



BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOL

2014 FALL NEWSLETTER

Thank You, Bridgehampton Parent Teacher Organization!

Bridgehampton's PTO, one of the school's most valuable and essential organizations, is constantly working behind the scenes to promote communication between parents and the school, to provide college and travel scholarships for students, and to create spirited, engaging campus activities for all.

"We're a group of people with a common goal of creating a fun and healthy school environment for our students and parents," current co-president Ninfa Boyd said. "We look for the support of all our parents, staff and teachers. Everyone can do something to make Bridgehampton School a better place and to be a part of its community."

Participation in the PTO is not dependent on membership: events are open to everyone, as are meetings, usually held the second Tuesday of every month at 6 PM at the school. "All are welcome to stop by," Ms. Boyd said. "We encourage people to get involved."

"When my children started Bridgehampton School last year," Anne Tschida Gomberg, the organization's other co-president said, "I joined the PTO to help create enjoyable activities that bring the school community together. It's been a great way to get to know other parents and teachers while working together to plan and implement our growing calendar of events and fundraisers."

One of several events organized by the PTO this fall included the



PTO members Ninfa Boyd, Kathleen McClelland, Rosanna Maione, Melanie LaPointe, Anne Tschinda Gomberg, Nancy Bagshaw and James Kapon. Not pictured: Kelley Davis, Jeffrey Mansfield, Lillian Tyree-Johnson, and Karina and Victor Udave.

Back to School Barbecue in September, the traditional kick-off to the year's calendar that serves to introduce the organization to parents and provide a relaxed, family-like atmosphere for them to mingle with teachers and administrators, often meeting some of them for the first time. (For more on the changed focus of this year's BBQ, see the Superintendent's article on page 2.) Other fall activities, which function in part as fundraisers for future PTO events and scholarships, are Picture Day;



the always anticipated Scholastic Book Fair, promoting independent reading among students of all ages; and an elementary Halloween costume contest, with prizes to the winners supplied and awarded by the PTO.

Aside from providing regular community- and spirit-building activities throughout the year, the PTO is an important source of student scholarships. The Weiss Intercultural Travel Scholarship, known as WITS, is an arm of the PTO that offers financial assis-

tance to students who have been accepted to a travel program promoting cultural exchange. This fall, \$7000 was awarded to ease the burden on families working to provide their children with a new international travel opportunity, a three-country educational tour of Europe this April with the Bridgehampton Culture Club. Future PTO events will replenish that fund to enable the next wave of travelers to realize their dreams. The organization also offers an annual Senior Scholarship, awarded to one or more graduates, which recognizes the overall student—one who has "shown the ability to balance his or her academics, and social and extracurricular activities, all while exhibiting strong moral fiber in his or her community."

Current PTO Officers for 2014-15, in addition to co-presidents Ninfa Boyd and Anne Tschinda Gomberg, are vice-president James Kapon, secretary Rosanna Maione and treasurer Melanie LaPointe; and this year's trustees are Nancy Bagshaw, Kelley Davis, Jeffrey Mansfield, Kathleen McClelland, Lillian Tyree-Johnson, Karina Udave and Victor Udave. Several PTO officers are also school board members and active in other school committees and organizations, such as the Bridgehampton School Foundation, the Audit Committee, the Budget Advisory Committee, the

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SAVE THE DATE & SEND A STUDENT TO EUROPE!
THE BRIDGEHAMPTON CULTURE CLUB'S INTERNATIONAL BRUNCH & AUCTION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 11-3 PM AT THE BRIDGEHAMPTON COMMUNITY HOUSE

From the Desk of the Superintendent/Principal

DR. LOIS R. FAVRE

It is already the end of first quarter and our Parent-Teacher Conferences are in progress as I write this letter for the fall newsletter! It's been a whirlwind of terrific activities and opportunities for learning here at Bridgehampton as the 2014-15 school year has gotten off to a wonderful start: PTO Back to School BBQ, Open House, PBIS Boosters at Children's Museum of the East End for elementary and at Quinipet on Shelter Island for secondary, a trip to Broadway for grades 4-12, as well as opportunities for work at the Parrish Art Museum, and in-district with Robotics and new Saturday athletics programming in the our gymnasium for all ages.

This year to date we have welcomed 25 new students to the Bridgehampton family. That is a huge increase in enrollment for a school of our size, and we are happy to see so many new faces. In three years we will be hard pressed to fit our grade levels into our small classrooms

upstairs on the secondary floor! That, however, is a wonderful problem to have.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) – our ongoing positive behavioral approach at the school – is paying off!



Discipline data helps us to intervene before problems escalate, and I am happy to say we have had NO suspensions or significant discipline issues during the first quarter. We are very proud of our students and their response to our focus on the positives. This year we have added a character education component, using the Six Pillars of Character, focusing in November on trustworthiness, and moving on throughout the year to the other five pillars: caring, respect, responsibility, fairness and citizenship.

We said goodbye to our dear friend Ms. Mary Anne Jules at a wonderful gathering at Almond in Bridgehampton. More than 100 guests came to celebrate and thank her for her

years of service as Athletic Director, teacher and colleague.

We remain committed to our four major Middle States Accreditation goals of increased student achievement, college and career readiness, updating of facilities and improved communication. In an effort to be more fiscally responsible, we are focusing more on communication through our website, with our calendar online and updated notifications posted daily.

In this Thanksgiving season, we are grateful for a supportive community, strong teachers and administrators and wonderful parents and students. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours the best for the Holiday Season, however you may celebrate, and much love, health and happiness in the New Year.

PTO BBQ Celebrates the Bridgehampton Greenhouse

Bridgehampton School District has been a pioneer and leader in the Greenhouse / Edible School Garden movement on Long Island, as well as throughout the state, due mostly to the focus and attention that our teacher, JudiAnn Carmack-Fayazz, has assured for Bridgehampton. We have been lauded by Slow Foods, Edible East End and Cornell Cooperative Extension, as

well as by area schools interested in bringing the concept to their districts.

In an effort to raise awareness in the community of the garden program, the PTO decided to move the Back to School Barbecue adjacent to the greenhouse, and add to our table of delights fresh produce from our very own garden. We need manpower to assure that the output of the garden is maximized,

and many parents have not had the opportunity to see the wonderful facility that has been established through the efforts of teachers and students alike. The barbecue was a great success, with new healthy options added to the menu. Ms. Carmack-Fayazz and members of the PTO encouraged parents to join in to support the maintenance of the school garden.

Following the BBQ, a committee was formed as an offshoot of our School Wellness Committee. The committee is meeting monthly and working on ideas to get more parents and community members involved in our efforts. If you would like to be part of this "Get Healthy" movement, please contact Dr. Favre at lfavre@bridgehampton.k12.ny.us, and she will put you in touch with organizers.



Social Studies teacher Henry Meyer on dog duty; PTO trustee and BOE member Lillian Tyree-Johnson greets elementary-school parents Ms. Bermejo and Mr. Huartan; Bridgehampton's future botanists getting an early start in the greenhouse.

Fall PBIS Boosters at Quinipet and CMEE

Thanks to a generous grant from Paddlers for Humanity—an all-volunteer nonprofit organization based in East Hampton (www.p4h.org) which raises money and awareness for local and global organizations dedicated to bettering children's lives—Bridgehampton School was able to implement exciting, school-wide events on November 5th to booster its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports initiative. Part of a series of programming and activities to support school-wide and classroom matrices for behavioral expectations, the events also promote character education development in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act.

Sixth through twelfth grade students and much of our middle and high school faculty embarked on an all-day field trip to Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center on Shelter Island. Student and teacher teams were presented with a series of mental and physical challenges, which,



Third-graders Shavad Thomas, Kimberly Villa, Samantha Udave, Justin Uguiles, John Rojas and Helio Paucar on the mini-golf course at CMEE. Right: a team-building exercise called "Comet Ball" capped off a day of challenges at Quinipet Camp.



in requiring the groups to work together to meet common goals, were designed to reinforce PBIS core values of respect, responsibility and safety. Accomplishing those challenges provided numerous opportunities for participants to build self-confidence and strengthen interpersonal relationships.

On the same day, character building of a different sort took place at the Children's Museum of the East End. In activities organized by Dr. Lois Favre, with assistance by literacy specialist Jessica Rodgers

and speech-language pathologist Aleaze Hodgens, our imaginative kindergarteners and 1st and 2nd graders followed treasure maps through CMEE's maze of environments, discovering PBIS behavioral expectations hidden in the various exhibits: reminders of how to behave in our café, hallways, bathrooms, buses and playground. After being rewarded by Dr. Favre with "pirate gold," students were treated to a spontaneous peddle-push tractor race between Ms. Merkert and Ms. Corbett.

Later in the afternoon, 3rd through 5th graders played a 9-hole round of mini-golf, in which behavioral expectations were interwoven with mathematical concepts presented throughout the course. Students were encouraged to think about responsibility, respect, and safety behaviors while interacting with their teachers and peers. Judging by the amount of laughter, encouragement and help our students were sharing with each other, few reminders were needed. —with CMEE event reporting by Aleaze Hodgens

Bridgehampton PTO

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District Wellness Committee and the Strategic Planning Council.

A sampling of upcoming PTO-sponsored events include a winter dance and ice skating night, and a Meet the Board of Education Candidates forum and Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in May. In June, it hosts the End-of-Year Barbecue and continues its tradition of adding to the festivities at graduation time by offering gifts at the Pre-K and Kindergarten ceremony, and citizenship and school spirit awards at Grades 1-5 Moving Up Days; the awards are designed, respectively, to recognize students who exhibit the kinds of behaviors we want to see displayed in our school and community, and for

"doing the right thing academically and socially": consistently putting good effort into one's work, maintaining good progress, and being respectful and cheerful.

Want to get involved? Membership does not require monthly attendance of meetings, and yearly dues of just \$20 help fund events and scholarships. But above all, the PTO is looking for your presence, your ideas and any assistance you might be able to give, no matter how small or occasional, in making the school a better place for our students. For more information, please visit the PTO page on the school website: www.bridgehampton.k12.ny.us/index.php/parent-teacher-organization.

Fall Health and Phys Ed News

Steve Meyer's health class recognized National Teen Driver Safety Week this October with a message on the school marquee reminding all to "Wear your seatbelt, even if you're in the back seat." Students distributed seatbelt fact sheets and ID/key chains with the slogan *Click It: Front and Back*.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, also in October, Helen Atkinson Barnes of The Retreat visited Mr. Meyer's class to conduct a program called "Healthy Relationships," covering such topics as domestic violence, dating violence and many forms of bullying. Bridgehampton alumna and Retreat volunteer Bryzeida Perez joined her for a day, en-



couraging students to earn community service credits by participating in projects that inform communities about domestic violence (see spotlight on Bryzeida on page 7).

FOCUS ON BRIDGEHAMPTON

On November 7, Bridgehampton art students in grades 4 to 11 took part in a large community project made possible by the Parrish Museum. During an artist-led tour of *Mary Queen of the Universe*, a current exhibit featuring sculpture, drawings and prints by Brooklyn-based brothers Steven and William Ladd, the hard-working, fraternal duo entertained young audiences with the inspirations and shared memories behind their meticulously constructed environments on view in the galleries. Afterwards, Bees participated in a "Scrollathon," adding colorful, hand-crafted scrolls—tightly wound strips of fabric secured by pins—to an intricate textile landscape in collaboration with over 1000 other students from area schools and organizations. The Ladds will return to the Parrish in December and January



to complete the program, and the collaborative installation, a mural of student portraits from the residency, and a video documentary of the project will be on display at the

Museum's annual Student Art Exhibition in February. The brothers' creative spirit and passionate mantra, "Do what you love, be focused and disciplined, collaborate,"

resonated deeply with all who attended. To find out more, visit www.parrishart.org/artist-residence-program-ladd-brothers or www.stevenandwilliam.com.



The Bridgehampton Drama Department mounted its 3rd-annual full-scale musical production on the gym stage this November with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Directed by chorus teacher Lindsey Sanchez, with musical direction by Karen Hochstedler, the hilarious musical comedy about a not-so-run-of-the-mill elementary school spelling bee starred **Caleigh and Elizabeth Hochstedler, Matthew Hostetter, Elijah Jackson,**

Hayley Lund and Elijah White. Rounding out the cast this year were three students from Piereson High School: **Denis Hartnett, Matthew Schiavoni and Zoe Vatash.** During each of the four productions, audience volunteers participated as extra bee contestants, many from Bridgehampton's own faculty and staff. "As always, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support!" Ms. Sanchez said to the full houses and many volunteers who helped behind the scenes.



Superintendent Dr. Lois Favre with ensemble members (from left, standing) Nia Dawson, Isaiah AQUI, Laura Uribe, Matthew Hostetter, Harriet DeGroot, Elijah Jackson, Ameer Brunson, Band Director Dave Elliot, (kneeling) Elizabeth Hochstedler, Jada Pinckney, Patricia Figueroa, Autumn Street and Michael Smith.

Photo by Elizabeth Macy

The Marimba Ensemble was the featured performance at the 2014 New York State Council of School Superintendents Conference this September in Saratoga Springs, an opportunity that Dr. Lois Favre played a key role in creating. The group played a mix of original compositions and selections created by Walt Hamp-

ton, culminating with its favorite piece, "Hidden Treasure." The audience gave them a standing ovation that lasted until the entire ensemble had left the hall. Afterward, the student musicians were invited to lunch at one of the top restaurants in Saratoga Springs, where staff showed them to a private room and treated them like superstars.

ARTISTS AND ARTS EDUCATION



Chorus, band, marimba and drama students at the Disney musical *Aladdin* at the New Amsterdam Theatre in NYC in October.

Author! Author!



Local author of 60 books, Marijane Meaker—better known by her young-adult pen name M.E. Kerr—visited the school this October to meet with high school English classes who had just read her YA novel *Gentlehands*. An intriguing blend of romance and mystery set in the Hamptons, this classic coming of age story recounts a memorable summer in a high school boy's life in which he is forced to grow up quickly when a dark family secret

unexpectedly resurfaces. Students posed questions they'd prepared to Ms. Meaker, who entertained her rapt audiences with stories of the East End in the 70s and her many inspirations for writing. An avid reader and longtime teacher of writing, she encouraged students to pursue their own reading and writing and made gifts of signed books. For more on Ms. Meaker's biography, awards and impressive list of publications, please visit www.mekerr.com.

Spanish teacher Nancy Bagshaw's *Finding Five*—*Embracing Remembrances of Those Who Have Passed*, published in October, has reached the list of top 100 books sold on Amazon in the category of teens and social issues. This moving tribute to Ms. Bagshaw's niece Katy, who passed away after battling a rare form of liver cancer, is also available at Barnes & Noble and local booksellers. Its positive, encouraging themes transcend grief and death, comforting those who have lost someone dear to them by demonstrating that engaging in conversations may actually ease the pain and honor the spirit of the



lost. "*Finding Five*," Ms. Bagshaw said, "is an invitation to share and take note of people's thoughts about a loved one who has passed. Though the person we loved is gone, the memories of that person live on." Ms. Bagshaw will be reading at the Hampton Library on January 8th at 7 PM.

This June, technology teacher Judiann Carmack-Fayyaz—president of Edible School Gardens and chair of Slow Food East End—added another impressive accomplishment to her career when *Delicious Nutritious Foodbook*, a collaborative project she conceived and wrote, was published in June. "Access to good, clean food and sound nutritional advice should be universal and available to all," Ms. Fayyaz said. To that end, the book is designed as a manual to help young families with school-age children make healthful, delicious food choices and to advocate greater consumption of vegetables and fruit. It offers handy working tools and tips for preparing de-



licious and nutritious food and for eliminating barriers that get in the way of a healthy diet. Copies are available for donations of \$10 or more, with all proceeds supporting Edible School Gardens. For ordering information and to view a sample of the book, please visit www.EdibleSchoolGardens.org.

THE BRIDGEHAMPTON CULTURE CLUB HEADS TO EUROPE THIS APRIL

This year's new school club and elective course for students in grades 10-12 is embarking on a 10-day, 3-country educational tour of Europe during spring break. In conjunction with Education First Tours, a world leader in international education, the trip will stop in London, Paris and Barcelona, with side trips to Bath and Versailles. Students will tour such world-famous monuments as the Tower of London, the Louvre, Notre Dame, Park Guell and Stonehenge.

The club was born of student interest during English teacher Tom House's Creative Writing class on a spring afternoon when most students were on a field trip. As he and now-sophomores Madi Koral and Max Cheng were journaling and preparing English tea, Mr. House casually mentioned he'd always wanted to take students on a trip to Europe, where they might experience the real thing, and Madi and Max were quick to say, "Couldn't we try?" Before the period was out, they'd helped him write an email to Superintendent Dr. Lois Favre, who responded right away, saying she was all for the idea. After Guidance Counselor Danielle



The Culture Club was interviewed this October for an article in *The Southampton Press*. Standing, from left: Daniel Denton, Claudio Figueroa, Isaiah Aqui, Kevin Feliciano, Matthew Hostetter and Giselle Carmona; seated: Harriet DeGroot, Nia Dawson, Madi Koral, Max Cheng, Rachel Hoyt, Cecilia Calieca and Elizabeth Hochstedler. Not pictured: Hayley Lund and Laura Uribe.

Doscher signed on as the group's co-leader and two well-attended parent-student meetings determined sufficient interest, the idea was presented to the Board of Ed, and the group became an official school club in June.

"We were hoping for 6 students," Mr. House said, the minimum number needed to run an EF tour. "Or as many as 8 or 9, to partly cover a second chaperone," as EF pays for a teacher to accompany every 6 students. But before long, the group had grown to 15, and he and Ms. Doscher had their work cut out for them, planning fundraisers and negotiating the steep learning curve for taking a group of teenagers on a European tour for the first time. Help came

from the community: parents, students and friends, many not enrolled on the trip, offered their help during fundraising events; local businesses and individuals contributed sponsorship money; and a much needed mentor appeared with expert advice—Midge Fowler, a recently retired teacher at Southampton High School, who led 11 EF tours throughout her career. Additional help came from EF itself: early this November, Mr. House was invited on a Group Leader Training Tour with more than 40 other teachers and EF staff from around the country. Over 3 days and nights in Rome, the trip mimicked a student tour while conducting conferences and preparing attendees for their

own group travel.

Although recognized as an official school club, the group does not receive any district money. Enrolled students and their families rely on personal contributions, scholarships and fundraising to piece together the cost of the trip, with a base price of over \$3000 per traveler. This summer and fall, you may have driven by the school and seen students holding up signs with the logo Send a Student to Europe! To date, the club has held 6 group fundraisers—car washes, yard sales, a bake sale and an outdoor movie night—raising \$11,000 so far. A majority of the Culture Club students have also received Weiss Intercultural Travel Scholarships sponsored by the PTO (see cover article).

Another fundraiser is planned for this winter: an international brunch and auction at the Bridgehampton Community House on Sunday, January 4. In addition to soliciting donations to attend the brunch itself, the group is seeking corporate and individual sponsors—ads and messages will be projected throughout the event and reproduced on placemats—as well as donations of food and auction items. For more details, please visit www.bridgehamptoncultureclub.com. You can also keep abreast of Culture Club news by liking their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bridgehamptoncultureclub. *Ciao* for now!



Newsletter editor and English teacher Tom House outside the Colosseum on an EF Group Leader Training Tour this November.

Bridgehampton Union Free School District

Central Administration

Superintendent of Schools/Principal: Dr. Lois R. Favre • Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Facilities: Mr. Robert Hauser, CPA
Director of RTI: Ms. Aleta Parker • District Clerk: Mrs. Tammy Cavanagh

Board of Education

President: Ronald White • Vice President: Lillian Tyree-Johnson

Members: Douglas DeGroot, Lawrence LaPointe, Jeffrey Mansfield, Kathleen McClelland, Jennifer Vinski

Newsletter Staff

Tom House, Editor • Dr. Lois R. Favre

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNA BRYZEIDA PEREZ

If you've been at Bridgehampton School lately--or at the Hampton Library, or at a program at The Retreat, or on the Riverhead campus of Suffolk County Community College--or any number of other East End venues, you may have run into 2013 graduate Bryzeida Perez, who in addition to attending SCCC full time, keeps a very busy schedule with part-time work and community volunteering.

Bryzeida attended Bridgehampton for 15 years, from Pre-K 3 all the way to 12th grade, graduating as salutatorian of her class. Born in Mexico, she came to the US when she was just one and a half years old and entered pre-school speaking almost no English. Yet by the time she reached kindergarten, she was already fluent, and by second grade was in advanced English reading classes. Languages, it turned out, would be one of Bryzeida's chief strengths and interests: today she is a talented and prolific bilingual speaker and writer, studying and gearing up for a career that may very well include both those skills.



A local community college was the right choice for Bryzeida. "I'm glad I started at Suffolk," she said. "It gave me a chance to explore a range of subjects and options." A PE lecture class there ignited a long-running interest of hers, nutrition, and she sees herself pursuing a career as a dietitian. In the fall, she plans to transfer to Brooklyn College and declare a major in Food and Nutrition Science. But she'd also like to minor in journalism and continue writing articles and eventually books that will help lower-income families and minorities attain more information about the importance of health and nutrition.

Going to school close to home has allowed Bryzeida to keep her job at the Hampton Library, which she's held since her senior year, working in circulation and sometimes assisting reference 3 to 4 evenings a week. At present she's the only bilingual speaker on staff, providing an important link to the Spanish-speaking community. Bryzeida has also been a contributor to the monthly bilingual newspaper *Voz Latina*, writing a variety of news stories of interest to the Latin community and translating them into English.

One of several outreach programs Bryzeida has participated in since high school is the Teen Leadership Project at The Retreat, in which East End students have the opportunity to work together while learning about violence prevention and promoting awareness and safety in the community. Participants in the fall/winter and spring sessions, which meet on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 pm, design and complete outreach projects, earning community service credits and becoming eligible for The Retreat's Youth Leadership Certif-

icate. (If interested, please contact Helen Atkinson-Barnes, at 631-329-4398.)

Bryzeida, who has been helping high school students with their Retreat projects and in some cases writing about them, has a different project in mind for the future--translating Ms. Judiann Carmack-Fayyaz's *Delicious Nutritious Foodbook*, which she thinks is "just awesome," into Spanish, and possibly earning independent study credits in the process. Good practice, it would seem, for someone who'd like to write her own books one day.

Bravo, many thanks and best of luck to you, Bryzeida, from your proud alma mater!

**Important note: At present, this motivated student and responsible community member is making her own way through college, without the benefit of student loans or government assistance, and transferring to a four-year college will cost much more than she now pays at Suffolk. If you're in a position to help Bryzeida continue her education, please consider making a donation at www.gofundme.com/bryzeida. It will make a world of difference.*

Bridgehampton School's Mission and Belief Statements and Profile of a Graduate

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Bridgehampton School to inspire lifelong intellectual curiosity and respectful individual expression by reaching beyond our school community and teaching all students the essential skills to actively participate in the global community and to flourish in the 21st Century.

Belief Statement:

We believe that our children will shape the future by expressing their intelligence, curiosity, compassion, leadership and invention by reaching beyond our small school community and working to their fullest potential to preserve and improve our world.

Profile of the Bridgehampton School Graduate:

The Bridgehampton graduate will be a reflective, compassionate and motivated individual who combines academic prowess and social tolerance in order to become a successful member of society. The following attributes shall be indicative of the Bridgehampton graduate:

- An effective communicator in written and oral expression;
- An analytic problem solver – resourceful and efficient when addressing local and global issues;
- A technologically- advanced individual, able to meet the challenges of 21st century society;
- An individual who will face life's challenges responsibly;
- An intrinsically-motivated citizen who inspires others to work for the greater good;
- An individual who effectively uses time management and organizational skills;
- A critical thinker who blends life experiences with intellectual scholarship;
- A creative thinker who welcomes opportunities to engage their curiosity of the arts, sciences and humanities;
- A respectful and willing individual who embraces cultural diversity; and,
- An individual who actively pursues foreign languages to effectively and diplomatically communicate the exchange of ideas in our global environment.



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FALL SPORTS SEASON 2014

Twenty-seven students participated in 15 fall sports at Bridgehampton, Pierson and East Hampton Schools. Highlights included sophomore **Kevin Feliciano** receiving the most improved

player award for the JV Soccer team, which was awarded the Sportmanship Award by the Suffolk County Soccer Officials; junior **Harriet DeGroot** playing first doubles for Varsity Tennis and

winning many important matches for the team; and sophomore **Nia Dawson** starting for Varsity Volleyball. Nia is expected to be one of next year's top players.

GIRLS SOCCER

Rachel Hoyt (Varsity)
 Hailey Lund (Varsity)
 Paige Hoyt (7/8)

BOYS SOCCER

Claudio Figueroa (Varsity)
 Kevin Feliciano (JV)
 Franky Bonilla (7/8)

FIELD HOCKEY

Autumn Street (Varsity)
 Claudia Patterson (Varsity)
 Jaden Campbell (7/8)
 Aziza Brunson (7/8)
 Kimberly Rojas (7/8)
 Caleigh Hochstedler (7/8)

GOLF

Milo Youngerman (JV)

SWIMMING

Patricia Figueroa (Varsity)

CROSS-COUNTRY

Max Cheng (Varsity)
 Michael Smith (Varsity)
 Robert Aqui (Varsity)

VOLLEYBALL

Nia Dawson (Varsity)
 Jada Pinckney (Varsity)

FOOTBALL

Maximus Tiska (7/8)
 Elijah White (7/8)

TENNIS

Harriet DeGroot (Varsity)
 Elizabeth Hochstedler (JV)
 Sarahi Negrete (JV)
 Montserrat Udave (JV)
 Destiny Hodge (7/8)
 Alanah Johnson (7/8)

Meet Bridgehampton's New Athletic Director, Eric Bramoff

Eric Bramoff describes his new dual role as Phys Ed teacher and AD at Bridgehampton as both a dream job and a homecoming. "I grew up here. If I wasn't lifeguarding on the beach, I was playing in Sag Harbor." For as long as he can remember, he's been involved with both the Sag Harbor and Bridgehampton communities. While his grandmother lived on School Street and his parents both attended Bridgehampton, Eric himself grew up in Sag Harbor.

At Pierson, he had a highly distinguished athletic career, receiving All-County honors in baseball and All-Conference in basketball and soccer before ending his run there in '96 as Male Athlete of the Year. He moved on to Cortland State, where he played soccer before switching to football, playing strong safety. Did he always envision himself with a career in teaching and administration? "I don't think there

was a day when I questioned that I'd be working with kids forever," he said. "It keeps me young." As a Cortland freshman he declared a PE major, going on to earn his BA and teacher certification in '02.

Upon graduation, Bramoff became Pierson's first middle school PE teacher before taking a position at Syracuse City School District, where for 10 years he taught all levels of PE and coached Varsity football, basketball and baseball. At Syracuse he led the basketball team to a sectional championship in the school's third year of existence. "We didn't even have our own gym. We'd run a mile in the freezing cold to practice at the downtown YMCA at 6 am." This June, he'll complete his administrative degree from Le Moyne.

Bramoff takes the AD reins



from Mary Anne Jules, who retired in June after 32 years at the school. He's known Ms. Jules since he was a kid and knows, too, what big shoes he has to fill. "Ms. Jules left the athletic program in a very high place. It runs like a clock, and I want to keep the ball going and build upon what she spent her career laying the foundation for."

Like her, his first passion is for teaching. "Bridgehampton is such a special place for an AD because you still get to actually work with kids." An avid proponent of the shared sports program Ms. Jules created, he's building upon her dream of housing more programs. "An exciting development this year is finally bringing Girls 7 & 8 Basketball back. I'll be coaching it this winter with Jen Suarez." Down the road, he hopes for Girls JV and Varsity

teams. Bridgehampton will also be hosting junior high girls and boys tennis teams, shared with East Hampton and Pierson.

Other new programs off to roaring starts: a fall after-school workout program, introducing 7-to-12th graders to sports-specific weight training, and The Bee Club, a Saturday morning program for children 18 months to 10 years old. At the first Club meeting in October, 42 kids were taking soccer; that number has grown to 70, who'll be playing every week till January, when the program switches to basketball. Varsity athletes will assist instruction, earning community service credit, while the money raised will supplement all athletic teams at Bridgehampton—a win-win.

"It didn't take me long to realize Bridgehampton is a special place," Bramoff said, "and I'm honored to be leading its athletic department into the future."

SAVE THE DATES!

WINTER CONCERTS: PRE-K TO GRADE 5 – DECEMBER 4, 7PM; GRADES 6 TO 12 – DECEMBER 11, 7PM
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: DECEMBER 19, 12PM IN THE GYM