



Byram Hills School District

SPECTRUM

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

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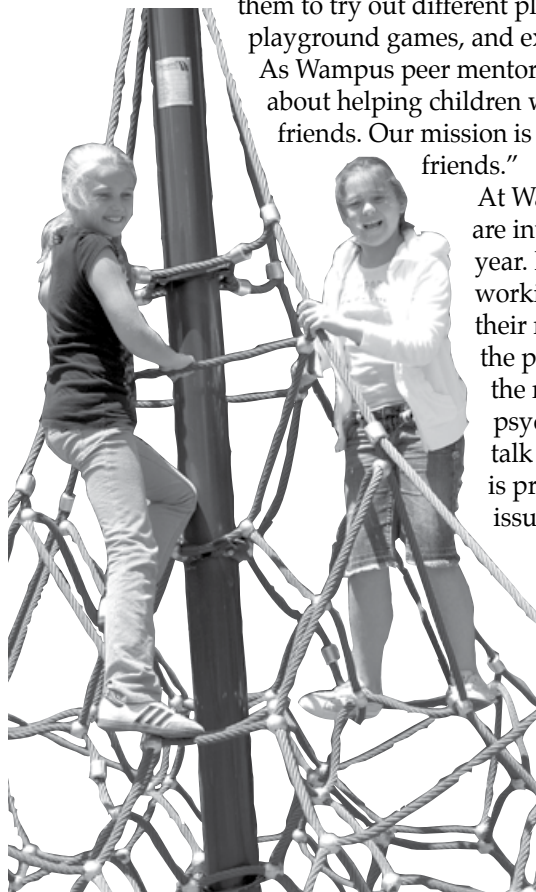
REACHING OUT: Students Show Empathy and Understanding

A faculty discussion last summer about enhancing the teaching of social skills evolved this year into a successful pilot program at Wampus and Coman Hill with second and third graders training as peer mentors to students having trouble making social connections in school.

Under the guidance of Assistant Director for Special Services Karen Kushnir, the program, SOS (Social Skills in Our Schools), involves trained student mentors engaging with mentees on the playground, encouraging them to try out different play equipment, join in playground games, and expand their social horizons. As Wampus peer mentor Jimmy Fallon puts it: "It's about helping children who really don't have any friends. Our mission is to help these kids make friends."

At Wampus, five student mentees are involved in the program this year. Four days a week, usually working in pairs, mentors take their mentee under their wing on the playground. Each Thursday, the mentors meet with school psychologist Ellen Medd to talk about how their mentoring is progressing and discuss any issues.

The mentors, who each volunteer once a week, explained why they happily give up two lunch periods each week for the program: Brent Perlman says he got involved because he thought, "It would be fun to make someone have fun on the playground like we do."



Recess in the district's two elementary schools has become a more engaging experience for students thanks to a peer mentoring program piloted at Wampus and Coman Hill this past year.

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Grateful Thanks to Retiring Board Members

With the retirement of three longstanding board members, the Byram Hills School District is losing a combined 39 years of experience. Rick Kaplin leaves after serving six terms and having attended every board meeting but one since July 1990. Eve Rice served 10 years, and John Grimes, nine.

The three have overseen some major changes in the district during their tenure. When Mr. Kaplin first joined the board in 1990, the district was witnessing an enrollment boom that began in the late 1980s and has only recently leveled off. In that time, Byram Hills' student population grew by close to 80%, necessitating a complex reconfiguration of the schools in 2001 and three bond referenda in 2001, 2003, and 2004 to add classroom space and core facilities and to upgrade athletic facilities.

The three were also part of the team, along with Wendy Gardner, Gail Reese, Ira Schulman, and Brett Summers, that diligently reviewed policy for the implementation of the New York State five-point plan for fiscal oversight of school districts. This plan requires an extensive review of internal and external audit functions.

During their tenure, too, technology transformed the way children are taught and the way they learn, and the board has ensured that Byram Hills is taking appropriate advantage of technological advances as they develop. They have overseen the development and adoption of a host of new programs throughout the district, notably additional Advanced Placement programs and an increase in science research opportunities at the high school; teaming at the middle school; the addition of athletic opportunities for middle and high school students; and, districtwide, the introduction of the orchestra program, the advanced learner program, collaborative classes for students with disabilities, and the emphasis on character education, cultural proficiency, and sustainability.

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RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS ■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Also while under their watch in the past decade, the board has overseen an important move to develop leadership among the staff of Byram Hills, resulting in most of the district's current top administrators being hired from within.

Superintendent Dr. Jackie Taylor shares some thoughts about the three board members who dedicated so many years to serving the Byram Hills School District:

"Rick Kaplin clearly understood that quality school districts create quality communities, and he will be remembered for his love for this community. His dedication to the Byram Hills Education Foundation and the School Boards Association will be an important part of his legacy."

"John Grimes demonstrated a quiet wisdom and an ability to listen to multiple perspectives. He will be remembered for his passionate advocacy for cultural proficiency and celebration and respect for all students."

"Dr. Eve Rice is known for her diligence, sense of responsibility, and integrity. She leaves her handprint on dozens of Byram Hills policies and is appreciated for her commitment to the arts and high expectations for all learners, and especially for her work involving differentiation of instruction."

Three new board members, Robin Glat, Dr. Alban Burke, and Joyce Meiklejohn, take on their responsibilities effective July 1 as members of the 50th board of education in the district's history.



Outgoing board members, from left, Rick Kaplin, Eve Rice, and John Grimes, retire with a combined 39 years of experience on the board of education.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Outgoing board president Dr. Eve Rice and her husband, Tim Mattison, were recognized by the director of the National Academic Championship tournament in Chicago as parents of three children who collectively have more points than any other set of siblings in the history of quiz bowl. Their daughters Elizabeth and Julia Mattison, who graduated this year, competed on the Byram Hills Academic Challenge Team, which finished eighth out of more than 100 teams in the National Academic Championships in June and was seventh in the nation in scoring. Their son, Nate Mattison, Class of 2006, captained the Byram Hills Academic Challenge Team that won the National Academic Challenge Tournament in 2006.

REACHING OUT ■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO BE A PEER MENTOR

At the K-2 Coman Hill School, psychologist Dr. Yvette Thompson says the Peer Mentoring program "has been one of the most meaningful experiences this school year for both mentors and mentees."

Five students were mentored this past year, three by 10 trained students and two by a whole second grade class. "The mentors were wonderful and resourceful children who tried many different strategies to include their mentees into their play," says Dr. Thompson.

The experience has transformed school for at least one student who had trouble making friends. Things have been going so well with her and her mentor that they recently set up a playdate and other girls have begun to include her in their play. Says Dr. Thompson, "Shortly after the peer mentoring started, this little girl said to me, 'Dr. Thompson, I have friends!'"

Mentees aren't the only students benefitting from the experience. Dr. Thompson points out that the mentors have learned a valuable lesson about being kind and accepting of children with severe communication deficits. And, at a recent ice cream celebration, one student shared that the lessons learned about helping others join in play helped her solve problems with her other friends.

Another third grader, Rachel Cramer, who has personal experience with a special needs child, said she joined because, "A lot of people don't want to be their friend because they're different." Several students said they would like to play with their mentee more than once a week, because it made them feel good.

"My favorite thing about peer mentoring is the feeling you get after you help someone," said Nicole Tissot. Emily Zimmerman agreed: "You get a feeling that someone is happier and no one feels left out any more."

The children have noticed that they have made a difference. Eli Tolz says his mentee "used to only want to go on the swings. Now he wants to go on so many different things." In a questionnaire at the end of the year, several students suggest the school expand the program next year: Said Shea Gordon very astutely, "I know there are more people in school who have trouble making friends, so you could add more people into the program." Abby Binder said she had learned some things from the program, too: "I'm nicer, and I include people more."

Kathy Knudson, who teaches a BOCES special education class housed at Wampus, says she has seen noticeable differences in her students who participate with some Wampus students in the program. "I have definitely noticed an increase in their social skills," she says. "It helped 'J' build her confidence – before, her social interactions usually ended up negatively." In J's case, this has translated into improvement in the classroom. "She comes back from recess like a new kid. We don't see the behavioral problems so much."

The peer mentoring program will be expanded to all grades at Wampus next year.

From the Superintendent

The 2009-10 school year ends with enormous pride in our students' accomplishments: Excellent college admissions, extraordinary science research, commitment to sustainability, remarkably talented art and theater programs, athletics awards and recognitions, service to others, scholarship, caring, technology integration, extraordinary writing, critical thinking, and Habits of Mind are among the year's outstanding highlights.

Our budget passed in a year of continued economic worry, demonstrating to our students that this community values excellent public education. During the year, students, parents, and community members came together to support Byram Hills education in many other ways, notably at Homecoming, Global Village Day, and the Byram Hills Education Foundation Gala.

We look to next year to continue discussion on the transportation facility. The need for safety, environmental responsibility, and appropriate space for our employees will remain our primary concern during these discussions.

My deepest appreciation goes to our Board of Education, whose members serve with generosity of spirit and intellect. To retiring members Rick Kaplin, John Grimes, and Eve Rice I send my heartfelt thanks for their service to our community and schools.

I wish each family a wonderful summer. Enjoy the moments with your children. Thank you for your support of our programs, students, faculty, and staff.

My best,

Dr. Jackie Taylor

Cultural Mural Lends Authenticity to World Languages Wing

Students involved in an interdisciplinary mural project will leave their mark on Byram Hills High School for years to come. Now, the World Languages Department has a truly international feel to it with a mural painted by Advanced Drawing and Painting and AP Studio Art students adorning the department walls. The mural features landmarks and works of art from around the world; noted historical characters, including Galileo, Don Quixote, Evita Peron, and Edith Piaf; and famous literary works, such as *Les Miserables*.

The mural was created "much like they would do in the Renaissance," explained art teacher John Lopez, who oversaw the project.

It was clearly a hit with the student artists: "It's like when you were a little kid and always wanted to draw on the walls," said Nicole Parrish, who was painting Frida Kahlo. Putting the finishing touches to *The Thinker*'s hand, Antoinetta DeCarlo added, "I just want to paint the whole school now!"



Dana Fang paints Don Quixote on a wall in the high school, part of the mural created in the World Languages wing.



Students work on *The Thinker* by Rodin, Gerard Depardieu as Cyrano, and Evita Peron.

Alum Returns with Legal Advice

Meredith Arfa, Class of 2001, returned to school this past year with some legal advice for students ... students on the Mock Trial Team that is. The Stanford Law grad had been a four-year veteran and captain of Mock Trial when she was in high school and was eager to “give back to the team that played an important role in shaping her career decision,” explained team advisor Martin Gilbert.

Now clerking for a prominent federal judge in White Plains, Meredith helped prepare the team for the county-wide tournament sponsored by the Westchester Bar Association. Having lost all but two members of the team to graduation last year, members had their work cut out for them.

Mr. Gilbert said that Meredith “proved to be a terrific lawyer-coach and role model for our students.”

Senior Rachel Occhiogrosso agreed. “She was a great asset. Her years of experience on the team and being able to give real legal advice made her very valuable.”



Photo by Hope Taftz

Lawyer and BHHS grad Meredith Arfa (fourth from right) was a big help to the high school Mock Trial Team this year.

In spite of its inexperience, the Mock Trial Team qualified for the single elimination tournament but was ousted - by a one-point margin - by eventual winner and state finalist Scarsdale. The deciding judge noted that the high quality of this contest would have been more fitting as a final round.

Fourteen Receive Tenure

Congratulations to the 14 staff members who received tenure this year and were recognized at a board meeting in June.

The school district has a careful system for reviewing candidates for positions both before making probationary appointments and then evaluating their performance during the three-year probationary period.

From left: Kevin Guidotti and Evan Horowitz, high school



science; Patricia Michaels, special education, Coman Hill; Kimberly Karoglanian, special education, HCC; Dawn Selnes-Rosen, elementary, Wampus; Amy Menasche, art, BHHS; Karen Cook, elementary, HCC; Heather Graham, guidance counselor, HCC; Gina McKeon, physical education,

Wampus; Lisa Spivak, Joanna Brooks, and Jeanne Marie Vinchiarello, elementary, Wampus; Jeanine Cappello, language arts, HCC; and David Mack, guidance counselor, HCC.

Barbara Topiol Retires

After 13 years with Byram Hills, five at the helm of The Wampus School, Barbara Topiol is retiring. It's bittersweet," she says of her leaving. "I will miss this wonderful community – the children, the teachers and staff, and the very supportive community," she said during one of her last days at Wampus. Ms. Topiol also spent eight years at Crittenden as the middle school assistant principal, having taught middle school math for 20 years in New York City. She will now have more time to spend with her five grandchildren (two of whom live in Israel). "If the trips and the three grandchildren in America don't keep me busy enough, I love to read, swim, and go to the theater," she says of her future plans.

"Barbara has been an extraordinarily skilled and caring administrator," says district superintendent Dr. Jackie Taylor. "She is forever part of our history in a commitment to continuous improvement."

Debra Cagliostro will take up the reins at Wampus; she joins the district from Briarcliff Schools.



Retiring Wampus principal Barbara Topiol where she is most comfortable – with students. Here she speaks to third grader Abby Quintiere about the student's research project into her Italian cultural heritage.

Fourteen Recognized for Longevity

Some 345 years of service to the Byram Hills School District was recognized by the Board of Education at a June board meeting when 14 members of staff received longevity awards.

20-YEAR RECIPIENTS

Kenneth Dahlgren, bus monitor; Moira Danis, Coman Hill teacher; Assistant Superintendent William Donohue; BHHS Assistant Principal Jennifer Lamia; H. C. Crittenden teacher Marylee Liebowitz; Wampus teacher Barbara Salz.

25-YEAR RECIPIENTS

H. C. Crittenden teacher Cheryl Beck; Coman Hill teacher aides Maria Brosnahan and Ann Huff; Coman Hill teachers Linda Cantatore and Margery Morrow.

30-YEAR RECIPIENTS

BHHS custodian Dennis Cottiers; Coman Hill teacher Suann Dorfman.

40-YEAR RECIPIENT

H. C. Crittenden teacher Christine Pecora.

Transportation Facility Under Review

The administration and board of education continue to review options regarding the district's transportation facility in light of the community's rejection of a revised proposition in May.

"We are discussing options presented by the architects, but nothing has been finalized," says Assistant to the Superintendent Dick Lasselle. "There are many facets of the proposition that will need to be addressed," he adds.

The district is, however, taking on one priority over the summer and will be filling in the pit used to access the underside of vehicles. A portable vehicle lift will be used instead.

Mr. Lasselle says that the administration will continue to analyze various options for addressing the transportation facility needs and will discuss its findings with the board in the fall.

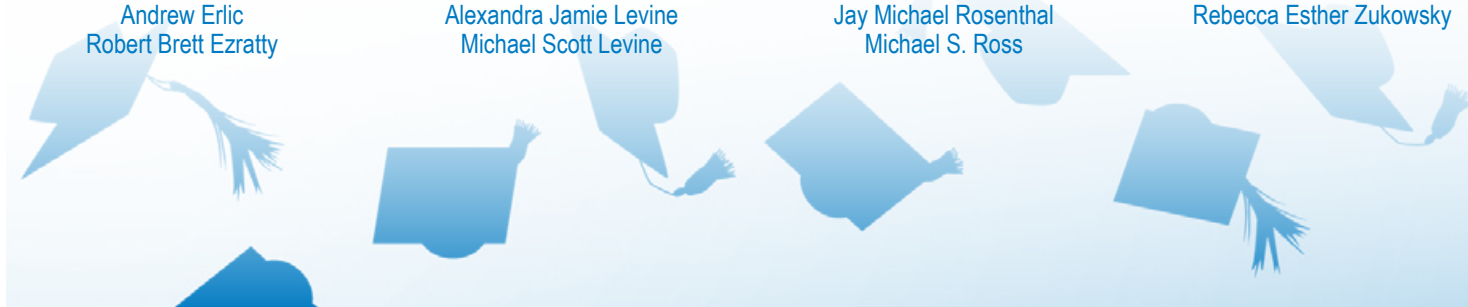
Congratulations to the 207 members of the Byram Hills High School Class of 2010

Antonella Lina Aceto
Danielle Sara Ahern
Chelsea Marie Banaszek
Leonard Baratta
Steven Ray Barker
Ryan Basmajian
Pedro Julio Batalla III
Lauren Elizabeth Benzie
Samantha Beresford
Lauren Julia Berlin
Riya Bhandari
Nina Larayne Biancardi
Steven Harris Blaser
Samantha Bleier
Dana Lee Braunschweiger
Matt Brazda
Nathan Paul Breidenbach
Alexander Harris Bricker
Frank Stephen Brigante
Robert Britz
Kara Elizabeth Brounstein
Amy Michelle Brown
Nicholas Ren-Jie Brown
Jessica Maria Anne Brusco
Charles Robert Bucher
Toni Marie Capriglione
Andrew Steven Cataldo
Rachel Elizabeth Cawkwell
Chris Cioffoletti
Victoria Rose Cipollone
Hannah Meryl Cohen
Amy Faye Conahan
Dylan Jacob Cooper
Julie Ann Costabile
Jonathan Louis Cziner
Michael A. D'Agostino
Jacquelyn Davis
Adriana DeCarlo
Lianna Simone Demeshulam
Elizabeth Anne Derish
John DiCapua
Samantha R. Dominguez
Jaclyn Margaux Dornfeld
Brett Daniel Dresner
Bryan Harrison Dunn
Kendall Ecker
Thomas Martins Elbling
Eric Elledias
Justin Hunter Engle
Victoria Marie Erickson
Andrew Eric
Robert Brett Ezratty

Nicole Alyssa Fallick
Casey Samantha Fang
Jake Adam Fedida
Greg Hugo Ferraro
Jordyn Elizabeth Fishman
Jesse Frankel
Jordan Carly Friedrichs
Ilana Bree Fromm
Danielle Nicole Gagliardi
Samantha Brooke Garson
Jordan Frank Gaudio
Michael Angelo Genkerell
William Gevertz
Sana Gilani
Jennifer Nicole Giustino
Michael Gladstein
Danielle Cohen Glassman
Matthew Alec Glatt
Stephen Goldring
Daniel Golematis
Dakota Jake Gordon
Dana Elizabeth Greene
Josh Reid Gropper
Lily Anne Gutterman
Evan J. Hahn
Jennifer Lauren Hammer
Chelsea Lynne Hammerschmidt
Andrew Ross Henick
Elliott C. Herz
Matthew E. Hicinbotham
Jenna Elizabeth Hogan
Nina Beryl Horowitz
Gillian Isabella Horwitz
Samuel Isaac Hougie
Alexander Jacobs
Ellie Anna Kantor
Julia Samantha Kasak
Brandon Katz
Jared Katz
Jason Douglas Kaufman
Stuart Oliver Kaufman
Jennifer Ann Kesten
Lily Simone Kosminsky
Dylan Lee Kravet
Michael La Greca
Alexis Victoria Lamper
Daniel Lampert
Brianna Keiko Larsen
Aaron Lawrence Lazarus
Matthew Scott Lerner
Alexandra Jamie Levine
Michael Scott Levine

Dayna Nicole Liso
Enrico Christopher Livanos
Daniel Harry Lohrfink
Evan Gray Lorberbaum
James Love
David G. Lubin
Eric R. Mainthow
Jacqueline Mamorsky
Joseph Christopher Mandel
Jillian Marie Mangi
John Whitelaw Markell
Sarah Ashley Marmon
Derek Maslin
Elizabeth Rice Mattison
Julia Rice Mattison
Loren Elizabeth McDaniels
Shawn Patrick McDonald
Bryn Victoria McKernan
Kacie Ann McNamara
Joshua Joseph Mendel
Jason Robert Mezzancello
Ari Migoya
Tara Millamena
Dylan Brett Mogil
Natasha Louise Moore
Gena Ann Morgis
Marjorie Faye Nisenholtz
Rachel Hope Occhiogrosso
Thomas Charles O'Connor
Nicholas James Olivo
Haley Sarah Orlofsky
Edward Paniccia
Michael John Partelow
Arjun Apurva Patel
Alison Leigh Petrillo
Elizabeth Ann Petrillo
Nicholas John Prisco
Bianca Pulsoni
Liridona Pushka
Danielle Jaye Raskin
Michael Rocco Reda
Dmitri Cole Restaino
Philip James Richardson
Jenna Lee Ritacco
Jennifer L. Romano
Philip Samuel Romano
Brandon Matthew Romanoff
Dana Leigh Rosen
Kyle Lusho Rosen
Jason Victor Rosenman
Jay Michael Rosenthal
Michael S. Ross

Matthew Joseph Rubel
Samba Saidy
Jordan David Salik
Jennifer Nicole Salko
Scott Jordan Sall
Steven Scarano
Kirsten Therese Scavone
Jackson William Scher
John Leo Shiboski, Jr.
Spencer Robert Schilsky
Ian Michael Schneider
Matthew Logan Schwartz
Ethan Tyler Sencer
Emily Lauren Sidoti
Jason M. Silva
Chelsea Paige Simens
Dean Simkins
Roshni Priya Singh
Renée Sluzhevsky
Gavin Luke Sokolof
Fletcher Williamson Stone
Sheryl Stoppelmann
Sharon Amanda Loise Strain
Annika Kristin Stridh
Samantha Nicole Tannor
Jamie Tarallo
Carmella Marie Tedeschi
Nikita Raj Tewani
Daniel Christopher Timm
Alyson Taylor Tsang
Christina Tsukalas
Alexandra Simone Vaccaro
Samantha Kelley Vartabedian
Marissa Rose Vega
Alexander Theodore Vellios
Joseph Carlo Violone
Evan T. Waldenberg
Brian Ross Weber
Liam Duffy Weiland
Joshua Weiner
Jane Sarah-Ann Weinstein
Alexa Werner
Jaime Marie Williams
Sarah Frances Winston
Olivia Tess Wittels
John Gregory Wolf
Raymond Xu
Sok Min Yun
David B. Zerman
Daniel Cole Zimmerman
Rebecca Esther Zukowsky



Wampus Fifth Graders Host Special Olympics

Two fifth grade classes hosted 19 special needs children to a day of fun activities at The Wampus School in June, giving them a special end-of-year treat. The mini Special Olympics has become a much-anticipated event for students in Janet Thompson and Mona Goodman's classes. The fifth graders staged a range of activities from storytelling to soccer to engage the visitors from Southern Westchester BOCES classes located

at the John Paulding School in Tarrytown and Hutchinson Elementary School in Pelham.

"These children are social so being with other children is really enjoyable for them," explained aide Diane Morgense. The day was just as meaningful for the Wampus students: "We had a lot of fun today," said Wampus' Elena Robustelli. "We didn't know kids with special needs before, so it was good to see how much they can do."



Wampus fifth grader Remi Assael jumps through hoops with Rajan Green.



Tyler Carlin (left) enjoys a joke with Megan Jusatiniamo.



Daniela Saglimbeni (right) preps a wiffle ball for Marie Kamumba and her aide, Diane Morgense.



Robbie Haber (right) gives Joshua Lambert some soccer tips.

2009-10 High School Awards

Boys/Girls State Delegates: An intensive citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion. Selected students are trained in democratic leadership and receive three college credits from the Regents.

Representing Armonk Post 1097:

Boys State: CONNOR BERLIN,
ELI BRODLIE, ANDREW MURPHY

Girls State: THERESA CARTHY,
CHLOE ZUNG

AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDERS AWARDS

Elwood Clark Memorial Award: Presented to a senior who demonstrates excellent citizenship with outstanding contribution to school and community service.

SAMANTHA TANNOR

Al Buonomo Memorial Award: Given to a student-athlete who demonstrates excellent citizenship, outstanding school spirit, and a true love for Byram Hills High School. This student must display a warm, friendly manner and show a genuine concern for the welfare of others.

CHELSEA HAMMERSCHMIDT

Roger Case Memorial Scholarship: Given to seniors for academic achievement and outstanding community service.

MICHAEL GENKERELL
JENNIFER HAMMER
IAN SCHNEIDER

John A. Lombardi Scholarship: Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding civic service and achievement.

HALEY ORLOFSKY

Armonk Lions Club Scholarship Awards:

Awarded to seniors for their outstanding, active public and/or community service during their high school years.

STEVEN BLASER ■ AMY BROWN

North Castle Police Benevolent Association Scholarship:

MICHAEL GENKERELL

The Amalia Ortiz Scholarship: Awarded to a senior who exhibits leadership ability, a love of teaching and learning, and consensus-building skills.

JENNIFER HAMMER

Yale University Book Award: Presented to a junior in recognition of outstanding character and intellectual promise with diverse skills and leadership qualities.

NICOLE POLLACK

Princeton University Book Award: Presented to an academically outstanding junior who demonstrates intellectual leadership and strong character.

ALEXANDER MARTINO

Dartmouth College Book Awards: Awarded to juniors who exhibit excellent academic achievement and who contribute to the extracurricular activities of the school.

KATHARINE LAMANTIA
GILBERT ROSENSTEIN

Wellesley College Book Award: Awarded to a junior outstanding in her academic performance, character, and contributions to school and/or community life.

LUCIA SAIDENBERG

George Washington University Book Award:

Presented to a junior who demonstrates excellence in civic engagement and a commitment to independent and creative thought.

MORGAN PORPORA

Clarkson University Achievement Awards:

Given to juniors having an academic interest in engineering, business, science, or liberal arts.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: KYLE CONDRON

LEADERSHIP AWARD: CAROLINE YU

Harvard Prize Book Awards: Given to outstanding juniors who display excellence in scholarship and high character.

JEFFREY MARCH
STEPHANIE STERN

St. Michael's College Book Awards for

Scholarship and Service: Given to juniors demonstrating sustained and sincere commitment to leadership roles in community service and achievement in academics.

Female: ILANA ROBBINS

Male: TIMOTHY GALLAGHER

University of Pennsylvania Book Award: Given to a junior with outstanding character and high academic achievement, who provides important service to school or community.

ALISON SCHWARTZ

University of Chicago Book Awards: Presented to juniors who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and scholarly research in a rigorous college preparatory program.

MAX DEUTSCH
MADELYN KLUGMAN

Smith College Book Award: Awarded to a junior who combines academic excellence with participation in extracurricular activities and a commitment to community service.

ELEANOR KAUFMAN

Bryant University Book Award: Awarded to a junior who possesses outstanding entrepreneurial spirit.

BENJAMIN GREENBERG

American Association of University Women – Outstanding Student Award:

JESSICA KATZ

Brandeis Book Award: Presented to a junior who demonstrates commitment to academics and service to his/her community.

ALANA DEUTSCH

Vassar College Book Award: Awarded to a junior who has made a unique and valuable contribution to the school or community and who has demonstrated both academic and personal qualities.

AMANDA FLETCHER

Syracuse University Book Award: Awarded to a junior who demonstrates both commitment to academic excellence and dedication to community involvement.

KRISTIN HASSELGREN

Sarah Lawrence College Book Awards: Given to junior women who exhibit a combination of excellent academic achievement, character, and an interest in writing.

TALIA BLOOM ■ ARIANA CROLL

University Scholars Book Awards: Awarded to juniors for excellence in academic achievement and outstanding contributions to school and community through extracurricular activities.

NICOLE ALLISON ■ SARAH BERGER
CONNOR BERLIN ■ ADAM KAUFMAN
JORDAN POLLACK

Colgate University Book Award: Given to a junior who has achieved high academic distinction and for leadership in school and community and who also exhibits a particular skill in public speaking or writing (creative or journalistic).

KAILA ALLISON

Emory University Book Award: Presented to an exemplary junior who uses their gifts and talents to positively impact the school and local community.

ELI BRODLIE

BHHS Art Award: GENA MORGIS

Senior Award—Commitment to the Arts:

RENEE SLUZHEVSKY



ENGLISH AWARDS

American Association of University Women – Excellence in Writing Award:

JAIME WILLIAMS

Senior English Awards: For outstanding senior English students.

MICHAEL LEVINE
ELIZABETH MATTISON

Brown University Book Award: Honors the junior who best combines academic excellence with clarity in written and spoken expressions:

RACHEL KAPLAN

Ed Walzer Writing Award:

LIRIDONA PUSHKA

WORLD LANGUAGE AWARDS

WORLD LANGUAGE AWARD: Honors the senior that has demonstrated a superior command of the language:

For general excellence in Italian:

JASON KAUFMAN

For general excellence in Spanish:

ELIZABETH MATTISON
JULIA MATTISON

For general excellence in French:

JENNIFER HAMMER

The Dual Language Award: Awarded to a senior that has demonstrated a superior command of two upper level languages.

SAMUEL HOUGIE

HEALTH EDUCATION AWARDS

HEALTH EDUCATION AWARDS: Awards are given to the two students who, over the current school year, exhibited outstanding characteristics of personal development and introspection as it relates to health education:

ALEXANDRA FRITZ
JACKSON MANN

SOCIAL STUDIES AWARDS

Columbia University Book Award: Awarded to an outstanding junior with a high degree of interest in Social Studies:

DAVID TAITZ

Social Sciences Award: Given to a senior who has shown exceptional growth in the field of Social Studies:

LILY GUTTERMAN

North Castle Historical Society Award: Given to a senior who has excelled in American History, European History, and/or the senior electives:

JULIA MATTISON

History and Social Studies Department Award:

Presented to a senior who is an outstanding and serious history scholar:

JENNIFER HAMMER

MATHEMATICS AWARDS

Student Recognition Program: For outstanding achievement in mathematics:

Outstanding Senior: GILLIAN HORWITZ,
RAYMOND XU

Outstanding Junior: JEFFREY MARCH

The Ken Hamilton Memorial Award: Given to a senior who has displayed exceptional skills in software design, programming, systems analysis, and hardware configuration and who demonstrates excellent understanding and appreciation of computer science:

JASON ROSENMAN

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Award: For outstanding achievement in math/science:

ALEXANDER MARTINO

SCIENCE AWARDS

Intel Science Talent Search Awards:

Finalist: RACHEL CAWKWELL

Semi-Finalists: JOHN DICAPUA,
LILY KOSMINSKY, IAN SCHNEIDER

Distinguished Service to Science Education

Award: These awards honor students who, through active leadership and scholarly endeavor over a significant period of time, have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of education in the sciences and science teaching.

GILLIAN HORWITZ
RACHEL OCCHIOGROSSO

Byram Hills Award: For excellence in science awarded to an outstanding senior:

RAYMOND XU

Bausch & Lomb Award: Presented to the outstanding junior science student:

MADELYN KLUGMAN

Byram Hills Award: For potential in science, awarded to an outstanding junior:

BENJAMIN GREENBERG

MUSIC AWARDS

The National School Orchestra Award: The highest honor bestowed upon a member of the high school orchestra to recognize excellence in playing and contributions to the ensemble:

ELIZABETH MATTISON
JULIA MATTISON

The John Philip Sousa National Band Award: In recognition of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, for singular merit in loyalty and cooperation, and for outstanding performance and dedication to participation in band work.

NINA HOROWITZ

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award: Presented to the outstanding senior members of the jazz band. The award is based upon performance, creativity, and dedication to the jazz program:

NATHAN BREIDENBACH
JACKSON SCHER

MUSIC AND THEATER

The National Choral Award:

SAMANTHA TANNOR

Outstanding Career Contribution to the Theater Program:

JASON ROSENMAN ■ JANE WEINSTEIN

Laura Branigan Memorial Scholarship: Awarded to a senior for excellence in the performing arts. The award is presented in memory of Laura Branigan, BHHS class of 1970, and is intended to encourage a career in the performing arts.

NIKITA TEWANI

BOBCAT TV Award: SHABY KATZ

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AWARDS

SEZ (Southeastern Zone) Awards:

Male: ALEXANDER BRICKER,
ADAM MCAULEY

Female: CHELSEA BANASZEK,
VICTORIA ERICKSON

BHHS Sportspersons of the Year:

Male: CHRISTOPHER CIOFFOLETTI

Female: JENNA HOGAN

Lynn Rosenthal Memorial Award: Female scholar/athlete of the year:

RACHEL CAWKWELL

Wm. A. McCoy, Jr., Memorial Award: Male Scholar/Athlete of the year:

DEAN SIMKINS

PTSA Caruolo Leadership Award: Granted to a senior on the basis of leadership, character, dedication, loyalty, humanity, and interest in education.

ANDREW CATALDO

Hy Blatte-Jack Wollenberg Memorial Award:

Goes to a senior who has a humanitarian outlook, a willingness to extend herself for others, and an optimistic approach to life and its challenges.

CHELSEA BANASZEK

Four Recognized for Exceptional Work

In its 29-year tradition of recognizing teachers who go beyond the expected bounds of teacher performance, the Byram Hills School District honored four educators at a board meeting in June with Teacher of the Year Awards.

High school choral teacher **Adam Shatraw** is recognized for his enthusiasm and dedication both in his classroom and for the extra-curricular activities he leads. "He has become an invaluable member of our school community, capable of challenging and supporting his students to exceed expectations," says high school principal Chris Borsari.

Mr. Shatraw's theater program is probably the area with which he is most closely associated. The extra-curricular program is noted for its diversity of productions and inclusive focus. But he wears several other hats as well: As Theater Manager, he coordinates sound and lighting issues for numerous high school events, and he has served as a mentor teacher for several years. Mr. Shatraw also founded the Jazz Choir, which now makes regular, and popular, appearances at school and community events.

Beyond the walls of BHHS, Mr. Shatraw has facilitated the alignment of the 5-12 choral curriculum, and, for the past two years, he served as the Zone Representative to the NYSSMA organization. In this capacity, he organized more than 1,800 area music students who attended the spring NYSSMA festival at Byram Hills.

Grade seven social studies teacher **Stacey Iskowitz** received the Teacher of the Year Award for H. C. Crittenden. An active member of the middle school staff, Mrs. Iskowitz is committed to the continued development of curriculum and has implemented diverse approaches to teaching and curricular design. She is committed to continued learning to enhance her own teaching skills and, among other classes, participated in the Facing History and Ourselves workshop for four years.

An attendee of the Education for Sustainability program, Mrs. Iskowitz spent the past school year implementing

sustainability lessons embedded into the present social studies curriculum.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Iskowitz serves as one of the 7th grade Spaghetti Dinner coordinators, working to raise funds for the 8th grade annual trip to Washington, D.C., and is co-advisor of the school news publication *The Critter*, which was

recently awarded a first place by the American Scholastic Press Association. Mrs. Iskowitz is also the lead organizer for Crittenden's participation in Lee National Denim Day, to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Ken Pearson received the 2009-10 award at Wampus, where his musical talent is shared with all students: He teaches third grade general music, fourth and fifth grade string lessons, and fifth grade orchestra.

For the past four years, Mr. Pearson has served as facilitator of the district's study group on cultural proficiency, a district goal, and has attended workshops to learn more about the process of developing the district's understanding of celebrating different cultures.

Wampus principal Barbara Topiol says Mr. Pearson is a key player in bringing together the school's iCARE character education program with the cultural proficiency initiative. "His sensitive nature and wisdom has helped us raise our awareness and navigate uncharted waters

utilizing a respectful and responsive approach," she says.

Kindergarten teacher and Coman Hill award recipient **Leisa Palmer** is "creative, enthusiastic, and passionate," says Coman Hill principal Carol Fisher. She has a gift for bringing real-life experiences into the classroom in an engaging, hands-on, and age-appropriate setting.

A volunteer member of the district's action research study group, Mrs. Palmer undertook a research project of her own, looking into phonics/phonemic awareness. She has also been a member of Coman Hill's cultural proficiency study group, facilitating faculty in learning about tolerance, acceptance, and differences as they relate to teaching children. Mrs. Palmer has a knack for integrating the reading and writing curriculum with technology to create experiences for her students that they will never forget.



2009-2010 Teacher of the Year Awardees: from left, Ken Pearson from Wampus, Leisa Palmer from Coman Hill, H.C. Crittenden's Stacey Iskowitz, and the high school's Adam Shatraw.

Spring Sports – A Season of Firsts

★ **Four notable “firsts”** made their way into the Byram Hills record books after the spring athletic season, headlining another successful and busy season for district athletes in which 45 students received athletic honors and six teams won state scholar-athlete recognition.

For the first time in school history, Byram Hills took the state championship in boys doubles tennis; a Byram Hills student won the girls sectional golf title; and girls lacrosse (15-1) was undefeated League champions and, also a first, secured the #1 seed in the Sectional tournament. ★

★ **The boys tennis team** (12-2) tied for a league championship and won the Conference title. Senior Kyle Rosen and junior Jordan Kaufman won the Conference and Section 1 doubles championship and became the first doubles team in school history to win the New York State Doubles Tennis Championship.

★ **Junior Hayley Kaplan** became the first female golfer in school history to win the Sectional golf title. She and freshman Alex Grimaldis qualified for States.

★ **The boy's golf team** saw senior Stu Kaufman take his third trip to States, finishing second in Section 1, and 15th in New York State.

★ **Playing in the toughest league in Section 1**, the baseball team worked its way into the Sectionals for a third consecutive year. The players also served as buddies in the Miracle League of Westchester, which gives children in wheelchairs the opportunity to play baseball.

★ **In track and field**, senior Chris Cioffoletti won the 3,000-meter steeplechase Sectional Championship, as did the 3,200-meter relay team of seniors Jamie Love, Chris Cioffoletti, and Liam Weiland; and sophomore Brendan Cutler. Senior Shawn McDonald established a new school record in the javelin with a throw of 165' 1" and freshman Lauren Perschetz established a new school record in the 2,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 7:30.9 seconds.

★ **The boy's lacrosse team** got off to a quick start with a couple of big program wins and tough games against nationally ranked opponents. They made their way to the quarterfinals of the Sectional tournament, where they lost to Bronxville in a well played, intense match-up.

★ **Senior Dean Simkins** received the Diamond 9 Award, given to a Westchester County baseball player who has shown exemplary performance in the classroom and on the field.

★ **Six teams earned the New York State Scholar-Athlete recognition** for maintaining a 90-plus average: tennis, boys golf, boys and girls track and field, and boys and girls lacrosse.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students for earning athletic honors as follows:

BASEBALL

All Section: David Zerman

All League: David Zerman,
Dean Simkins, Chris
Lattarulo, Zac Shechtman

All League Honorable Mention:
Tim Sroka

**Conference III League B
Comeback Player of the Year:**
David Zerman

BOYS GOLF

**All League, All Section, All
Conference:** Stu Kaufman

GIRLS GOLF

All Section and All League:

Alex Grimaldis,
Haley Kaplan

All League Honorable Mention:
Christianna Wymbs,
Haley Orlofsky

BOYS LACROSSE

All Section, All League:

Daniel Lohrfink
All Section HM and All League:
Andrew Larrabee,
Jordan Pollack

GIRLS LACROSSE

All Elite: Sam Beresford,
Alex Fritz

All Elite Honorable Mention:
Sharon Strain

All Section: Alex Fritz

All League: Lauren Benzie,
Sam Beresford, Katie Byrne,
Alex Fritz, Dani Glassman,
Claudia Hammerschmidt,
Helen Rosen, Sharon Strain
All League Honorable Mention:
Kailey Burke,
Sam Dominguez

SOFTBALL

All League: Rachel Boyle,
Jenny Sroka

TENNIS

**All State, All Section, All
League:** Jordan Kaufman,
Kyle Rosen

All Section, All League:
Matt Billet, Mike Levine,
Alex Meyer
All League: Kyle Berman



Photo by Phyllis Rosen

New York State and Federation
Champions Jason Kaufman (left) and
Kyle Rosen at the USTA National Tennis
Center in Queens.

TRACK AND FIELD

All League: Renata Leone
(1,500-meter walk), PJ
Bugbee (triple jump), James
Schuler (pole vault), Shawn
McDonald (javelin)

All League Honorable Mention:
Jessica Katz (pole vault);
Alison Davis, Cari Winkler,
Lauren Riggs, Diandra Liso
(4 x 400 m relay); Lauren
Riggs (400 m); Chris Ramsey
(triple jump); Chris Cioffoletti
(3,200 m); Lauren Perschetz
(1,500 m and 3,000 m); Peter
Reynolds (discus).



Byram Hills School District
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Our Mission

In an environment of mutual respect, the Byram Hills School District and its community will provide students with the means, the knowledge, and the opportunity to excel in order to become productive and responsible citizens of the twenty-first century.

"A great place to learn."

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Crittenden Leos Get Personal Tour of Guiding Eyes Kennels

It was a day that contained at least one "first" and a "last" and a slew of inspiring lessons about loyalty and overcoming life's challenges. Members of the H.C. Crittenden Middle School VIP/Leo Club were recently treated to a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Guiding Eyes for the Blind kennels in Yorktown. And the 20 four-legged, expertly trained, soon-to-be graduates of Guiding Eyes truly lived up to the moniker of being man's (and woman's) best friend. Just ask sixth grade VIP member Tommy Formicola and his family. For the first time in his life, Tommy petted a dog. "I can't believe it!" was his mom's reaction when she saw a photograph of her son with the yellow lab.

And according to VIP advisor Cheryl Beck, the club's visit was the last chance for the animals to socialize and romp with visitors on their home turf before leaving the facility and being matched with new owners to start a new



Tommy Formicola (center right) overcame his fear of dogs during a recent visit by the VIP/Leo Club members to the kennels for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Also enjoying the dogs was seventh grader Alison Bidjarano (left), Paul Erlanger, and Bessie Jiang.

Photo by Cheryl Beck

life as "working" guides. While the students mingled with the dogs, a visually impaired visitor to the Guiding Eyes facility shared how, after gradually losing her eyesight, a working dog transformed her life. They also learned that guide dogs are being used to help autistic children gain socialization skills and lead more independent lives. Upon graduation, the newfound furry friends of the Crittenden students were to be assigned to high school- and college-age young people.

The VIP Club, which is affiliated with the Lions Club – hence "Leo" – organizes community service activities throughout the school year.

This has been a particularly active year for the students, who, among other projects, collected toys for children whose mothers are at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facilities as well as health kits for disaster relief, oversaw school grounds clean-up, and sent Valentines to veterans.