



# Horizons

*Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow* 

**Volume 6, Issue 14 - January 19, 2024**

## HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS AN “IB ALUMNI REUNION”

*By: Andrea Darbee  
HS Assistant Principal*

On Friday, January 12th, Hauppauge High School hosted an IB Alumni Reunion. Nine graduates from the classes of 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022 returned to the high school to share their college experiences and to reflect on how the IB Diploma Programme (DP) prepared them for university. In attendance were Mackenzie Buscarino ('22), Abigail Clark ('21), Colin Happe ('21), Devin Giordano ('20), Kira Giordano ('18), Holly McGul-lum ('21), Jalaj Mehta ('21), Dominic Pacileo ('20), and Noah Schwartzapfel ('21.)

The event included a meet and greet with teachers and administrators and two-panel sessions. The audience for the first-panel session were teachers and administrators. Students enrolled in IB classes as well as prospective IB students had the opportunity to attend the second session. Ms. Anne Stebbins, IB Coordinator, organized the event with the support of Principal Joseph Wieckhorst, and Assistant Principal Andrea Darbee.

During the panels, Hauppauge students fielded questions about their transition to college and the skills required for success at university. Ms. Stebbins also asked the alumni to share the extent to which specific aspects of the IB Diploma enhanced college preparedness.

Colin Happe ('21), a graduate student at Binghamton University, stated, “[IB students] have an edge on their fellow classmates in all [college] classes.” He spoke about how the DP programme prepared him for the stress of test-taking in college.



Jalaj Mehta ('21), an undergraduate student at Columbia University, shared that IB courses taught him how to take long tests. He added jovially that there are many long tests in college. The panel participants also agreed that the DP improved their work ethic, taught them how to scaffold longer assignments, take self-accountability for their work, and enhanced their study skills.

Abigail Clarke ('21), an undergraduate student at Long Island University-CW Post, added, "Freshman year is easier than what you do in IB."

The alumni participants discussed the research and writing skills developed throughout the IB Programme. Colin Happe ('21) reflected, "You will write a tremendous amount in college." The other eight participants agreed, sharing that the focus on written assessments in the DP improved their fluency, topic selection, and their ability to write multiple text types for different audiences.

Devin Giordano ('20), an undergraduate student at John Hopkins University, added, "[Professors] don't teach you how to write in college. They expect that you know how to write." Abigail Clarke expanded on the statement, sharing "Your freshman writing classes will be a breeze. You already know how to write a thesis statement, how to research, and how to organize your writing." Mackenzie Buscarino ('22) even shared that she still uses NoodleTools at Binghamton University to organize her citations. Upon reflection, Abigail Clarke implored current Hauppauge students to take IB Language and Literature; "If you don't take the full diploma, take IB English," Abigail concluded. "That course teaches you how to write."

When asked to share final words of wisdom with current students, the panelists had this to say. "High School students should be less focused on grades. Just try your best. You'll have failures and successes. You will learn from your failures" (Happe '21).

"The IB program prepares you not just for freshman year but for the next four years and the rest of your life" (D. Giordano '20). Mackenzie Buscarino ('22) contemplated how her IB courses encouraged her to think for herself, a necessary skill in college. Kira Giordano ('18), an undergraduate at Penn State who will start law school in the fall, was pleased that the IB programme taught her about herself as a thinker and a person. Holly McGullam, ('21), an undergraduate student at University of Delaware, concluded, "IB is about learning to learn. I'm proudest of my IB diploma. The program better equipped me for life and for college."

When asked about the benefits of the IB Diploma Programme, Principal Wieckhorst said, "The IB Diploma Programme has limitless benefits to the students who participate. Students learn so much content, but they do it by learning the essential skills that make them effective citizens in our society. It's great to see former students come back and validate that. Every graduate we speak to says the same thing--that IB made them better prepared for college than anything else. The data proves it as well. It is my hope and goal to have every student take at least one IB class by the time they graduate high school, and we will continue to work towards that."

Ms. Stebbins, IB Coordinator, added, "IB classes teach students more than high-level content. They teach students how to think and interpret, how to manage their commitments, how to communicate, and how to be a reflective and empathetic learner. It's a misconception that IB is only for advanced-track students; any student who is motivated to learn will benefit from an IB class."

Students are eligible to enroll in the IB Diploma programme in their junior year. IB Diploma candidates take one IB course in English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and World Language. In addition, students are required to take a sixth course in a core content area or an elective area. Finally, all Diploma candidates take Theory of Knowledge, an interdisciplinary course that invites students to explore how knowledge is created across subject areas, and to fulfill the programme's Extended Essay and Community, Action, Service (CAS) requirements. A 2019 study found that 95% of DP students in the US enrolled in and graduated from four-year institutions compared to a 60% national average. Also, 79% of DP students graduated college within four years compared to a 39% national average.

Hauppauge's first cohort of IB Diploma students graduated in 2014. The high school offers 22 IB courses, including elective courses such as IB Business, IB Dance, and IB Sports Exercise and Health. Students can enroll in the full diploma or take individual IB courses as course candidates. Students and parents who are interested in the IB Diploma Programme can contact Anne Stebbins, IB Coordinator, or our high school counseling department.



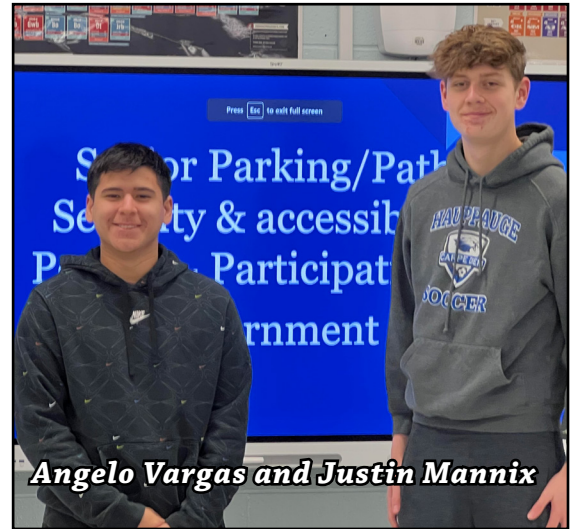
# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENT CIVIC READINESS PROJECTS TO PROMOTE POSITIVE CHANGE

Hauppauge High School's senior Participation in Government classes presented civic capstone projects, developing presentations around changes they would like to see in Hauppauge schools as part of their work towards earning the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.

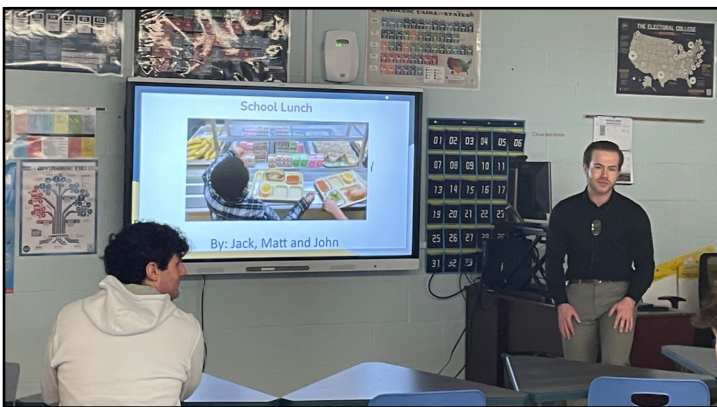
Students in Mr. Matura's and Ms. Burkhard's classes were tasked with selecting an issue that they were passionate about, aiming to bring positive change and improvement to their high school community. The process involved research, collaborative efforts within their groups and the creation of impactful presentations. The students invited members of the high school staff, administration and central office team to listen to their proposals for change and engage in dialogue.

"From identifying critical issues to proposing thoughtful solutions, students have demonstrated a level of civic responsibility that is truly commendable," said Mr. Matura.

"The presentations were informative and reflective of the students' deep commitment to civic engagement," said Director of Social Studies and World Languages Kelly Barry. "This assignment focuses more on the process than the outcome. It teaches our students to consider multiple viewpoints and gain an understanding of various perspectives on an issue. These skills will help our students succeed in any path they choose after graduation. We are proud of all of them. I am grateful for their teachers' dedication to preparing them, guiding them through the process and teaching them how to advocate for positive change in the school community and beyond. We are incredibly grateful for the support and participation of our Superintendent Dr. Murphy and members of our central office team, as well as all of the administrators and teachers who took the time to listen to the student presentations."



**Angelo Vargas and Justin Mannix**



**Vivian Derby, Melissa O'Connor, and Jennifer Battaglia**





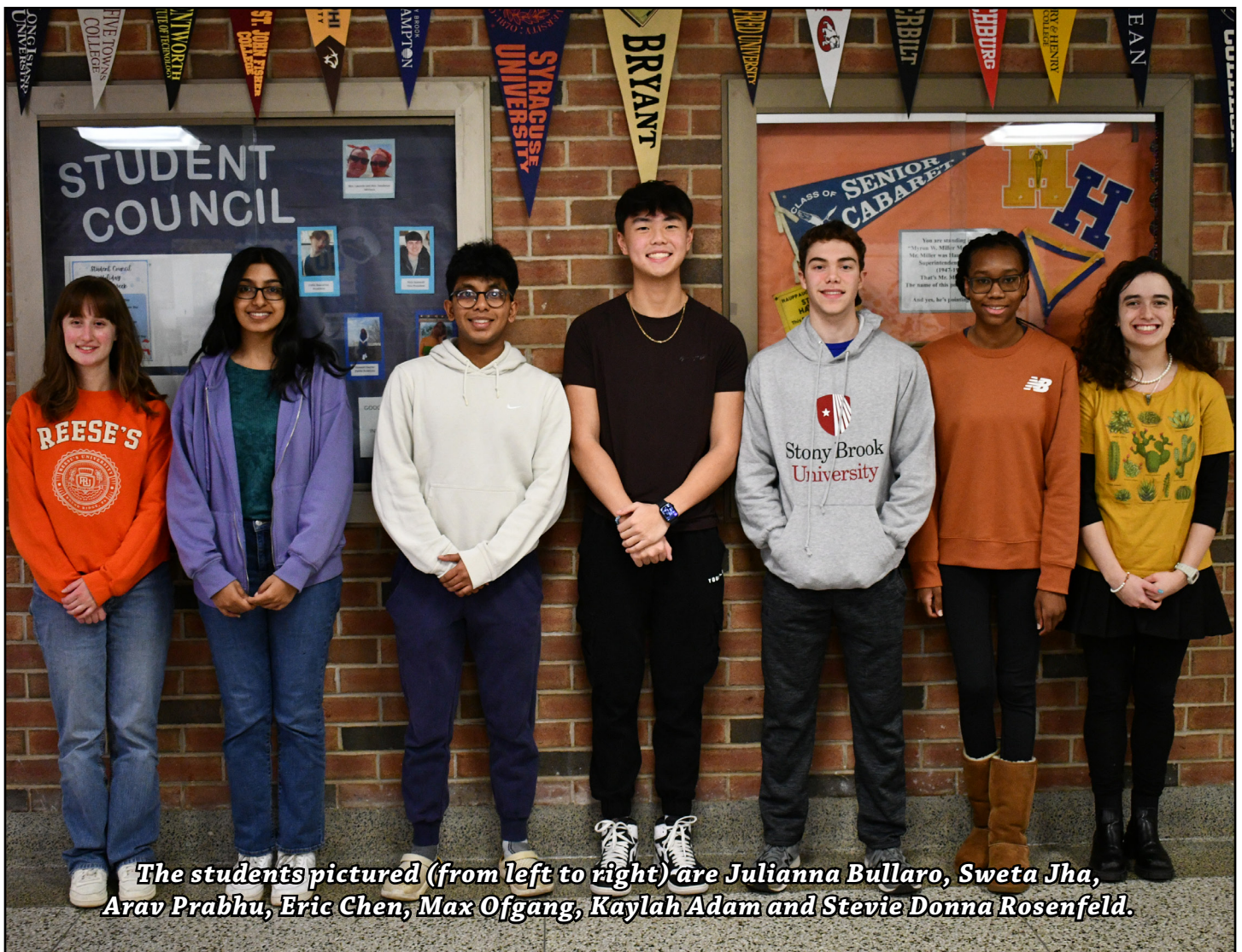
## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHARE THEIR “VOICES OF DEMOCRACY”

Hauppauge High School students in AP Government and Politics, IB Global Politics and IB History of the Americas HL II classes participated in the Voices of Democracy essay competition hosted by their local VFW Post 10870.

This year's theme was, "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?" Student responses focused on the U.S. Constitution's ability to be flexible, prevent concentration of power and give power to the people, along with our democracy's goal to strive for equality and reflect the will of the people.

Congratulations to the following eight students who were recognized as runners-up in the contest: Kaylah Adam, Julianna Bullaro, Eric Chen, Sweta Jha, Max Ofgang, Arav Prabhu, Chris Primiani and Stevie Donna Rosenfeld. These students each received \$50 and a certificate from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Shehigian and Mr. Reiff and all of the students who dedicated their time and effort to contribute to this meaningful discourse," said Hauppauge High School's Director of Social Studies and World Language Kelly Barry. "Their essays not only showcased their exceptional writing skills, but also demonstrated a deep understanding of the core values that make our nation strong and resilient. This is one example of how the social studies department encourages our students to explore and understand the foundations of our democracy."



*The students pictured (from left to right) are Julianna Bullaro, Sweta Jha, Arav Prabhu, Eric Chen, Max Ofgang, Kaylah Adam and Stevie Donna Rosenfeld.*



## DR. MURPHY'S FABULOUS WALL WRAP MURAL IS COMING TO LIFE AND HE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER

Last week, we brought you a story about Dr. Murphy's new office wall wrap mural featuring some of our students in photos throughout the year. As a wonderful addition alumni student Chris Diesso, who is part of the mural in a photo of him and the Les Paul guitar that he made last year in his Materials Processing class in the High School's new STEM Lab, came by Dr. Murphy's office to sign next to his photo.

Dr. Murphy is excited to invite students who find themselves in the mural to contact Mrs. Joanne Lyons in the Superintendent's office to make arrangements to come by and sign! Her email is [lyonsj@hauppauge.k12.ny.us](mailto:lyonsj@hauppauge.k12.ny.us).

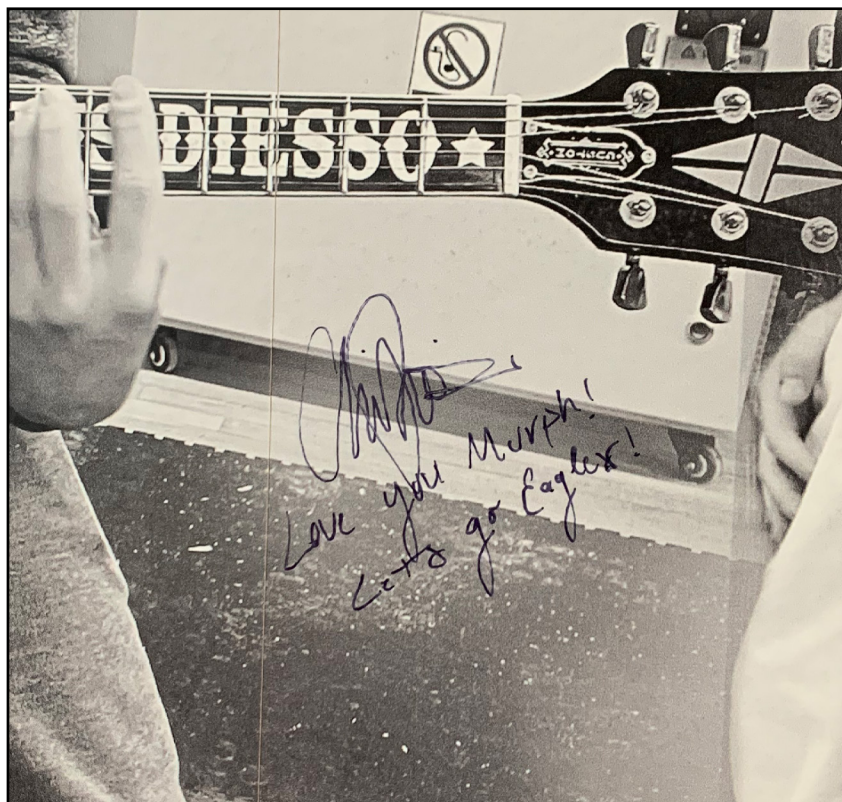
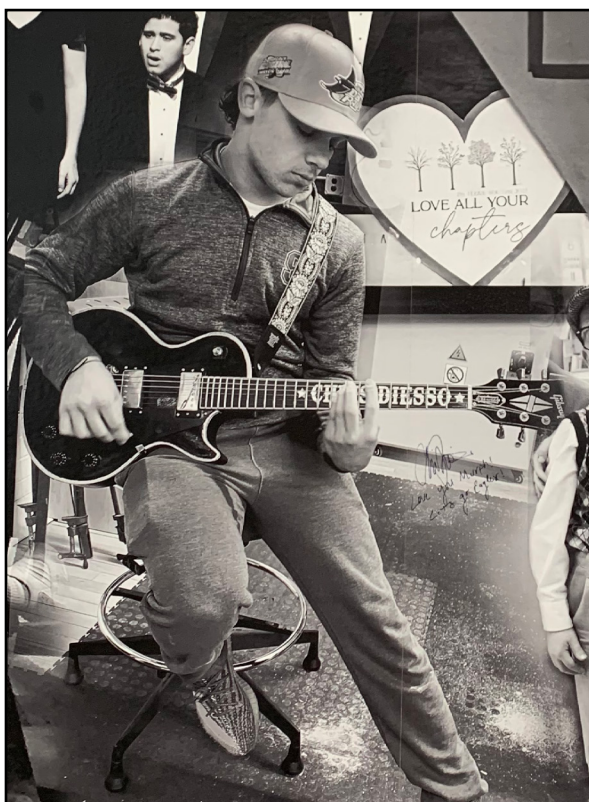
Here are some photos of Chris Diesso, and some extra photos of the mural.



*Chris Diesso signing the Wall*

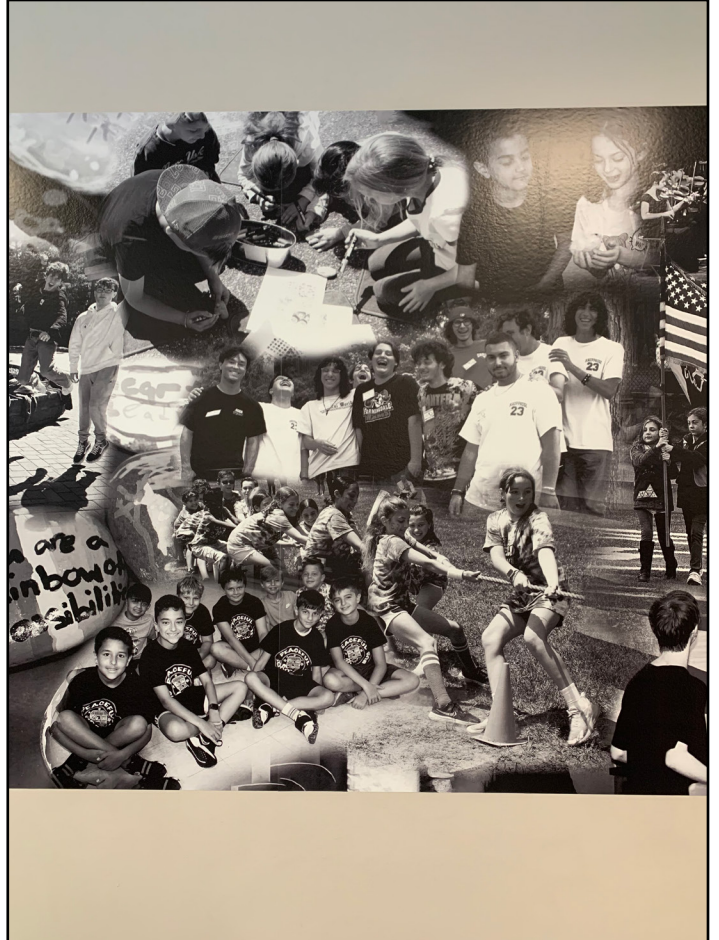
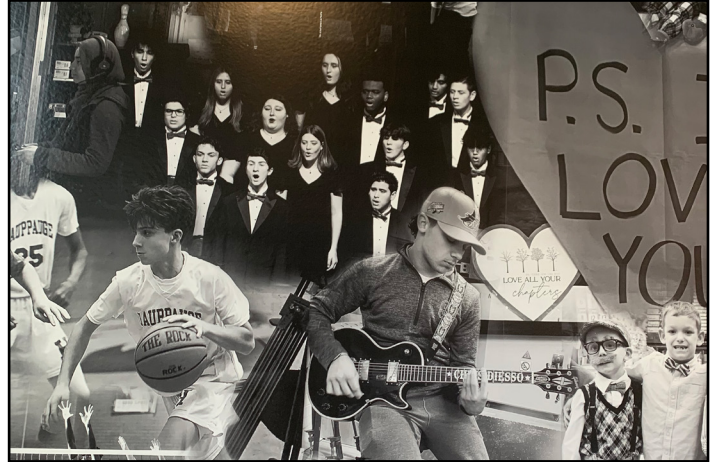


*Dr. Murphy with Chris Diesso*





# Dr. Murphy's Wall Wrap Mural





## HAUPPAUGE WRESTLERS WIN THE “DAVID SORENSEN, LONG ISLAND LUTHERAN WRESTLING TOURNAMENT” AND PARTICIPATE IN THE “EASTERN STATES TOURNAMENT”

Congratulations to the Hauppauge Wrestling Team for winning the “Annual David Sorensen Long Island Lutheran Wrestling Tournament” this past weekend. Although only entering nine wrestlers in the tournament, Hauppauge finished with five champions, a second and a fourth place finish. The tournament ended with Hauppauge earning 192 points with runner-up Xavier High School finishing with 191 points,) Xavier entered 16 wrestlers), followed by LUHI with 174.5 points.

Junior Elijah Infante, at 138 lbs, led the team with five straight pins, earning him the Championship Trophy and the “Most Pins in the Least Amount of Time.” Eighth-grader, Ryder Smith, won the 101 lb weight class with two wins by fall. Junior Devin Brophy wrestling at 124 lbs won four consecutive matches followed by sophomore Ben Vallone with five wins at 131 lbs. Junior Jackson Tacca completed the team’s fifth championship with five straight wins at 145 lbs. Senior Nick DiTuro was runner-up at 138 lbs, and heavyweight Brayden Dickneider finished in fourth place.

Congratulations to Russell Kong for winning his first varsity match, helping the team to a one-point victory.

### “EASTERN STATES TOURNAMENT RESULTS”

Hauppauge entered five wrestlers in the tough “Eastern States Tournament” this past Saturday with the team placing 26th out of 150 teams entered. Leading the team were Juniors Connor Sheridan with a fourth-place finish at 108 lbs, and Gino Manta placing 7th, also at 108 lbs. Freshman Trevor Patrovich won four of six matches at 101 lbs. Junior Jason DiFrietus finished 1-2 at 116 lbs, while Senior Charlie Olachea finished at 2-2.

Congratulations to the boys on a great showing.





# BRETTON WOODS STUDENTS ENJOY A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO GET THEM THINKING ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

It is never too early to start planning for college and careers. Last week, Bretton Woods Elementary School hosted a series of activities to encourage students to think about their future. Some of these included:

- Teachers talked with their students about the benefits of continuing their education after high school.
- Bretton Woods staff members highlighted where they graduated from college.
- Teachers talked about why they chose their universities and careers.
- Students were encouraged to talk about what they want to be when they grow up and start to think about what they need to do to achieve that goal.

The events for the week starting on Monday, January 8th were College Gear Day, Dress for Success, Junior Achievement, College Exploration Day, Career Fair.

Hauppauge High School students visited Bretton Woods Elementary School as part of the Junior Achievement High School Heroes program. Junior Achievement is the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures and make smart academic and economic choices.

The program provides high school students with the opportunity to become role models by teaching and inspiring elementary students. Each Bretton Wood's classroom was visited by three high school students at a time, teaching grade level curriculum on the topics of workforce readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship to their young counterparts. As teachers for the day, the high schoolers taught a series of interactive and hands-on lessons.

Here are some photos from the week of events.





## Bretton Woods - College & Career Events





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## Bretton Woods - College & Career Events





# FOREST BROOK STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE “NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS ART PROGRAM”

Forest Brook students participated in the National PTA 2023-2024 Reflections Art Program. The arts recognition program is for students in grades Pre-K through 12. Students submit their completed works of art in one or all the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, or Visual Arts.

Each year, throughout the country, over 300,000 students create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.

Forest Brook advanced eight students to the county level, with 5th graders Soraya Lewin and John Edwards advancing to NYS level.

## 2023-2024 PTA Reflections Honorees

### Primary Division (Grades Pre-K – 2nd)

#### Photography

Joseph Ianno – Award of Excellence - *I am hopeful because I have a dog*

#### Visual Arts

Kaylie Romano – Award of Excellence - *I have dreams*

Carter Keagins – Award of Merit- *Space Exploration*

Madison Baker – Honorable Mention - *I am hopeful because love*

Peyton Hasselmann – Award of Participation - *Balance*

Emily McNamara – Award of Participation - *Bella Bliss*

Sophia Bennette – Award of Participation - *A Better World*

### Intermediate Division (Grades 3rd – 5th)

#### Dance Choreography

Lily DeLuca – Award of Excellence - *I can do anything*

#### Literature

Aubrey Weiner - Award of Excellence - *Hopeful*

#### Film Production

Kayla Balance - Award of Excellence - *4 things that give me hope: family, friends, sports, faith*

#### Visual Arts

Soraya Lewin – Award of Excellence - *We are the people, we are the world*

John Edwards – Award of Merit - *The Light*

Alex Francis – Award of Participation - *Our Amazing Future*

Isabella Parmit – Award of Participation - *Sunrise*

Emily Horowitz – Award of Participation - *Hopeful*

Emad Hassan – Honorable Mention - *Rising Sun*

Armaani Singh – Outstanding Interpretation Award - *Mother Nature*

Jaret Carbone – Honorable Mention - *We are your future*

Here are some photos on the next page of the projects.



## Forest Brook - "Reflections Contest"

There is nothing better than Forest Brook Elementary School.  
I am hopeful this school year  
will be amazing.

There is no one better than Mrs. Mulligan.  
From math centers to field trips,  
she makes third grade  
exciting and fun.

I am hopeful because I am learning  
different things each day.  
My classmates are the best.  
They make third grade so enjoyable.

There is a lot more to come.  
I am hopeful this school year  
will be  
the best one yet!

### Hopeful

I am hopeful because  
When I got my ears pierced  
I was really scared I was  
so scared that I thought to  
myself, "I shouldn't do it" so  
told my mom and she asked, "why?"  
and I told her that I was  
just too scared. So she said, "ok"  
so after that, I, texted my dad  
and he said, "OK" too.

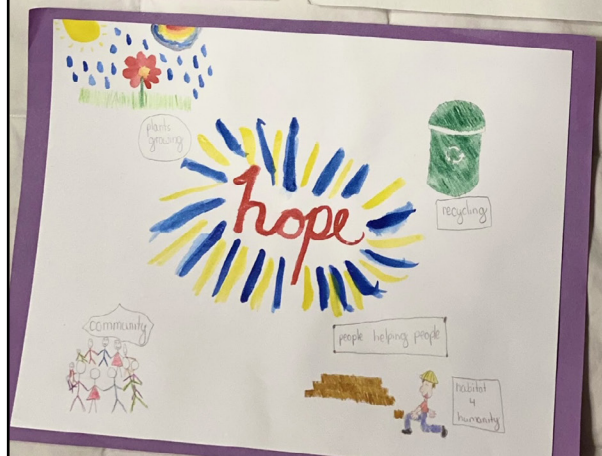
so then she asked to call  
my cousin Julia, and I  
called her and talked to her  
for a little bit then talked  
to my mom and wanted to do  
it because everyone has it  
so I decided to go so I texted  
my dad and he said, "ok"  
so on Saturday I went to the  
mall, sat in the chair they said  
"1, 2, 3" and did it. I am hopeful because  
I know I can be brave. By Emily Horowitz

## SAVE EARTH



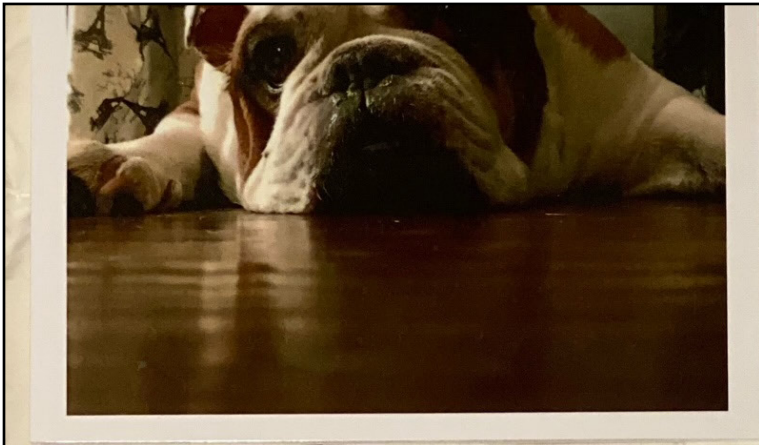
### I Love my earrings

I can be beautiful  
I can be happy  
I can be strong  
I can be curious  
I can be kind  
I can be brave  
I can be love  
I can be hopeful  
I can be nice



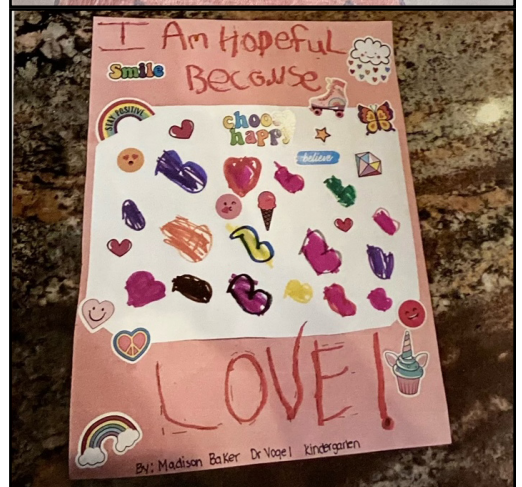
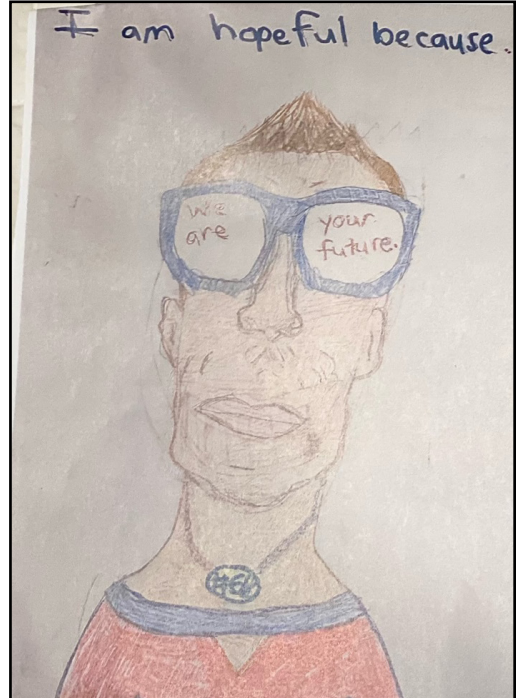
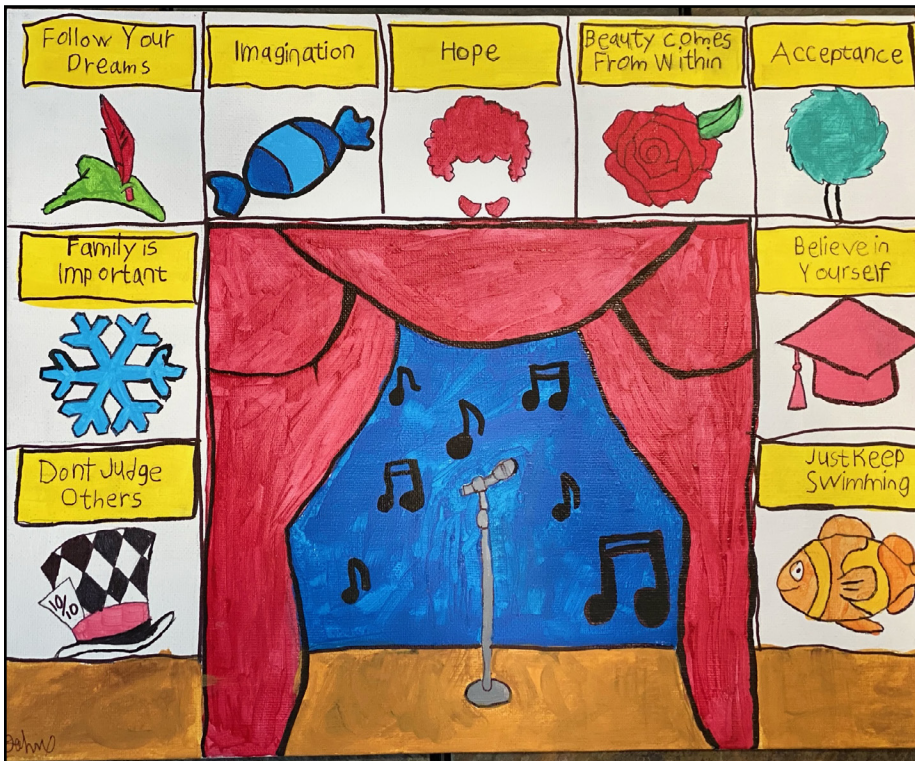
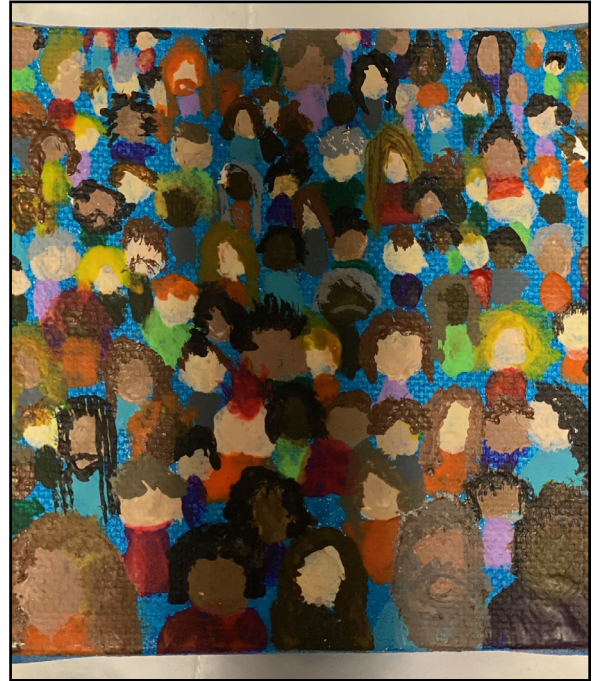


Forest Brook - "Reflections Contest"

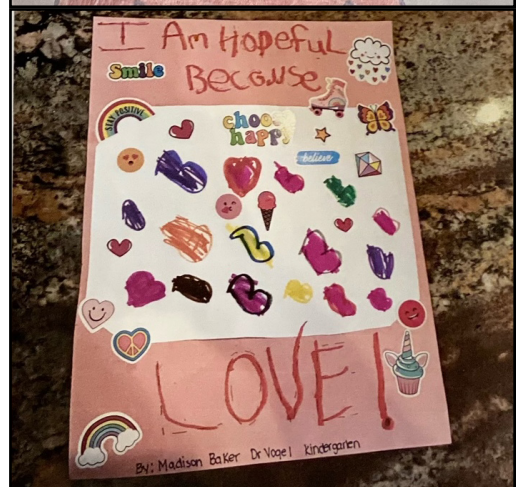




# Forest Brook - "Reflections Contest"



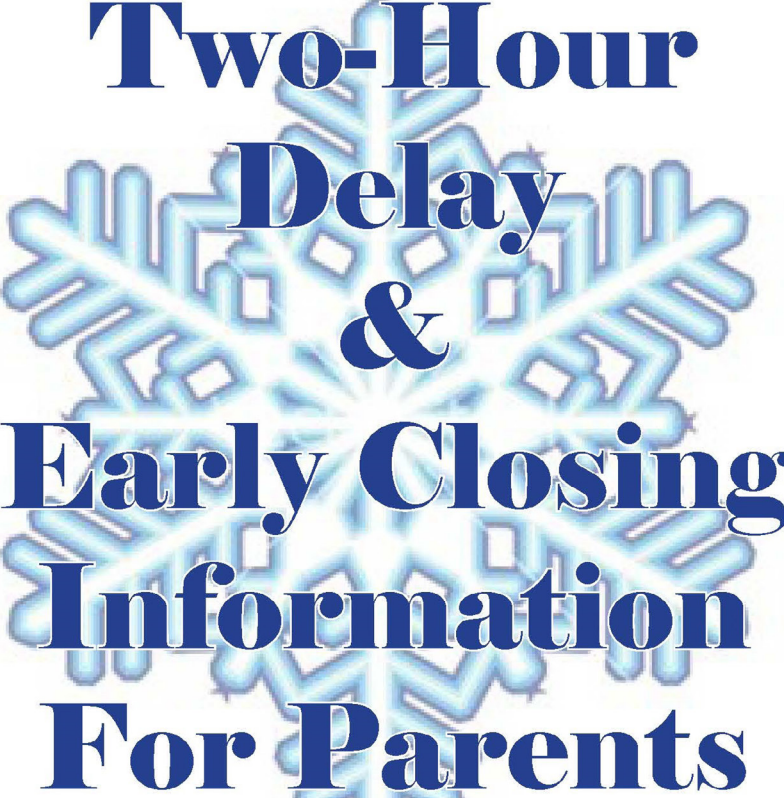
**GREAT JOB!**





## TWO-HOUR DELAY & EARLY CLOSING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The cold weather is here! In order to be prepared for those days when we may have a two-hour delay or early release, please [click here](#) to see a “School Delay and Early Release FAQ for Parents.” You can also view High School and Middle School Delay Schedules there. This information is also available on our website.



**Two-Hour  
Delay  
&  
Early Closing  
Information  
For Parents**



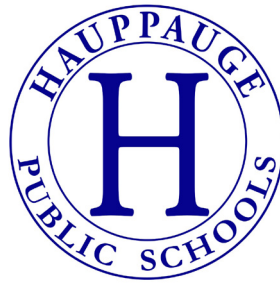
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