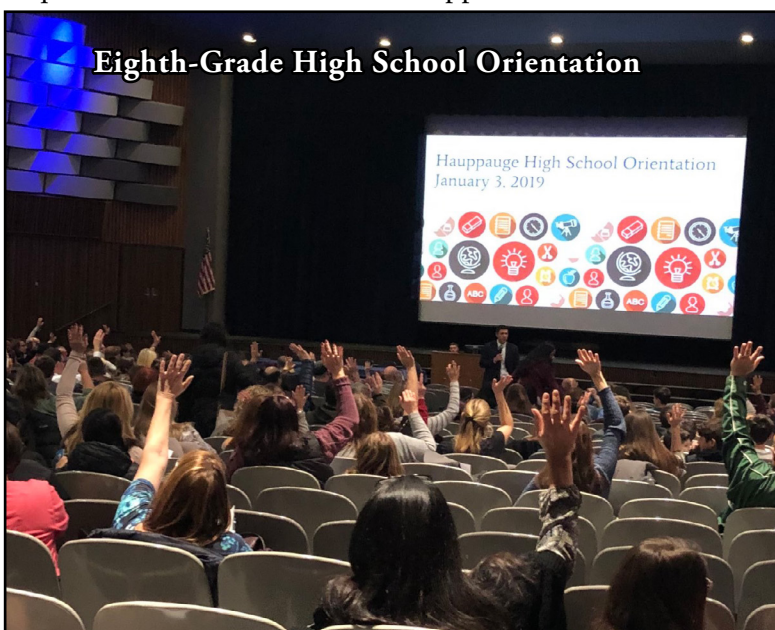




*An Environment for Effective Teaching & Learning Volume 2, Issue 15 1/11/19*

## THE CLASS OF 2023 IS GETTING READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL!

On Thursday, January 3rd, Hauppauge Middle School eighth-graders attended a special “High School Orientation.” They were invited, along with their parents, to come to this event to learn about high school courses, graduation requirements and extra-curricular opportunities that will be available to them in high school.



**Eighth-Grade High School Orientation**

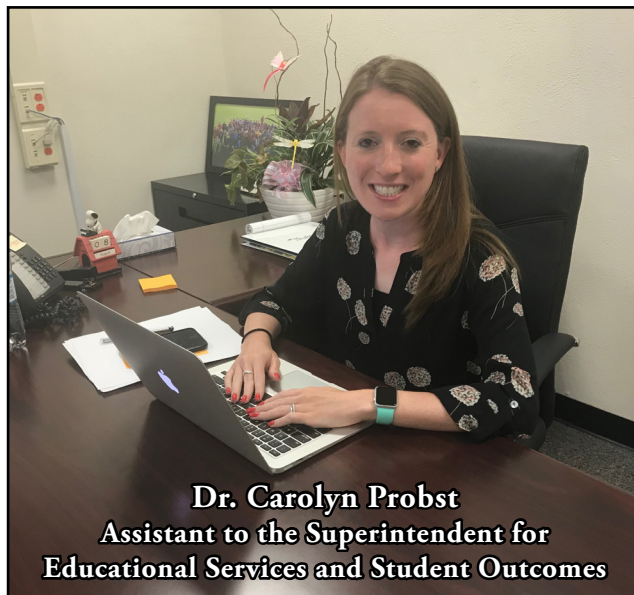
This presentation is the work of Dr. Carolyn Probst, Assistant to the Superintendent for Educational Services and Student Outcomes and Christopher Cook, High School Principal. Their presentation included information on not only what students can expect in high school, but also on the preparations that will be needed in order for them to continue on to and be successful in college. They were joined by Greg Foster, ninth-grade counselor at the high school, and a panel of 11 high school students who spoke about their involvement in school and answered questions from students and parents in the audience.

Students and parents learned that colleges attributed different levels of importance to factors in admission decisions. Grades in college prep courses, grades in all courses and the strength of curriculum

had considerable high importance placed on them by college admissions for first-time Freshmen.

College Admissions look at “The Rigor Index” which looks at the number of advanced courses taken vs. the number of advanced courses offered. The Freshman year is the beginning of everything and colleges start there.

Freshmen are encouraged to get involved in sports, clubs and anything else they have an interest in. They are also encouraged to push themselves academically. They should seek help when needed and build relationships with their teachers. Then, as they move onto their Sophomore year, students are encouraged to do more of the same. They should take AP (Advanced Placement) courses and choose those courses wisely. They can then begin to take stock of their interests, preferences and develop an understanding of the different types of colleges out there.



**Dr. Carolyn Probst**  
Assistant to the Superintendent for  
Educational Services and Student Outcomes

There are many tools available to students in high school. “Naviance Family Connection” is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps districts and schools align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life. As stated on the Naviance website, “Connecting students’ interests to their potential career paths early ensures active participation in their own academic success and opens their eyes to the wide world of career opportunities. The career planning tools in Naviance allow students to understand how their strengths, goals, skills and interests can lead to exciting careers.” Students create a personalized



**Christopher Cook**  
Principal  
Hauppauge High School



**Greg Foster**  
Ninth Grade Guidance Counselor  
Hauppauge High School

plan that helps them make the right decisions throughout their academic journey.

The eighth-graders also learned that high school students have access to “My College Timeline” which is a program where they complete tasks throughout high school on a timeline in order to get prepped for college.

Another part of this presentation included what 11th and 12th grade expectations looked like with regard to taking AP (Advanced Placement) and IB (International Baccalaureate) courses. Both AP and IB are rigorous courses that colleges like to see on high school transcripts. They are the most rigorous courses that Hauppauge High School offers and are excellent preparation for college. Any student can take AP or IB courses as long as he or she has met any prerequisites for that course and feels capable of the level of academic performance required for these college-level courses. The SAT, ACT and Common Application are all a part of those years.

By the time their Junior year rolls around, students learn that their high school transcript will have taken shape. Students will also at this time begin seeking recommendations; two teacher recommendations and one guidance counselor. These will be important components in telling the student’s story for college admissions.

As it stands right now, many students in the “Class of 2019” have received early acceptance on their college applications. See the box below which lists all of these schools.

Eighth-graders should look ahead regarding getting involved in high school. There are over 30 co-curricular clubs available, as well as a wide array of athletic teams. There are also many school events that continue throughout the year.

Just before school begins, incoming Freshman are invited to participate in the “Ignition” 9th grade transition program. This program is led by Mr. Foster and Ms. Braun and reaches every single 9th grade student. Upper-class mentors provide support in structured settings throughout the school year. The program begins at the August orientation and spans the entire year. Students can apply to be mentors after grade 9.

Dr. Probst has prepared a very informative book to help the 8th graders transition into high school. It is the “Hauppauge High School Ninth Grade Entry Guide.” [You can click here to view it.](#) It includes detailed information on the topics presented at the eighth grade Orientation.

Be sure to keep informed on upcoming events that are offered to students who are entering high school and already in high school. There will be an “IB Night” on Thursday, January 24th at 7 pm in the high school auditorium. Information on upcoming events is always available on our website.





## **“NATURAL HELPERS” ARE ALL ABOUT SHARING THEIR SKILLS TO HELP OTHERS**

Natural Helpers is a club at Hauppauge High School. The advisors for this club are Shannon Griffin, High School Social Worker and Greg Foster, ninth-grade Counselor.

Natural Helpers is a program designed to support and educate students to help their peers. The theory behind this group is that often kids will go to peers with a problem before seeking out adults. By identifying students who are resources to their friends and training them on topics such as communication skills, limit setting and crises management, you are providing them with necessary tools and an understanding of how to better manage peer situations.

All Natural Helpers are provided with information on school and community resources that can be shared when and if needed. All Natural Helpers must be selected and invited to participate. They are identified through an anonymous school-wide survey. After representatives of all the subgroups in the school community are selected, they are invited to participate in the Natural Helpers program. They take part in a Retreat Training in a camp-like setting. There they learn how to improve their helping skills, how to contact professional helping resources when problems exceed their limits and how to take better care of themselves. It is constantly emphasized at the training that Natural Helpers are not professionally trained therapists or counselors.

After the retreat training, Natural Helpers attend ongoing training, either in a semester class or in a less structured format. This ongoing training enhances basic skills and information covered in the retreat training and explores topics of concern to students such as stress, suicide, eating disorders and relationships with family and friends.

Recently, the club welcomed back about 20 alumni to one of their Natural Helper meetings. The alumni spoke to present students about life after high school.

Our Hauppauge school community is very blessed to have this giving and dedicated group of students ready to assist when and where needed.









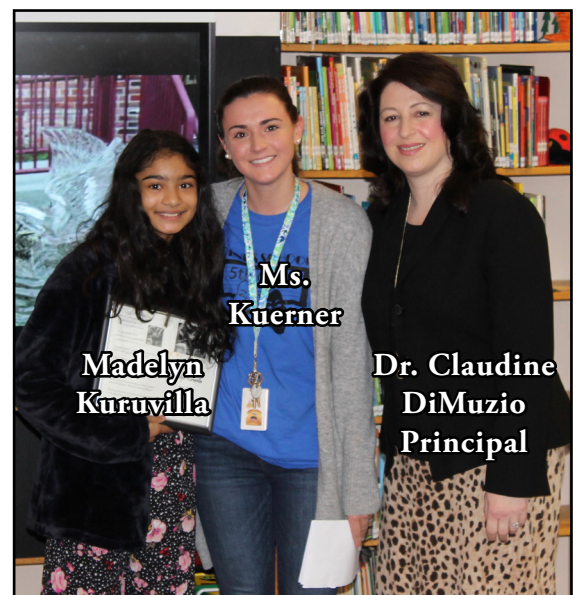
# PINES STUDENTS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR “MAKING A DIFFERENCE”

At Pines Elementary School they have a meaningful tradition of recognizing students who have been nominated by their staff for “Making A Difference” throughout their school community. Throughout the school year, staff members nominate students who they want to recognize for “Making a Difference” at Pines. These nominations are then reviewed and voted upon by Site Based Management Team members. Once a nomination is approved by this committee, the students and their parents receive an invitation to attend the next scheduled “Making A Difference” ceremony.

The first ceremony of the 2018-2019 school year was held on Friday, January 4th. Six students were recognized for going above and beyond in their school responsibilities by exhibiting behaviors that positively contributed to their school community. At this ceremony, a short video clip titled, “A Starfish Story,” was shown to their guests after a brief introduction of the process by Dr. DiMuzio. Each nominating staff member was asked to describe the specific actions that each student had demonstrated in order to receive this recognition. Students were presented with a framed certificate and photos from this ceremony are displayed on the “Making A Difference” bulletin board, which is located outside of the Main Office.

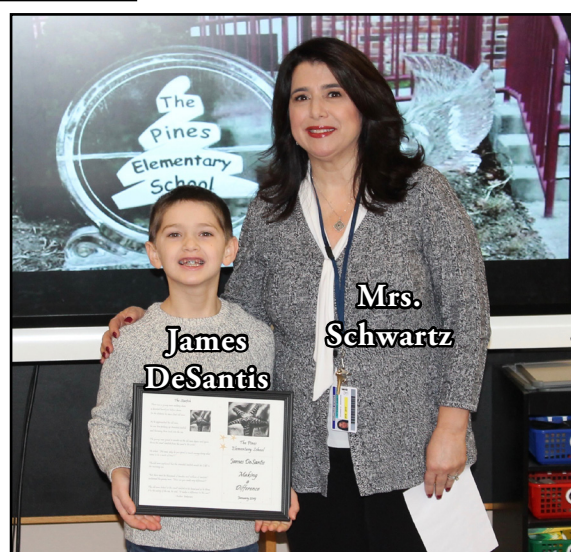
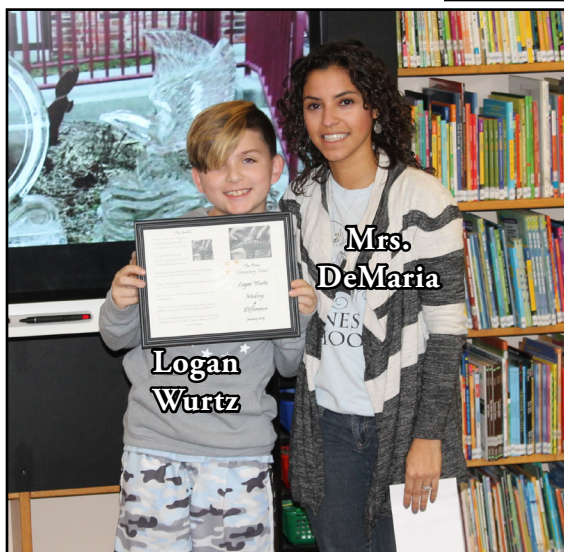
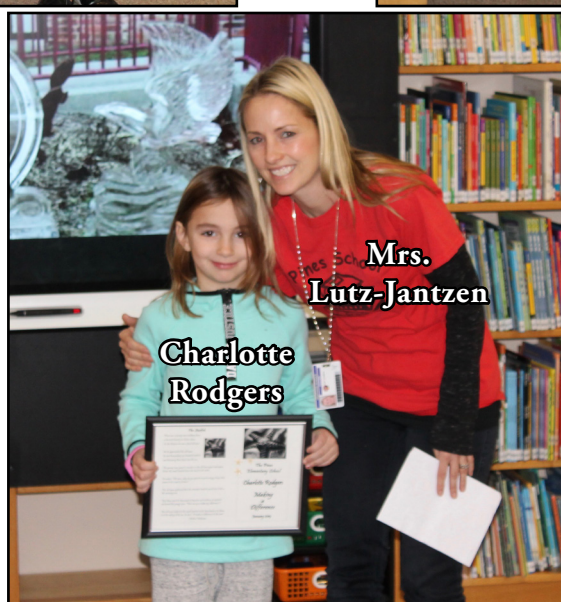
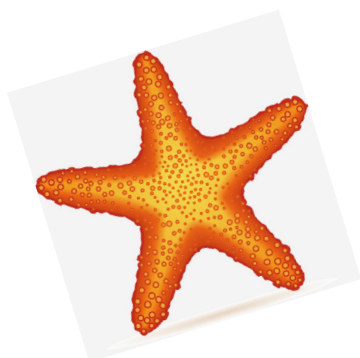
Since its inception over a decade ago, this program has proudly recognized numerous students for their genuine acts of kindness. Pines’ belief is that cultivating kindness should be a priority at their school and that this ceremony is a vital part of their work in encouraging these continued acts of kindness.

Congratulations to all of the students who have received this special recognition!





## More photos of “Making A Difference” recipients and their teachers





## HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER HONORED FOR HIS INFUSION OF TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CLASSROOM

Hauppauge High School teacher, Frank Hufnagel was honored yesterday by ASSET and is the recipient of the “Bright Light” award “in recognition of his valuable contributions to education through the use of technology in the Hauppauge School District.” He was nominated by fellow teacher, Doreen Gordon, Director of Social Studies and Business at Hauppauge High School.

Mr. Hufnagel has taught at Hauppauge High School since September of 2003. He currently teaches a wide variety of classes in the business department. He is also the School to Career Coordinator. Through this role, Mr. Hufnagel monitors the General Education Work Experience Program which is a great opportunity for students to earn school credit while they work part-time. Mr. Hufnagel is also a co-chair of the School to Career Advisory Board in which he works with parents, local businesses and students to organize and run several different programs offered to students.

Mr. Hufnagel also serves as the DECA advisor at the high school in which students compete in a variety of events at the county, state and international levels.

ASSET, the Association of Suffolk Supervisors for Educational Technologies, exists to enhance teaching and learning in Long Island and New York School Districts through the use of computers and other educational technologies by encouraging the integration of technology into the curriculum and ensuring that students are provided with the educational opportunities necessary to prepare them for careers and college. ASSET members have a purpose to enhance teaching and learning, provide members with opportunities to share ideas and information relating to instructional, administrative and management technologies in education and to provide high standards of supervision and leadership in the area of educational technologies.

Mrs. Gordon nominated Mr. Hufnagel to receive this award. Here are her words:

*“Frank Hufnagel is an educator who continues to grow and learn. Frank is a teacher in Hauppauge High School’s business department and the advisor of DECA. He has taught all levels of business education where he infuses technology into all of his classes.*

*A few years ago when Hauppauge moved to the Google Suite for education he became a Google Certified Educator and has used his skills to assist other teachers and students. He was one of the first teachers in the district to use Google Classroom and now notes how he “doesn’t know how he organized his classes without it.”*

*Last year, the Business Department added Coding 1 and Coding 2 to our course offerings. As the most senior teacher in the department he could have passed this onto another teacher but rather took on the challenge of learning what the KidOYO platform could offer to our students. Not only did he learn about KidOYO, but he has surpassed many teachers from all areas in earning badges as well as expanding his knowledge that he shares with his students. This summer he lead a bridge course on coding and encouraged more students to join this elective coding class. His prowess at earning badges had one of the designers of the KidOYO platform write to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, asking, “Who is this guy and does he ever sleep?”*

*All of these attributes demonstrate Frank’s willingness to learn, challenge himself and take on new assignments to aid his students in having the best chance of being college and career ready. Additionally he leads our School to Career Business Advisory Board. His General Education Work Experience (GEWEP) course is done virtually and he has encountered success which provides our high school students an opportunity to experience online coursework.*

*Frank Hufnagel is a teacher to be admired and recognized he is most deserving of this award.”*





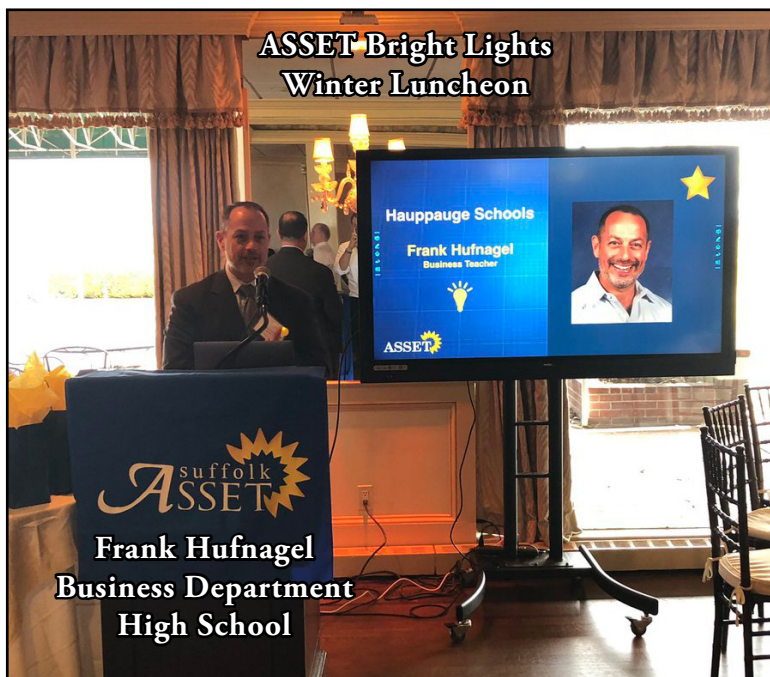
Mr. Hufnagel gave the following speech after receiving his award:

*"The students of Hauppauge are fortunate to be in a district that understands the importance of technology and the role it will play for each and every one of us. When Hauppauge adopted the OYO platform for students to learn coding, it gave every student an opportunity to discover what it means to be a coder. Last year when our school offered IB Computer Science for the first time, the teachers used the platform as a backbone to the class. However as the class went on it was determined that there was a missing element for the students.*

*I worked with Mrs. Gordon, Mr. McCarthy, and Dr. Murphy to determine that my Web Design course would be better served as an introduction to Coding class for all students to take but in turn act as a pre-requisite for future IB Computer Science students. I took several days of workshops with OYO mentors and spent countless number of hours learning python so I could be prepared to teach the new courses that we offered in September. I am writing curriculum for both our Coding I and Coding II classes and continue to create challenges that both assess and push our students.*

*My hope that the Coding courses and my apparent passion for the coding excite the students and push them to the level of self-discovery that I strive for. I get excited when I get a notification at 10 p.m. or during a vacation break that a student just submitted a challenge. I look forward to students continuing their education in this field and am grateful that Hauppauge has such a commitment to the field."*

Congratulations to Mr. Hufnagel on this outstanding achievement.





# "TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

Michelle Beutel  
Grade 3  
Bretton Woods Elementary School



Why did you want to become a teacher?

*I knew from a very early age that I wanted to be a teacher. I loved everything about my elementary school and I would always play "teacher" with my friends. My neighbor was a teacher and she used to give me her old teacher editions to play with. I even had a real chalkboard on a stand too! I often subjected my little brother to being my student!*

Where did you go to college?

*I graduated from SUNY Cortland.*

What did you like about college?

*My four years at Cortland were some of the best years of my life. I met amazing people along the way, many of whom I am still friends with today. Being away at college offered me the opportunity to gain confidence and grow into the person I am today.*

What is the best part of your job?

*Connecting with students and watching them grow as learners and individuals. Third-graders are so enthusiastic about learning and it is contagious! It is important to me that my students love coming to school. Students learn best in an environment that they're comfortable in and I love to make that happen!*

How long have you been teaching?

*I began teaching in Hauppauge in 1996. I started as a Kindergarten teacher and actually had a piano in my room back then! I took a few years off to stay home with my children, but I returned in 2005. I have been in third grade ever since.*

Do you have any traditions or superstitions regarding the first day of school?

*I'm not a superstitious person so I don't have any traditions or superstitions for the first day of school. However, even after all these years, I still get those first day jitters!*

What makes a good day at school for you?

*A good day at school for me definitely includes laughter. My third-graders make my day so interesting! They tell the best stories and I love how every day is different and unpredictable. I also work with wonderful people. My third grade colleagues here at Bretton Woods are fantastic. I couldn't ask to work with a better group of people.*

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

*This year I am very proud of the growth my students have made in writing. This year, my group has an amazing enthusiasm toward writing. Their narrative pieces were impressive! They actually groan when we have to put our writer's notebooks away!*



How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

*My students and I have enjoyed using many of the technology resources Hauppauge offers. My students especially love using SeeSaw to demonstrate their understanding of concepts. I'm lucky to have Chromebooks in my classroom so that I can choose to incorporate technology daily into my classroom through a variety of ways.*

If you could sit in on another teachers class for a day, who would it be and why?

*I would spend the day in Veronica Weeks and Tara Dungate's room. I'm literally fascinated by all of the animals in there! I would also love spending a day in a current Kindergarten room; I'd love to see how much Kindergarten has changed over the years.*

Is there a piece of wisdom you would pass on to your students?

*If I could pass a piece of wisdom on to my students it would be to find your passion and pursue it. Be curious. Ask questions. Be happy.*

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would it be?

*I would take them to Sedona, Arizona. It is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. I traveled there with my own family years ago and my children still talk about how peaceful that place made them feel. Everyone should experience its beauty.*

What is one of your best memories of being a student?

*My best memories as a student are the ones where teachers really made learning fun. My 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Finnegan, taught us all about Long Island history. She incorporated all kinds of projects into her teaching. We illustrated pictures for patches of a class quilt about Long Island and then she stitched them together by hand. It was raffled off at the end of the year. My 11th grade teacher, Mr. Cangero, also stands out to me. He had a unique way of connecting to every student and making them feel so important. He loved teaching and that made all the difference.*

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

*A favorite thing about my classroom is the energy from the students and teachers who enter it each day.*

What advice would you give to new teachers?

*My advice for new teachers would be to take it one day at a time and enjoy all the small moments. I'd also recommend that new teachers make friends with the secretarial and custodial staff. They know everything and are a tremendous help!*

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

*Students might be surprised to know that I did TV commercials as a kid. I did a Stridex commercial, a Panasonic commercial and a Dr. Pepper one too. My students are also always surprised to find out that I can still do flips on a trampoline!*

What word would describe you best when you were a student?

*As a student I was conscientious. I always put my schoolwork first. I never made excuses.*



Do you have any favorite books you would recommend to students to read?

*One book I would recommend to students is The Butterfly House by Eve Bunting. Raising butterflies is something I really enjoy and this book has beautiful illustrations. The other book I would recommend is The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. I read this book with my son when he was in 4th grade. This book sparked his love of reading.*

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

*I was 22 years old when I was hired at Hauppauge Schools. I feel fortunate to work here. I have met so many wonderful families, friends and colleagues along my journey. Hauppauge Schools is a second home to me.*

Thank you Mrs. Beutel for a wonderful interview!

The “Teacher Spotlight” will be a continuing series in “Horizons.” We look forward to hearing about more of our wonderful Hauppauge teachers!

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## BRETTON WOODS NAMES WINNERS OF LIBRARY BOOKMARK CONTEST

Here are the 2019 winners of Bretton Woods’ annual “Library Bookmark Contest.” This school-wide contest gives students the opportunity to design a bookmark that will be used in the school library during a specific month. The winners pictured with Mrs. McParland the librarian are:

Riley Bonilla - January

Sahasra Singireddy - February

Sabrina Fazio - March

Aryanna Ress - April

Julia Mannarino - May

Owen Mallon - September

Gabriella DeNicola - October

Aditri Arun - November

Juliette Seltzer - December

Samantha Lograsso - Honorable Mention - December

## 2019 BOOKMARK WINNERS!





# LOOK UP IN THE SKY!!! IT'S "READERMAN" FLYING INTO BRETTON WOODS FOR A "SUPER READING CELEBRATION!"

Bretton Woods Kindergarten students ended their "Super Powers" reading unit on Friday, January 11th with a reading celebration! The Kindergartners participated in a grade-wide reading workshop. Their favorite reading Superhero, "Readerman," made a guest appearance and helped to run the workshop.

The children practiced using reading super powers as they did private reading. They worked very hard and showed that their reading powers have been activated! They can read through even tricky books when they use their persistence power!

Super Readers possess many super powers. They have **pointer power**. By pointing to words, Super Readers can identify words and letters. **Sound power** allows Super Readers to sound out the letters to form words. Super Readers possess **re-read power** which allows them to reinforce their understanding of what they have already read. **Picture power** comes in handy by giving hints to the Super Readers as to what words are with the pictures. Super Readers share **partner power**. They can put their heads together to read the words on the page. **Pattern power** lets Super

Readers understand words and reading by seeing similar patterns in their reading. Super Readers possess **persistence power**. They don't give up. They try all the powers again and again to reach their goal. **Snap word power** allows Super Readers to flesh out sentences with words they see a lot, like "I," "the," and "can." **Talk power** helps Super Readers understand their reading by sharing what they have read with others. All these powers add up to the most valuable power, **thinking power**!

A special thanks to "Readerman" for stopping by. The children loved it!







Readerman Vist at  
Bretton Woods Elementary



Readerman is Awesome!



Super Reader!



Super Reader!



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