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## **HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM EARNS MEDALS, 5TH PLACE OVERALL SCHOOL AND A TRIP TO THE NYS COMPETITION IN MARCH!**

The Hauppauge High School Science Olympiad Team, led by Briana Becker and Dennis Petercsak, was the 5th place overall school at this past Saturday's Eastern Long Island Regional Science Olympiad Competition! Students won 12 medals and the team qualified to go to the New York State Competition from March 15th to 16th.

Here are all the medal winners below! Congratulations to the team! GO EAGLES!

### Chemistry Lab

Jalaj Mehta and Melody Cheng - 7th

### Circuit Lab

Andrew Ge and Owen Kells - 8th

### Code Busters

Andrew Ge, Owen Kells and Shivani Rao - 7th

### Designer Genes

Danielle Liu and Noah Schwartzapfel - 5th

### Disease Detectives

Jalaj Mehta and Alex Vasilakopoulos - 5th

### Fermi Questions

Emma Vasilakopoulos and Alex Vasilakopoulos - 5th

### Forensics

Jalaj Mehta and Shivani Rao - 7th

Noah Schwartzapfel and Aaryan Chandra - 10th

### Fossils

Sai Munagavalasa and Tyler Xu - 4th

### Mission Possible

Elliot Klayman and Sree Karthikeyan - 3rd

### Mousetrap Vehicle

Rachel Ma and Elliot Klayman - 3rd

### Sounds of Music

Owen Kells and Tyler Xu - 5th

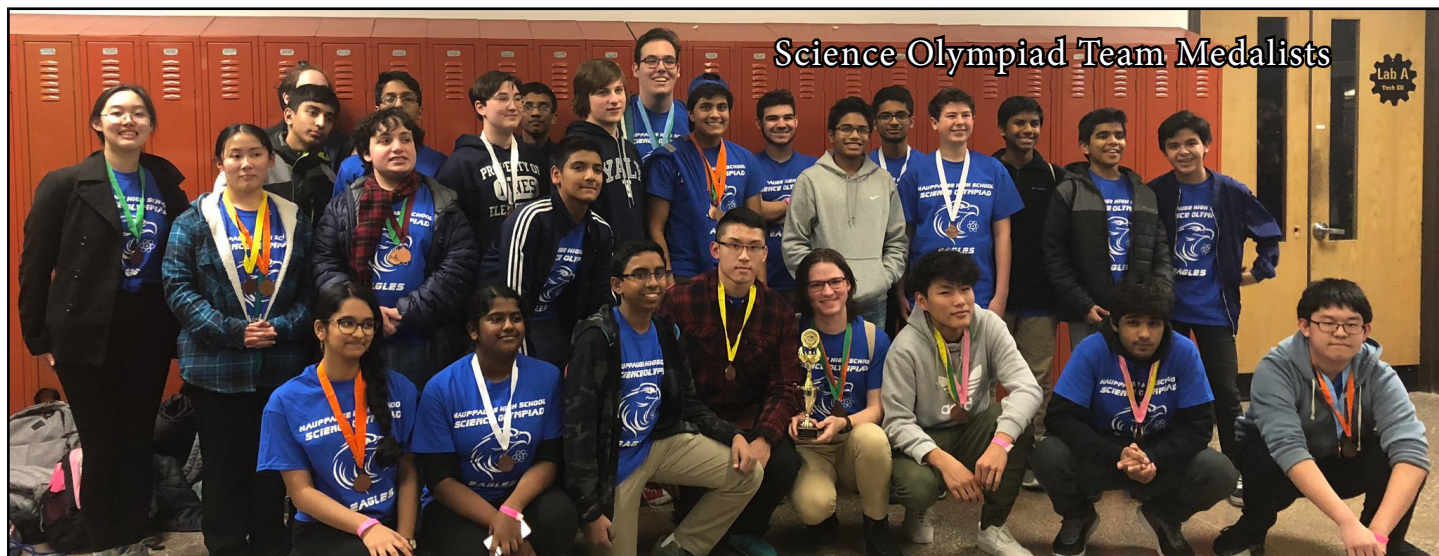
### Water Quality

Sai Munagavalasa and Tyler Xu - 9th

### Write-It/Do-It

Griffin Capece and Sahi Sagiraju - 3rd

Melody Cheng and Xavier Cheng - 4th



# "TEACHER SPOTLIGHT"

**Brian Ferrara**  
STEM/Mathematics  
Middle School



Why did you want to become a teacher?

*To make an impact. Growing up I could remember the name of almost every teacher I had - especially the ones that influenced me or helped me grow in some way. I wanted the opportunity to do the same.*

Where did you go to college?

*Yale University*

What did you like about college?

*My favorite part of college was the freedom to choose a variety of classes that interested me. I was also fortunate to attend one of the most beautiful campuses in the world and met my wife there, so those were certainly added bonuses.*

What is the best part of your job?

*Seeing the students be creative when presented with a challenge and witnessing their ideas become reality.*

How long have you been teaching?

*Seven years. This is my 4th year at Hauppauge.*

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

*It's not really a superstition, but every year I create a new program for the robots to welcome students to my class.*

What makes a good day at school for you?

*A good day for me is when I walk around my room and all students are fully engaged and working together to create interesting programs. It's also always a good day when there are no issues with the robots or technology.*

What accomplishment fills you with pride so far this year?

*Creating and implementing the Coding 6 curriculum using kidOYO.*

How does technology make teaching more simple or difficult?

*Since much of my day involves technology, I can see how it can make teaching both more simple and more difficult. A modern classroom environment featuring robots, coding, and computers does help increase engagement while preparing students for a digital world and possible careers in the STEM field. At the same time, implementing new technology can be tricky and, at times frustrating (especially when it wants to malfunction at inopportune moments and the fix isn't easy or*

obvious). In the end, I do enjoy the challenge of figuring out how things work, especially when doing so can help the class run more smoothly and feel like the rewards of technology far outweigh the frustrations for both myself and the students in the classroom that get the added benefit.

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

I've been fortunate enough to sit in on many great classes taught here at Hauppauge Middle School, including those taught by Mr. Florence, Ms. Brophy, Mr. Boyle, and many others. One class I have not yet had a chance to witness in person that I would like to see is Ms. Bach's ELA class. I know many students consider her class their favorite, and since we both have a common interest in Marvel Comics, I'd love to see a lesson where she threads that topic in to increase student interest.

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

Everyone has a bad day - what matters is how you react to that adversity.

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

Google Headquarters.

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

I had a science teacher in High School named Mr. Abrams who was one of the friendliest, smartest, most interesting people I have ever met. Any memory from his class could be considered one of my best, but if I had to pick one it would be the day we got to make our own bang snaps. I don't know why, but it just stands out as a fun day that my friends and I still laugh about.

Do you have a favorite thing about your classroom?

Rock, Mario, and Zelda - the 3 NAO robots (and the computers to program them). They set my room apart from just about any other classroom.

What advice would you give to new teachers?

Be flexible, be prepared, and be yourself.

What would students be surprised to find out about you?

I was a practicing attorney for 5 years before changing careers.

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

Well-rounded.

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

So, You Want to Be a Coder?: The Ultimate Guide to a Career in Programming, Video Game Creation, Robotics, and More! (Be What You Want)

Why did you choose Hauppauge Schools?

Hauppauge offered both a completely unique opportunity to teach programming using NAO robots that I would not find anywhere else, as well as a positive & welcoming work environment that allows it's teachers to thrive.

Thank you Mr. Ferrara for a very informative and interesting interview!

## BRETTON WOODS FIFTH GRADE STUDENT PLACES SECOND IN ART CONTEST

An art contest was recently held at “The Catbird Seat” in Sayville. Pranav Vijayababu entered the contest and won 2nd place in the Grade 3-5 category! The theme was, “Sunset, Surf, and Sand.”

Pranav’s teachers, Veronica Weeks and Tara Dungate said, “We are very proud of him!”

Here is a photo of Pranav and his winning artwork. Congratulations, Pranav!



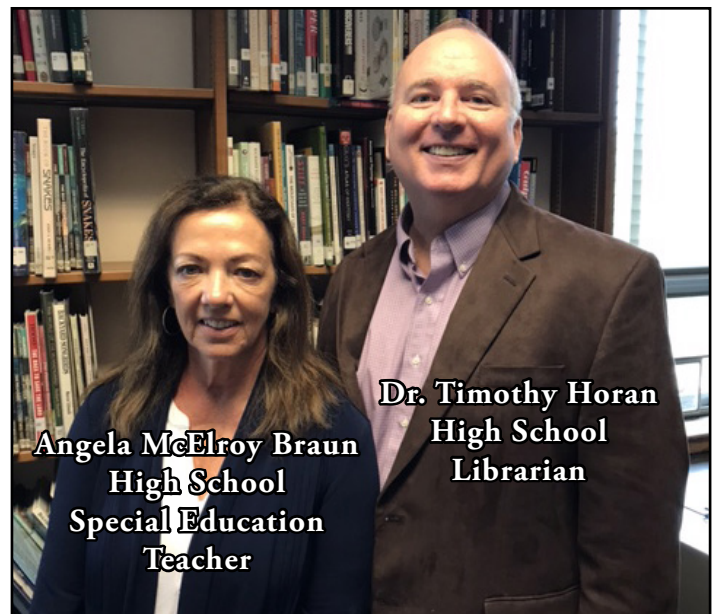
**Pranav  
Vijayababu**

## HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, DR. TIMOTHY HORAN, HAS ARTICLE PUBLISHED

Dr. Timothy Horan, Hauppauge High School Librarian, had another article published recently. In this article, he discusses his pedagogical collaboration with Angela Braun and her wonderful students.

This article is published in Teacher Librarian: The Journal for School Library Professionals, and the title is “Angels in Your Library: Reaching and Teaching Special Needs Students.” If you would like to read the article, [click here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Horan on this publication of the work he does!



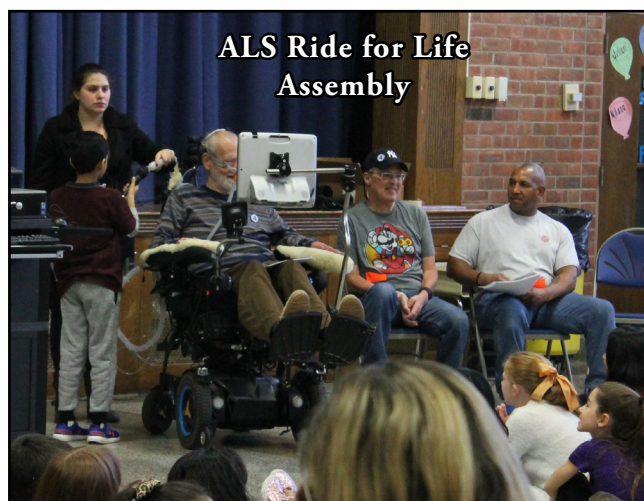
**Angela McElroy Braun  
High School  
Special Education  
Teacher**

**Dr. Timothy Horan  
High School  
Librarian**

## STUDENTS ATTEND “ALS RIDE FOR LIFE ASSEMBLY” AND LEARN “GEHRIG GRIT”

Bretton Woods Elementary School held a very important and moving assembly for their students in grades 3-5 on Monday. It was the “ALS Ride for Life Assembly.” The assembly was about teaching students about ALS, but more importantly it was about teaching students how to overcome adversity in their own lives and never give up.

Chris Pendergast visited the students. He has been living with ALS which stands for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, for many years. ALS is a neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary movement. Mr. Pendergast was an elementary school teacher who now is unable to move his limbs and speaks with an eye-gaze computer called a Dynavox. The Dynavox works by track-



ing eye movements on to a keyboard and generating speech. Former educator, Mr. Dick Iannuzzi, helped co-present along with another ALS patient, Mr. Nelson Colon.

During the assembly, Mr. Pendergast showed the students how his computer and chair works. He even had students manipulate his chair to move him across the room! Chris's message of hope and overcoming adversity has made an impact on many people. He encourages everyone to have “Gehrig Grit” which he says is, “Never give up, always have hope, and remain optimistic no matter what the odds are.”

“ALS Ride For Life” has raised over 8 million dollars! The money goes towards research, grants for those who have a confirmed medical diagnosis of ALS, legal services related to ALS, loaner power wheelchairs, scholarships for New York state high school seniors who have had a family member with ALS, and more.

Teacher, Tara Dungate said, “I have been in contact with the organization and they are going to try their best to have Bretton Woods be one of their stops along their ride in May!” Forest Brook has participated for the past five years and is a stop on the “ALS Ride for Life.” They held an assembly as well last week.

Bretton Woods held a “Jeans Day” fundraiser on Friday. They are grateful for everyone's support of this worthwhile cause.



# PINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES IN JANUARY WITH “WACKY WEDNESDAYS”

Pines Student Council sponsored “Wacky Wednesdays” in January. Student Council representatives brainstormed ideas at their meeting and voted on the theme of each Wednesday. Students and staff showed their school spirit by participating. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to “March Madness!”

The list of what to wear on each “Wacky Wednesday” was as follows:

January 2nd - PJ/Cozy Comfy Day

January 9th - Crazy Hair Day

January 16th - Formal/Fancy Day

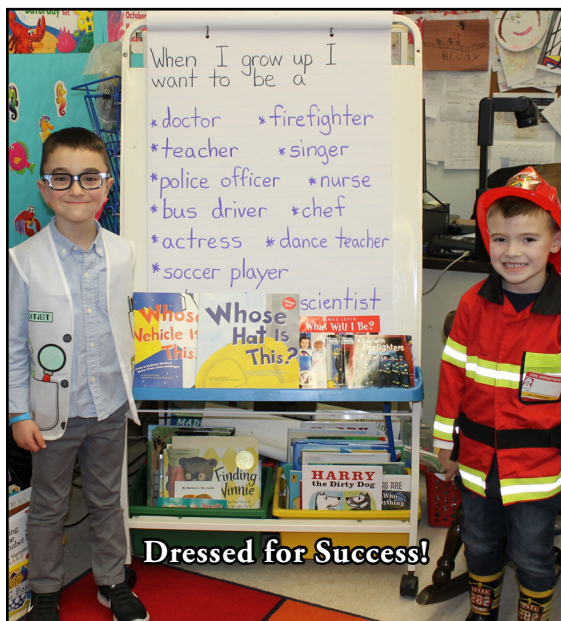
January 23rd - 1960's/Hippy/Tie Dye Day

January 30th - Dress for Success

Here are some great photos taken by Karen Kerr, Secretary to Dr. Claudine DiMuzio.



# Pines has the Spirit!



**Dressed for Success!**



# GETTING INVOLVED AT HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL JUST GOT EASIER!

Hauppauge High School has unveiled it's newly launched webpage "Get Involved at Hauppauge High School!" The page contains links to view details for each sport and club available to join.

To view the page, click on the web address  
[https://sites.google.com/hauppauge.k12.ny.us/  
 getinvolvedhhs/home](https://sites.google.com/hauppauge.k12.ny.us/getinvolvedhhs/home).



## HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY ADDS SIX OUTSTANDING STUDENTS!

On Tuesday evening, January 29th, six outstanding high school students were inducted into the Hauppauge High School Business Honor Society.

Frank Hufnagel, Business Teacher and DECA advisor, said, “In addition to having an above average GPA, both overall and subject, these students have proven themselves to go above and beyond within our DECA chapter, as well as our Junior Achievement program. It was an honor to induct the these students.”

National Business Honor Society  
Inductees

Allison Gioia

Bradley Hays

Mark Kotowicz

Michael Poma

Jared Shelby

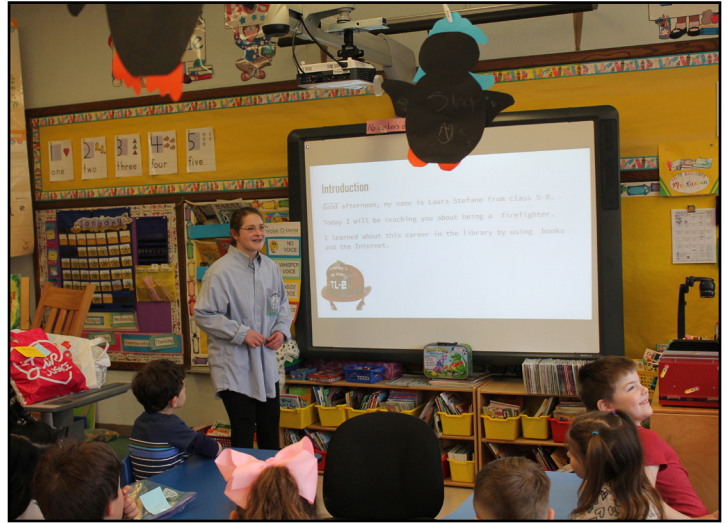
Erica Varley



## COLLEGE AND CAREER WEEK AT BRETTON WOODS!

This week was “College and Career” week at Bretton Woods! The fifth grade students made career presentations to classrooms throughout the building. The week was organized by Bretton Woods Librarian, Mrs. McParland.

Enjoy these photos from this great week!



**More Bretton Woods news on next page!**

# BRETTON WOODS HOSTS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY!

Bretton Woods hosted a Junior Achievement Day at their school on Thursday, January 31st. Students were joined by High School students who came in and taught classes in all grade levels.

Assemblyman Fitzpatrick came to Bretton Woods to check out the High School students in action! It was a great day for everyone involved!



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