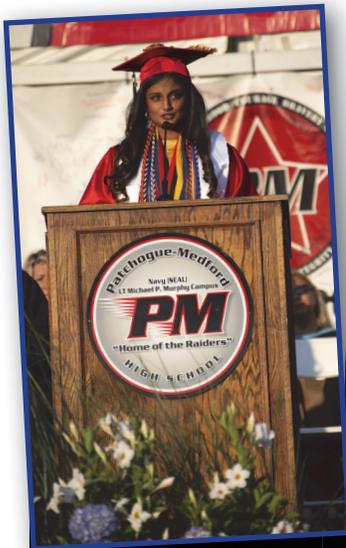


# PM RAIDER CONNECTION

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

Our Patchogue-Medford High School class of 2024 commencement was a joyous and memorable occasion, which celebrated the amazing achievements of our graduating seniors. Proud families and friends gathered to witness the graduates receive their diplomas, marking the culmination of their hard work and dedication. Inspirational speeches from faculty and student leaders highlighted the bright futures ahead and the importance of perseverance and community. Please enjoy photos from this wonderful event.



Una versión en español de este boletín está disponible en el sitio web del Distrito.

# A LETTER TO THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

As we completed another remarkable school year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the successes and achievements we have collectively experienced throughout the 2023-2024 school year. As we look forward to the joys and opportunities of summer, we would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our graduating high school seniors in the class of 2024.

We'll start with our stars of the moment: our graduating seniors. On behalf of myself and the Board of Education, we want to congratulate you on this momentous accomplishment. Each of you has reached a significant milestone in your educational journey, and we are incredibly proud of all you have accomplished. Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication have brought you to this moment, and we know you are well-prepared for the exciting future that lies ahead. Whether you are heading to college, entering the workforce, or pursuing other paths, we are confident that you will continue to achieve great things and make a positive impact on the world.

To the entire community, we are immensely proud of the resilience and dedication displayed by our students, educators, and support staff throughout the year. Just as no school year goes by without great successes, there are always challenges. Together, we navigated these challenges and uncertainties with unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. Our students excelled academically, athletically, and artistically, showcasing their talents and hard work in various spheres.

This year, we witnessed outstanding achievements in our academic programs, as we've highlighted throughout the year on social media and in newsletters. From continuously improving test scores to innovative classroom projects, our students have demonstrated a passion for learning and a determination to excel. Our educators have been at the forefront of these accomplishments, providing the inspiring and engaging instruction that has empowered our students to reach their full potential.

Our athletic teams have also shone brightly, with numerous victories and personal bests across all sports. The spirit of teamwork and perseverance has been evident in every game, meet, and competition. Our athletes have not only brought home trophies but have also learned invaluable lessons in sportsmanship and dedication.

The arts have flourished as well, with our students presenting breathtaking performances and exhibits that captivated audiences and highlighted the immense talent within our schools. Whether through music, theater, visual arts, or dance, our students have enriched our community with their creativity and passion.

As we look forward to the summer break, we encourage all our students to take this time to relax, recharge, and explore new interests. Summer is a wonderful opportunity to pursue hobbies, spend quality time with family and friends, and prepare for the upcoming school year with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

In closing, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to our parents, guardians, and community members for your unwavering support and partnership. Your involvement and commitment to our schools are vital to our success, and we are grateful for all you do to support our students and staff. Wishing everyone a safe, joyful, and restful summer.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall for another year of learning, growth, and achievement.

Warm regards,  
Patchogue-Medford Board of Education  
Dr. Donna Jones, Superintendent of Schools



# SCENES FROM COMMENCEMENT



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2024 TOP SCHOLARS!

*To be at the top of your class is truly an astounding accomplishment. To be a top scholar, students must consistently demonstrate remarkable dedication, resilience, and academic excellence throughout their high school careers. As they prepare to embark on their next adventures, we celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing the incredible impact they will undoubtedly make in the future.*



## RITHIKA SIVAPOKARAN, VALEDICTORIAN (#1)

■ **Hometown:** Medford, NY

■ **GPA:** 105.24 (weighted)

■ **Achievements:**

- Bezos Scholars Program (initiated IGNITE, a Peer Mentorship Program)
- MIT Center for Constructive Communications Research and Design - Intern
- Brookhaven National Laboratory High School Research Program – Quantum Physics Research Intern
- Member of Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at Stony Brook University
- General Organization President
- emPowering Minds Club President
- Class of 2024 President

■ **College:** Princeton University

■ **Major:** Chemical and Biological Engineering



## ANDREW JAMES RETTIG, SALUTATORIAN (#2)

■ **Hometown:** East Patchogue, NY

■ **GPA:** 105.12 (weighted)

■ **Achievements:**

- General Organization Treasurer
- Key Club Executive Board Member
- Jazz Band Section Leader  
NYSCAME/SCMEA)
- National Honor Society Treasurer
- Class of 2024/Student Government Executive Board Member
- Rochester Institute of Technology Science and Math Award
- Boys' Volleyball All-County Academic Elite

■ **College:** Northeastern University

■ **Major:** Computer Science



## CARLO COSTIGLIOLA, CO-ESSAYIST (#3 TIED)

■ **Hometown:** Medford, NY

■ **GPA:** 104.71 (weighted)

■ **Achievements:**

- Math Team President
- Key Club Treasurer
- Tri-M Music Honor Society Treasurer
- National Honor Society Executive Board Member
- PMHS Red & Black School Newspaper Staff Writer (11th grade), Co-Editor (12th grade)
- Best SNO Award for article published nationally
- Principal Bassist of NYSSMA All-State Orchestra

■ **College:** Johns Hopkins University

■ **Major:** Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering



## ISABELLA SALDUCCO, CO-ESSAYIST (#3 TIED)

■ **Hometown:** Medford, NY

■ **GPA:** 104.71 (weighted)

■ **Achievements:**

- National Merit Commended Student
- College Board National Hispanic Recognition
- Varsity Volleyball Captain
- Varsity Basketball Captain
- Exceptional Senior Award
- Unified Basketball Volunteer
- Wind Ensemble Member, 1st Chair French Horn

■ **College:** Cornell University

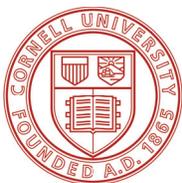
■ **Major:** Biomedical Engineering

# SCENES FROM COMMENCEMENT



## THE NEXT STEP

The next steps for the students of the class of 2024 include some of the top colleges and universities in the country, including those depicted below and so many more. In addition, many of our graduates will serve their country in a branch of the U.S. military, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard and Marines. Many others will enter the workforce and contribute immediately to the prosperity and economy of our region and country. We'd also like to make special mention of our Patchogue-Medford scholars who graduated a year early, as they too are deserving of celebration at this time! Congratulations to Zuileika Baculima, Breanna Blacks, Anthony Calaitges, Justin Cunningham, Malachi Darius, Alysson Landeros, and Hailey Vera.



# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Patchogue-Medford Journalism and Broadcasting Excels at BASH

Patchogue-Medford High School's journalism students and Raider TV members proudly showcased their talents at the annual Broadcasting Awards for Senior High (BASH). The prestigious event, held at Hofstra University, gathered nearly 1,000 students from over 40 school districts. Our talented students received recognition for their outstanding co-anchor team, with Ceania Gonzales and Martina Costigliola leading a breakout session.



*Dahryl Louis and Jeryal Tejada with their Best Co-Anchor Team third place trophy*

Senior Ceania Gonzales and freshman Martina Costigliola presented “10 Key Editing Tips for Broadcasts” alongside representatives from Manhasset and Port Washington school districts. Additionally, seniors Jeryal Tejada and Dahryl Louis earned third place in the Best Co-Anchor Team category for their exceptional work at Raider TV.

BASH, established by Southold School District in 2017, celebrates student achievements in broadcast journalism, providing a platform for skill expansion and educational opportunities.

## Spotlight on Patchogue-Medford's Top Spring Athletes

Patchogue-Medford High School is celebrating the recognition of six exceptional student-athletes recently honored in *Newsday's* prestigious Top Spring Athletes lists. These individuals excelled in their sports and demonstrated outstanding leadership and academic achievement within our school community.



Among the standout athletes are Olivia Liddell from Girls Varsity Lacrosse and Zach Maggiacomo from Boys Varsity Lacrosse. Olivia, renowned for her skills as a midfielder and attack player, has been a pivotal figure on and off the field. Following graduation, she plans to continue her lacrosse career at Stony Brook University, having achieved impressive stats this season.



Zach, recognized for his defensive prowess and leadership both on the field and in the classroom, maintained a perfect GPA while balancing participation in three sports. He will further his academic and athletic journey at Boston University on a lacrosse scholarship, embodying Patchogue-Medford's commitment to excellence.

In Varsity Flag Football, Alexis Bulson-Cuozzo and Diamond Pertillar played integral roles in leading their team to consecutive Suffolk County championship appearances. Alexis, a quarterback and linebacker, will continue her academic pursuits at La Salle University. Meanwhile, Diamond, acclaimed for her performances as a wide receiver and defensive back, will join the basketball team at Five Towns College this fall.



On the baseball field, Bryan Frascogna and Rob Melo showcased their talents as catcher and pitcher/outfielder, respectively. Bryan, known for his strong on-base percentage and leadership qualities, will pursue volleyball at St. Joseph's University, New York. Rob's standout performances on the mound have earned him recognition, and he will continue both his education and baseball career at the United States Military Academy.

*“These student-athletes embody the core values of Patchogue-Medford, demonstrating excellence in sportsmanship, academics, and leadership. Their achievements reflect our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel both on the field and in the classroom.”*

– Superintendent Dr. Donna Jones

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Patchogue-Medford High School's *The Prom* Shines at Teeny Awards

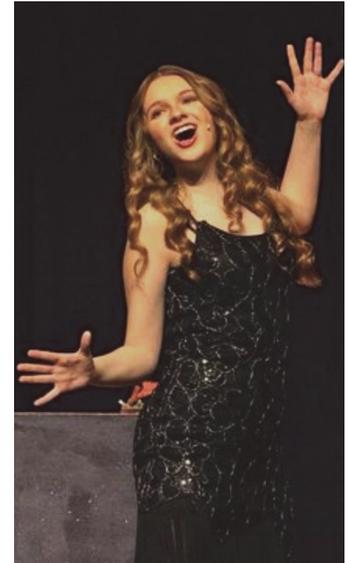
Patchogue-Medford High School's vibrant rendition of the musical *The Prom*, a wildly successful play from 2018, garnered well-deserved acclaim at this year's Teeny Awards, celebrating excellence in high school theater across East End Long Island. Directed by a dedicated team, Patchogue-Medford's production illuminated themes of acceptance and community through its captivating storytelling.

Ethan Moraitakis and Abigail Caravella were nominated in acting categories for their showcasing performances. Ethan, recognized for their role as Dee Dee Allen, delivered a compelling portrayal of a Broadway star navigating fame's complexities. Meanwhile, Abigail's depiction of Angie Dickinson, a seasoned chorus girl, earned her acclaim as a Supporting Role nominee.

"This year marked a milestone for our theater program," said Nathan Brinkman, Director of Art, Music, and Cultural Arts for the Patchogue-Medford School District. "The cast and crew of *The Prom* brought a poignant narrative to life, resonating deeply with our audience. It's a testament to the power of the arts in uniting diverse perspectives and fostering creativity."



*Ethan Moraitakis as Dee Dee Allen in Patchogue-Medford High School's production of The Prom*



*Abigail Caravella as Angie Dickinson in Patchogue-Medford High School's production of The Prom*

Patchogue-Medford's adaptation not only received community-wide praise but also spotlighted 157 students as Technical Recognition Honorees across various categories, including cosmetology, set design, orchestra, and stage crew.

## Innovation Knows No Borders

The Patchogue-Medford High School Robotics Team has consistently achieved at an incredibly high level throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Now, we can add another accomplishment to the list! The team secured an impressive sixth place in the highly competitive FIRST Robotics Long Island Regional competition at Hofstra University, sponsored by Optimum. The team competed against counterparts from across the globe, including representatives from Chinese Taipei, France, Turkey, and Canada. Additionally, Patchogue-Medford had the honor of hosting Chinese Taipei Team 8595, fostering a collaborative environment where students worked together on projects and eagerly exchanged ideas and expertise.



## Dedicated Practice: Students Tackle Regents Exams

Recently, during a weekend of intensive study, Patchogue-Medford middle and high school students undertook nearly 600 practice math and science Regents examinations. These tests served as a crucial opportunity for students to demonstrate their accumulated knowledge from throughout the year and refine their skills in readiness for the imminent exams. With teachers committed to meticulously grading the assessments and offering insightful feedback, our students are fortified in their pursuit of ongoing achievement and growth.



**Patchogue-Medford Schools**

241 South Ocean Avenue  
Patchogue, New York 11772  
www.pmschools.org

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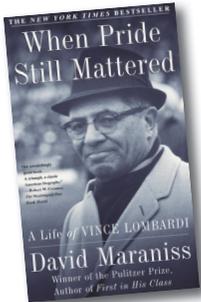
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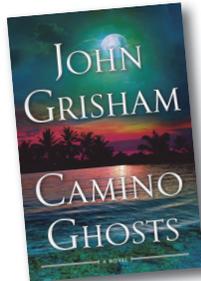
**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

**Need Some Summer Reading Suggestions?**

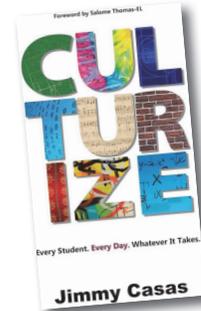
Summer reading isn't just fun and relaxing (though that would be reason enough); it's also a crucial tool to help students maintain and enhance their literacy skills during the break and prevent the "summer slide." Engaging in reading over the summer fosters a love for literature, encourages independent learning, and stimulates curiosity and imagination. It also allows students—as well as adults, of course—to explore diverse genres and topics, broadening their horizons and improving comprehension and critical thinking skills. Moreover, summer reading provides an opportunity for relaxation and enjoyment, making learning a fun and integral part of the summer experience. Of course, with so many wonderful books, new and old, to explore, picking one can be a challenge. Well, we're here to help! See what your staff and administrators are reading this summer for a spark of inspiration!



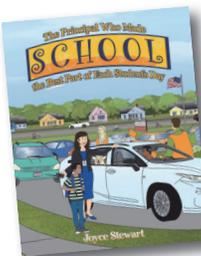
**Anthony Cracco,**  
**Director of Physical Education, Health, Athletics, and Health Services**  
*When Pride Still Mattered*  
by David Maraniss



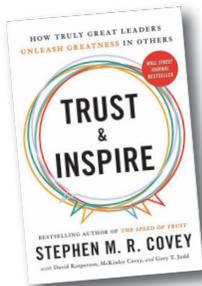
**Sharon Deland,**  
**Principal, Medford Elementary School**  
*Camino Ghosts*  
by John Grisham



**Richard Hoffman,**  
**Principal, River Elementary School**  
*Culturize: Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes.*  
by Jimmy Casas



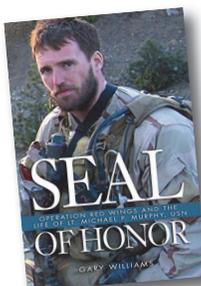
**Bryan D. Lake,**  
**Principal, Oregon Middle School**  
*The Principal Who Made School the Best Part of Each Student's Day*  
by Joyce Stewart



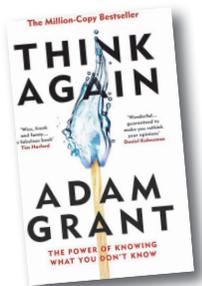
**JoAnn Luisa, Assistant Principal, Oregon Middle School**  
*Trust and Inspire: How Truly Great Leaders Unleash Greatness in Others*  
by Stephen M.R. Covey



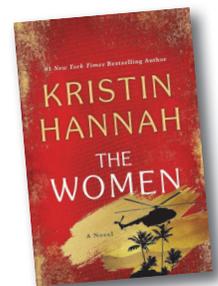
**Rui Mendes,**  
**Principal, Bay Elementary School**  
*American Dirt*  
by Jeanine Cummins



**Tom Piccirillo,**  
**Department Chair Health and PE**  
*Seal of Honor: Operation Red Wings and the Life of Lt. Michael P. Murphy*  
by Gary L. Williams



**Timothy Piciullo,**  
**Principal, South Ocean Middle School**  
*Think Again*  
by Adam Grant



**Emily Wernau,**  
**Principal, Tremont Elementary School**  
*The Women*  
by Kristin Hannah