/Anne Marie Brown Community Service Award
English Award
Blanche E. Long Award
Estelle V. Storms Award—Spanish

Jared W.

PTA/Anne Marie Brown Community Service Award
Jason Harris Memorial Physical Education Award

Emma B.

PTA/Anne Marie Brown Community Service Award

Massimo F.

Cab Calloway Band Award

Rishikesh L.

Carolyn Keil Campbell Chorus Award
Blanche E. Long Award
Pocantico Hills Teacher Association Special Award

Connor P.

Dr. Caroline Crescenzi Award

Elizabeth C.

Jason Harris Memorial Physical Education Award

Jaden D.

Humanitarian Award

Gil H.

Nancy McDonnell Memorial Math Award
Estelle V. Storms Award—French
Madeline B. Walsh Science Award

Avery I.

George Morrow Scholarship Award
Raymond B. Walker Essay Award

Christopher M.

Nelson A. Rockefeller Award

William S.

Social Studies Award

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

continued from the front page

the Board of Education, PTA and Pocantico Hills School Foundation looked on proudly and applauded.

Student Council Vice President Rishikesh L., in his graduation address, described the class as unique.

“When you look at our class, you see a map of the world... yet we are a family and fit together like a puzzle. We have memories that will stay with us for a lifetime.” He advised the class by quoting St. Francis de Sales—“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself.”

Principals Mr. Brown and Mr. Steele presented diplomas and awards, and then Amber A., the Harold Akley Award Winner, addressed the group.

“Graduation is the leap to a new and grand beginning,” she said. “Anything is possible when there is hope and hard work involved. We thank so many people who stood behind us to make us the individuals we are today.”

Interim Superintendent Marilyn Terranova closed the ceremony by encouraging the graduates to continue to learn about the world, to be aware of current events and social issues, and to use their skills and experience to deal with the complex issues that will face our world in the coming decades.

“You are prepared to be engaged as ethical advocates of liberty for all,” she said. “The Class of 2016 will do great things. We are counting on you!”

After the ceremony, the students and guests enjoyed an outstanding reception in the cafeteria planned and presented by Laura Dineen. With help from Rose Blanchard, she transformed the cafeteria into a festive party space replete with a beautiful selection of handmade desserts—a perfect ending to a memorable occasion.



Awards Night Honors Middle School Students

Where will our students be in 50 years? It's an interesting thought posed by Pocantico alum and guest Robert Scanlon who returned to speak for the Middle School Awards Recognition Celebration on June 16. Mr. Scanlon received the Raymond B. Walker Award in 1966.

The evening celebrated nearly 80 Middle School students—77 to be precise—for their academic accomplishments and service achievements over the year, with their families, teachers and members of the PTA, Foundation and Pocantico Hills Board of Education in attendance.

Mr. Scanlon, a “TV guy” as he said, is a successful television industry executive who addressed the students regarding

communication. His message to the students was loud and clear: No matter how fast technology moves, “The most important communication you can have is the communication with yourself.”

In his closing comments, Mr. Scanlon suggested each student look in the mirror in the morning and say three simple words: “I like myself.” This simple step, he said, “will trigger your internal compass in ways you have no conscious awareness of, and you will make the right decisions because you like yourself.”

Do this, he promised, and you will be successful and happy and it won't take 50 years! **Congrats to all!**



NJHS Induction, An Elegant Ceremony

The afternoon of May 19 was a special occasion at Pocantico Hills as 10 students in grades 7 and 8 were welcomed into the National Junior Honor Society during the traditional and elegant Induction Ceremony.

The students worked hard for this distinction, guidance counselor James McVeigh explained. To be eligible for consideration into the NJHS, a student must have a high scholastic average for three consecutive marking periods or have been on the honor roll five out of the past seven marking periods.

Dr. Terranova and Mr. Brown assisted in the awards ceremony as the students were honored for demonstrating excellence in Character, Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Citizenship. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the NJHS since its inception in the 1920s.

With the lights dimmed in the auditorium, five students who were inducted last year stepped onto the stage, lit the candles that represented these characteristics and briefly spoke. Each new inductee then marched across the stage and received a medal and rose. The 7th and 8th grade All-County Chorus performed the musical interlude, with Mr. Lucadamo on the piano and music teacher Ms. Valente directing.



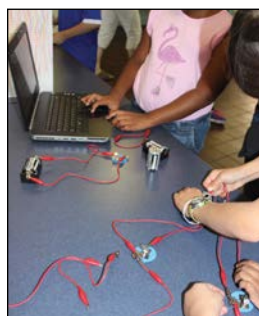
Science Expo Asks Big Questions

How much sugar is actually in a two-liter bottle of soda? How does a caterpillar turn into a butterfly? Does gender impact color preferences? How do circuits work? Our students in grades 3-7 have the answers and shared them during the annual Science Expo that took place over two days, June 14 and 15.



Students worked individually, in teams or in groups to compose a hypothesis and then, after the research and hands-on experiments, present the conclusion. The Expo displays were lively, fun and informative, and the attending crowds loved it. Students explained their projects as family members streamed into the cafeteria to share their children's excitement about scientific inquiry. The mornings were full of amazing and fascinating research that showed how much our students have learned.

The projects were based on concepts in the science curriculum in which students learn to observe and investigate cycles in the natural world; electricity and circuits; digestion, nutrition, food chains and webs; interactions in the human body; interactions in the environment; the nature of science and technology, energy and more.



Celebrating our ENL Students

Twenty-one ENL (English as a New Language) students in grades 1 through 8 participated in an end-of-year luncheon on June 7 that celebrated their accomplishments in learning the English language. The group represented 15 nations that included countries from Bangladesh to Peru.

The PTA provided the catered lunch of sandwiches and cupcakes, as well as individualized summer activity bags for each student to take home. ENL teacher Joy Scantlebury works throughout the school using integrative teaching methods, and she made each bag special with plenty of summer reading materials and activities for every student. “We do whatever we can to promote reading and their

interests,” she said, so she chooses books and activities that are based on each child’s level, interests and hobbies.

“Students who arrived without knowing a word of English are now speaking fluently,” said Ms. Scantlebury to the group during the lunch. “Remember,” she quoted linguist Frank Smith, “ ‘One language sets you on a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.’ ”

The event began several years ago by Ms. Scantlebury and library-media specialist Anne Price-Gordon to promote literacy over the summer, and both proudly beamed during the luncheon.



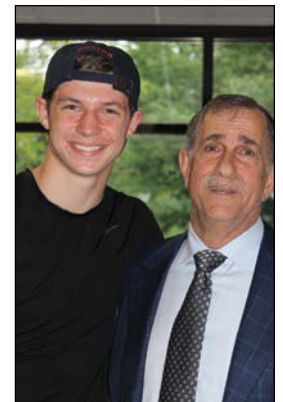
Our Athletes Take the Spotlight at Sports Night

The annual Sports Awards Program on Monday, June 13, was an emotional evening filled with laughter, excitement, and even some happy tears. Athletic Director Tom Blank opened the presentation by thanking parents and the administration for support, and especially Transportation Supervisor Jane Anastasi, who, he said, “gets everyone to the right place at the right time” for all the games. He complimented the athletes for their hard work, camaraderie, attitude, and dedication, noting that the greatest challenge is the size of the school that is reflected in small teams.

Students participated in **Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Softball** and **Baseball**.

Pocantico athletes also participated in **Football** with Sleepy Hollow, **Girls Lacrosse** and **Boys Lacrosse** with Pleasantville.

The coaches presented the awards, with Maureen Gallery fighting back tears as she recalled how hard and cohesively her volleyball team played, despite the fact that there were four players who were complete newbies to the game. The other coaches spoke, too, all acknowledging how proud they were to be part of this program and to be coaching such outstanding athletes, without regard to wins and losses.



Annual Art Show a Big Draw for Families

On Friday, May 13, the Eighth Grade Annual Art Show and Reception took place at the Pocantico Hills Firehouse with the students excited to show their work and art teacher Jolene Morotti proudly on hand to share the fun.

This year the theme was “Portraits,” and every one of the 33 pieces showed just how talented our students are, exhibiting thoughtful composition and attention to detail.

Each piece is a culminating project that brings art appreciation and the creative process together. Students started work in September, studying different facets of art related to the theme through 10-week rotations. Through an interdisciplinary approach that included training in art appreciation, history and techniques, as well as photography and technology lessons, students gained a true appreciation of the artistic process.

The reception was a delightful evening featuring appetizers and desserts, supplied by proud parents, with a special thank you from Mrs. Morotti to all involved in the show, and especially parent Karen Fante, who worked to organize the event.



Bravo! ‘Charlotte’s Web’ takes the stage for the 16th year

For 16 years now, the timeless classic, “Charlotte’s Web,” has been an annual tradition for the second grade. The tradition started in 1999 as a classroom play, went on stage in 2000, and “Then it took on a life of its own!” said second-grade teacher Lory Rollman. She and second-grade teacher Katie Maguire prepared the 29 students for the show that was once again a highlight of the year for the students. **Bravo, second graders!**



‘Oh, the thinks you can think!’

What do you get when you bring Dr. Seuss’ best-loved characters to the Pocantico Hills auditorium stage? You get an unforgettable musical, “Seussical Jr.,” featuring our ever-talented students in roles such as Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and lots of others. The amalgamation was a colorful and fantastic extravaganza that delighted the audience and received rave reviews. **Well done!**



POCANTICO PRIDE

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS
FROM STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND TEACHERS



Congratulations to our Pocantico Hills students, now attending high school at Briarcliff, Pleasantville and Sleepy Hollow, for their academic achievements!

BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL

3RD QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

9TH GRADE: Alexander Benson, Zehaniah Daniels,

Brandon Danuff, Leila Freitag, John Hansley, Jarrod Homer,

Livia Marchese, Regine Mae Navarro, Jason Oppong,

Harsha Philip, Tucker Poux, William Zimmerman

10TH GRADE: Oliver Benson, Roxanne Forbes, Kashika Goel,

Kezia Johnson, Jonathan LaFuenta-Principe, Leila Miller,

Maegan Rosenberg **11TH GRADE:** Sharon Halevi, Amelia Leahy,

Samantha Manimala, Kelly Marchese, Karuna Philp, Saroja Rao,

Andres Sanchez, Mary Scott, Charlotte Segal, Calista Sheehan,

Harrison Singer, Xiomara Torres, Alexis Vacca, Katherine Wislocki,

Xie Lin **12TH GRADE:** Caleb Asamoah, Nicholas Beninati,

Rahul Biin, Brian Danuff, Stephen Horecky, Rachel Julie,

Arielle Lewis, Kayla Owen, Maya onzini, Sabine Poux,

Haley Rosenberg, Nicholas Vacca

3RD QUARTER ACADEMIC MERIT ROLL

9TH GRADE: Anna Albert, Sierra Beauzile, Anand Bipin,

Athaena Clarke, Palma Hutter, Bryan Ngan, Taijon Tribble,

Jaden Walker, Da'Quon Washington **10TH GRADE:** Kezia Johnson,

Cassandra Keenan, Alexande Leahy **11TH GRADE:** Karina Cruz,

Carly Fanelli, Diego Gutierrez, Loren Haukova, Brendon Julie,

David Macca, Ashley Pagan, Kayla Rockefeller, Tatyana Rossi,

Angelina Ruotolo **12TH GRADE:** Emely Castillo, Josia Cobbs,

Erin Scurdy, Gianna Simonetti

4TH QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

9TH GRADE: Alexander Benson, Zephaniah Daniels,

Brandon Danuff, Leila Freitag, John Hansley, Jarrod Homer,

Livia Marchese, Regine Mae Navarro, Jason Oppong, Harsha Philip,

Tucker Poux, William Zimmerman **10TH GRADE:** Olive Benson,

Roanne Forbes, Kashika Goel, Kezia Johnson,

Jonathan LaFuenta-Principe, Leila Miller, Maegan Rosenberg

11TH GRADE: Maria Banos, Sharon Halevi, Ameilia Leahy,

David Macca, Samantha Minimala, Kelly Marchese, Karuna Philip,

Saroja Rao, Angelina Ruotolo, Andres Sanchez, Mary Scott,

Charlott Segal, Calista Sheehan, Harrison Singer, Xiomara Torres,

Alexis Vacca, Katherine Wislocki, Lin Xie

4TH QUARTER ACADEMIC MERIT ROLL

9TH GRADE: Anna Albert, Aaron Chen, Athaena Clarke,

Palma Hutter, Kymorah McDonald, Bryan Ngan, Taijon Tribble,

Jaen Walker, Da'Quon Washington **10TH GRADE:** Alexander Leahy,

Brenand Lewis, Khassandra Muiniz **11TH GRADE:** Karina Cruz,

John Dineen, Carly Fanelli, Diego Gutierrez, Loren Haukova,

Brendon JulieAshley Pagan, Kayla Rockefeller, Tatyana Rossi,

Emily Stolecki

PLEASANTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

3RD QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

9TH GRADE: Lindsey Minerva, Sean Rossi

10TH GRADE: Michael Kokkatt, Mary Beth Whalen, Olivia Wislocki

11TH GRADE: Seher Hussain, Jonathan Kyriakidis,

Isabelle Minerva, Michael O'Brien

3RD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

9TH GRADE: Alyssa Olmeda **10TH GRADE:** Adrianna DePolito,

Salman Hussain, John Minerva **11TH GRADE:** Jake Manimala

4TH QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

9TH GRADE: Lyndsey Minerva **10TH GRADE:** Michael Kokkatt,

Olivia Wislocki **11TH GRADE:** Seher Hussain, Isabelle Minerva,

Deaglan Ries **12TH GRADE:** Frank DiPolito

4TH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

9TH GRADE: Alyssa Olmeda

SLEEPY HOLLOW HIGH SCHOOL

3RD QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

10TH GRADE: Daniella Blanchard

11TH GRADE: Margaet Cusanelli, Juliette Phillips, David Owen,

John Starkey, Fabian Tovar, Ethan Wilens

3RD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

10TH GRADE: Emma Cusanelli, Joseph Rickles

11TH GRADE: Daniel Downes, Emma Shapera

4TH QUARTER HIGH HONOR ROLL

11TH GRADE: Margaret Cusanelli, David Owen, Juliette Phillips,

Joseph Rickles, John Starkey, Fabian Tovar, Ethan Wilens

4TH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

10TH GRADE: Danielle Blanchard, Emma Cusanelli

11TH GRADE: Daniel Downes, Emma Shapera

KUDOS

Samantha Coffey, a junior at the Masters School, made her first appearance for the U.S. National U18 Women's National Soccer Team on July 12, 2016 in St. George's Park; Burton Upon Trent, United Kingdom. Go Sam!



For more photos and details on the stories in this newsletter, please visit the Pocantico Hills PTA Facebook page.

POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL
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Adam Brown
Interim Principal

Marianne Heslin, Interim Director of Finance
and Administrative Services

Maria Wrobel, Director of Student Services

Board of Education

Emily Segal, President

Frederic Rickles, Vice President

Peter Basha, Trustee

Joan Waters Cusanelli, Trustee

Charlie Minton, Trustee

upcoming dates

August

August 31 Superintendent's Conference Day

September

September 1 Superintendent's Conference Day

September 5 Labor Day (DISTRICT CLOSED)

September 6 First Day of School for Grades K-8

September 13 First Day of School for Pre-K

October

October 3-4 Rosh Hashanah (School Closed)

October 10 Columbus Day (DISTRICT CLOSED)

October 12 Yom Kippur

November

November 11 Veteran's Day (DISTRICT CLOSED)

November 23 11:30 a.m. Dismissal.

November 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess (DISTRICT CLOSED)

December

December 26 DISTRICT CLOSED (Observance of Christmas)

December 26-30 Holiday Recess (School Closed)

For more information, please visit our website: www.pocanticohills.org



A Fond Farewell to Mr. Steele

The District wishes Mr. Steele a fond farewell and thanks him for his 20 years of leadership at Pocantico Hills School.

To celebrate the educator, the PTA, Foundation and Pocantico Hills Teachers' Association installed a Buddy Bench in the playground. It is an appropriate tribute to Mr. Steele, who always emphasized the importance of being a good friend to all.

The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. It is a place for students to sit if they have no one to play with, and it is an indication to other children to reach out and include them.

The plaque on the bench reads: **"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."** —Aesop.

