



# PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

## Pelham Memorial High School

### Upcoming Events:

**November 1:**

2- Hour Delay  
Start 10:15 am

**November 5:**

Jazz Band Fundraiser  
5:00 pm

**November 7:**

International Dinner  
5:00 pm

**November 8:**

1st Quarter Ends

**November 11:**

No School  
Veterans Day

**November 12:**

2nd Quarter Begins

**November 14:**

Order Caps and Gowns

**November 20:**

Evening Parent/Teacher  
Conferences  
5:30 pm

**November 21:**

Noon Dismissal for  
Conferences

**November 22:**

No Classes  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

**November 22 & 23**

Fall Play  
7:30 pm

**November 24:**

Fall Play  
2:00 pm

**November 27:**

Early Release/  
Emergency Drill  
12:00 pm

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This issue of *Principally Speaking* highlights news about our school and students.

October 20 was the National Day of Writing, and was celebrated by our students and staff in the English Department. This day is an initiative of the National Council of Teachers of English — built on the premise that writing is critical to literacy and needs greater attention in our students' studies.



As the National Council see it, people tend to think of writing in terms of "pencil-and-paper assignments," but no matter who you are, writing is part of your life. It is an integral part of how you work, how you learn, how you remember, and how you communicate. Writing gives voice to who you are and enables you to give voice to the things that matter to you.

For the past 11 years, the Council has helped thousands of students share their work and engage in activities around the theme of #WhyIWrite. For more information about the NCTE visit <http://www.Nationalday.com>.



October 18 was the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of PMHS and the 243rd anniversary of the Battle of Pell's Point. Back then, The Town of Pelham voted to build a new high school as the old location at present-day Siwanoy was overcrowded.

The new building was named the "Memorial High School" in honor of all of those who fought and died in

World War I, which ended one year before construction started. The Memorial Tablet, listing all men from Pelham who served in the armed forces during World War I, was later installed in the lobby of our high school where it remains today.

Social Studies teacher Mr. David Accocela facilitated this centennial celebration for our school. He made available replica copies of the original program from that day as well as copies of an article on the Battle of Pelham.

**November 28 - Dec. 1:**

Thanksgiving Recess

**December 5:**

2-Hour Delay

Start 10:15 am

**December 6:**

Applications Due:

English, Math, Science, &amp;

Social Studies Honor

Societies.

3:11 pm

**December 16**

Check Portal Interim

Grades

**December 16:**

Orchestra Concert

7:00 pm

**December 18:**

Chorus Concert

7:00 pm

**December 19:**

Band Concert

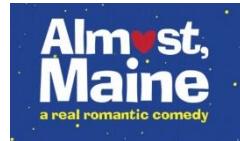
7:00 pm

**December 21 - Jan. 1:**

Winter Holiday Recess

As a reminder, important parent information is posted at the beginning of every month on our PMHS website. You'll also find important information about Health Services under Our School pertaining to the administration of prescribed medications as well as over-the-counter medications, plus relevant health forms. Please be sure to check our site for new information posted intermittently.

Lastly, I hope to see all of you at *Almost, Maine* our fall play, in a few weeks and then again at Parent Teacher Conferences at the end of November. Information about these conferences will be sent home in the coming weeks.



Sincerely,

Jeannine Clark

## CONGRATULATIONS

For several seniors, the first months of this school year have been an exciting start to what promises to be an exceptionally rewarding year.



Lance Brady, Asher Lal and Peter Wei were designated as semi-finalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. They are among the 16,000 semi-finalists nationwide to earn this prestigious distinction. Next spring these talented seniors will continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth over \$32 million.

We are also pleased to announce the names of eight seniors designated as Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program; Albert Ai, Lucas Fredbeck, Lukas Glist, Michael McInerney, Stephanie Munn, Emily Nakayama, Matyas Spunberg and Sophie Xu.



Each has demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success. They are among the 34,000 commended students nationwide recognized for exceptional academic promise.

## AP NEWS

Last spring 926 Advanced Placement exams were administered to 428 PMHS students. The AP Scholar designations below indicate how well they performed.

**AP Scholar:** Granted to students who receive scores of three or higher on three or more AP exams.

Our AP Scholars are: **Grace Anderson, Isabelle Anderson, Jennifer Bell, Aidan Bennett, Giuliana Bertolotti, Isaac Blackburn, Anna Brightman, Lily Burns, Manon Bushong, Lily Childs, Alexis Cornachio, Nicholas Cruz, Rafael DaCruz, Julianna Estatico, Julien Evans, Liza Giantelli, Dylan Giglio, Owin Gong, Luke Gould, Sean Holley, Annika Jawanda, Connor Kagel, Griffin Kingsley, Erin Knapp, Lauren Kuster, Juan Matos, Lucas Matos, Emma McNulty, Kevin Miraj, Quinlan Monaghan-Morris, Carolyn Moyle, Stephanie Munn, James Nespole, Silda Neza, Sarah Jane O'Connor, Ajdin Pelinkovic, Jashwa Peralta, Madison Popovic, Joseph Puchalla, Hana Rogatsky, Kimberly Rosell, Andrew Shulzhenko, Gabriel Sucena, Olivia Ting, Cassie Ventura, Alex Walker, Helena White, Caroline Winston, Charlotte Woods**

**AP Scholar with Honor:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of three or higher on four or more of these exams.

Our AP Scholars with Honor are: **Albert Ai, Luca Capeci, Ryan Chang, Erin Cohen, Elizabeth Comerford, Juliana Cortale, Flavio Darini, Frank DelPonte, Luke DeVivo, Luke Diffley, Claudia Dodge, Katherine Douglass, Alison Emery, Lucas Fredbeck, Taylor Goche, Ryan Gregware, John Hernandez, Brendan Jones, Isabel Kenny, Anna Larsen, Zara Levy, Michael Li, Nicholas Lieggi, Brian McFarland, Alex Michailoff, Olivia Min, John Morrell, Justin O'Beirne, Camilla O'Keefe, Arthur O'Sullivan, Charles Pedorella, Pamela Pennetta, Juliana Prisco, Andrew Radvany, Liam Ronan, Anna Shampanier-Bowen, Elizabeth Sotolongo, Stephen Tahbaz, Daniel Tahbaz,**

**AP Scholar with Distinction:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of three or higher on five or more of these exams.

Our AP Scholars with Distinction are: **Elise Aronson, Vedika Basavatia, Daniel Bernstein, Gabriella Bhiro, Lucy Bischof, Lance Brady, Rachel Brewer, Madeline Bryce, John Carew, Zoe Casey, Richard Che, Ian Childs, Tracy Childs, Kevin Coleman, Francesca DiCristofano, Henry Driesen, Charlotte Edmunds, Sarah Ellenbogen, Rachel Elmer, Stephanie Elmer, Guy Eustace, Connor Evans, Connor Fleming, Athul George, Benjamin Glickman, Lukas Glist, Dylan Gurl, Henry Gutch, Katherine Hart, James Hupprich, Siobhan Joyce-Farley, Emilie Kelly, Simon Keough, Asher Lal, Ciara Lawless, Grace Liberatore, Julia Loughman, Violet Massie-Vereker, Sophia McSpedon, Christian Morfit, Emily Nakayama, Arden Neu, Julia O'Neil, Ascensy Perez, Julia Plourde, Kristina Pompilio, Peyton Rees, Johannes-Ram Riehl, Luca Rivera, Bernadette Russo, Leana Rutt, Michael Salama, Morgan Sample, Matyas Spunberg, Ella Stern, Meghan Stevens, Eleanor Tahbaz, Emily Talamas, Sean Talton, Luke Tarazi, Catherine Taubner, Nicholas Tiso, Daniel Walsh, Elizabeth Walters, Peter Wei, Julian Wisdom, Alyssa Wong, Caitlin Wong, Sophie Xu**

**National AP Scholar:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least four on all AP exams taken, and scores of four or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Our National AP Scholars are: **Rachel Brewer, Richard Che, Francesca DiCristofano, Charlotte Edmunds, Sarah Ellenbogen, Benjamin Glickman, Simon Keough, Violet Massie-Vereker, Kristina Pompilio, Michael Salama, Julian Wisdom, Alyssa Wong**

## ART DEPARTMENT



In the fall of 2018, Ms. Fallon and Ms. Wals revived the Annual Halloween Window Painting Event. Now in its second year, our PMHS Advanced Art students and Advanced Placement Art students created their original "Hollywood Halloween" themed designs, which were painted on store windows in Pelham in mid-October. This experience provided our art students with the opportunity to carefully plan, revise and paint their designs on a large scale. Comments from the public and storeowners have been gratifying.

## WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

On **October 7**, The Westchester County Board of Legislators proclaimed October as Italian Heritage and Culture Month in Westchester County at a special program in Legislative Chambers in White Plains. At the ceremony, students and teachers from the 17 legislative districts in Westchester were honored for their outstanding commitment to promoting the Italian language and culture. Representing Pelham in District 11 were Senior Bernadette Russo and Italian teacher Mrs. Prignano. Our congratulations to both.

On **October 10**, students in our French Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) class attended the French Institute: Alliance Francaise (FIAF) to see the award-winning musician, dancer and choreographer Olivier Tarpaga make his highly anticipated New York premiere of *When Birds Refused to Fly* (Quand les oiseaux refusent de voler).

Set to a powerful soundtrack by Tarpaga's father's band, Super Volta — combining traditional sounds from Burkina Faso and driving contemporary rhythms — this athletic dance piece compares the celebratory post-independence fervor in the 1960s Sub-Saharan Africa to the fight for Civil Rights in the United States. While the choreographer spoke English, the four

Burkinabe dancers from Ouagadougou only spoke in French.

Many SUPA French students took the opportunity to speak French to the organizers at the FIAF and participated in the scheduled Q & A. After the performance, our group surrounded the dancers and engaged in an interactive educational Q & A in French. After the show, students enjoyed a French lunch at La Bonne Soupe.

On **October 21** Pelham Memorial High School students Matthew Cannella (teacher Elizabeth Caparotta) and Bernadette Russo (teacher Christina Prignano) were honored for their outstanding performance in their study of Italian at the Westchester County Executive Proclamation Ceremony at Eastchester High school.

The ceremony occurs each October and is sponsored by the Westchester Coalition of Italian American Organizations in collaboration with the Italian Club of Eastchester High School. The ceremony also proclaims October as Italian Heritage and Culture Month in Westchester County. Congratulations to our students, parents, teachers.

## ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR

### Athletics



Congratulations to PMHS Varsity Football Coach **Artie Viggiano**. He was named the Lou Rettino High School Coach of the Week by the New York Giants and Gatorade following the Pelicans' thrilling 14-7 overtime victory on the road against Harrison on September 6.

### Pel Mel



Congratulations to the staff of the 2018–2019 Pel Mel. This publication was recently awarded a ranking of Silver Medalist by The Columbia Scholastic Press Association. We are all proud of this student-run publication.

### Pelican



The National Scholastic Press Association has awarded the 2019 Pelican Yearbook, *Living in Color*, a First Class Rating. The Columbia Press Scholastic Association has awarded a Gold Medal to our 2019 PMHS yearbook. Congratulations to last year's staff for their hard work!

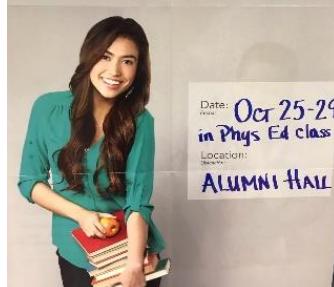
### Forensic Speech

On October 5 the PMHS Forensics Speech Team competed at their first tournament of the season at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan. Congratulations to Junior **Georgia Connolly** who won 5th place in Varsity Oral Interpretation of Prose, and Senior **Nick Lieggi** who won 2nd place in Congressional Debate.

On October 19–20, our Forensics Team competed at the "Big Bronx" NYC Invitational Tournament at the Bronx High School of Science. This is a competitive national circuit tournament with schools coming from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Maryland, California, Virginia, North Carolina and Minnesota. Congratulations to Junior **Isaac Blackburn** and Senior **Nicholas Lieggi** for advancing to semi-finals in Congressional Debate.



Picture Day  
is Coming



As a reminder, school pictures will be taken from Friday, October 25 to Tuesday, October 28 for grades 9 -11.

## Sock 'n' Buskin

In August the National Youth Arts announced their winners for the 2018–2019 season, and Pelham earned seven awards and 24 additional nominations. Our Sock'n'Buskin productions of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Mamma Mia!* were honored, as well as the middle school production of *Bye, Bye Birdie*.



### Awards:

Outstanding Production:  
*Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Lead Performance in a Musical: **Maggie Solimine** as Donna Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*

Lead Performance in a Play: **Jack Finegan** as Eugene Morris Jerome in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Supporting Performance in a Play: **Athena Woodfin** as Kate Jerome in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Outstanding Ensemble: *Mamma Mia!*

Outstanding Set Design: **Joseph J. Egan** for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Outstanding Direction: **Thomas F. Beck, Jr.** and **Neil Schleifer** for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

### Nominations:

Outstanding Production: *Mamma Mia!*

Lead Performance in a Musical: **Malia McLellan** as Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*

Supporting Performance in a Musical: **Jack Finegan** as Sky in *Mamma Mia!*

Supporting Performance in a Musical: **Meredith Heller** as Tanya in *Mamma Mia!*

Supporting Performance in a Musical: **Jack Hopkins** as Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia!*

Supporting Performance in a Musical: **Sam Rodd** as Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia!*

Supporting Performance in a Musical: **Athena Woodfin** as Rosie in *Mamma Mia!*

Supporting Performance in a Play: **Meredith Heller** as Nora Morton in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Supporting Performance in a Play: **Jack Hopkins** as Jack Jerome in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Supporting Performance in a Play: **Sam Rodd** as Stanley Jerome in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Supporting Performance in a Play: **Maggie Solimine** as Blanche Morton in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Ensemble: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*

Costume Design: **Neil Schleifer** for *Mamma Mia!*

Lighting Design: **Andrew Gmoser** for *Mamma Mia!*

Set Design: **Joseph J. Egan** for *Mamma Mia!*

Choreography: **Jesse Pellegrino** for *Mamma Mia!*

Direction: **Thomas F. Beck, Jr.** and **Neil Schleifer** for *Mamma Mia!*