

LOCAL DO'S



Around Campus
Ryan Shannon Visits Mephram

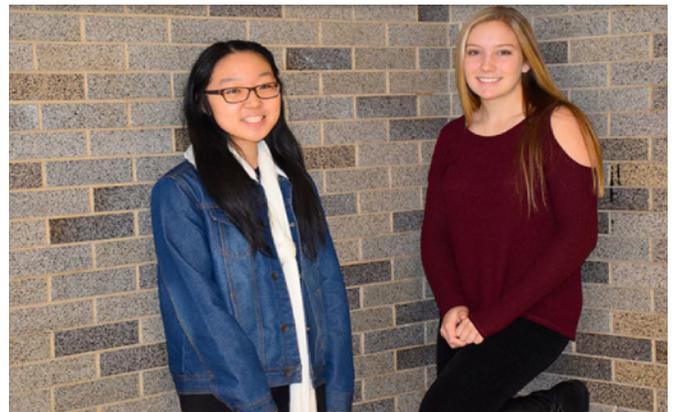
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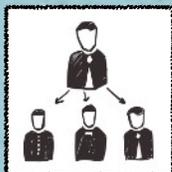


TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN, PAGE 4



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE" PAGE 8

AND MUCH MORE!



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MAP - LAURA SHERIDAN
MEPHAM - BILL MORRIS
MERRICK AVE - LISA SHAPIRO

“JANUS - NOT THE FINAL SALVO”

BY MARK STEINBERG,

BMUST PRESIDENT

As union members around the country braced for the expected anti-union decision from the Supreme Court in the Janus case, concerns intensified with the anticipated pipeline of union-busting cases that would eventually wind their way to the Court. As a result of the most recent changes in the makeup of the Court, there are certainly valid reasons to be concerned. Fortunately, union membership has remained strong post-Janus. Public sector unions must however remain vigilant so we are all prepared to confront the individuals and organizations that seek to divide us, weaken us, and take away our opportunity to have a voice in our workplace.

A recent case that has been appealed to the Supreme Court could prohibit forced public sector union representation. Janus dealt with the collection of union dues from nonmembers for the representation and contract their union provided. This case (*Uradnik v. Inter Faculty Organization*), which is being argued by the Buckeye Institute, takes Janus a step further and proposes that forcing nonunion members to be represented (not just pay dues) by a public sector union violates the First Amendment on the same grounds of forced association as Janus. Basically, even though some might choose not to become a member of their union, they are still represented by their union and their contract would be negotiated by their union. This case, if successful, would allow nonmembers NOT to be represented by their union and free them to negotiate their own contracts.

Nonunion members could negotiate their own contracts! Take that concept in and play it out in your minds. In an era where all public union negotiators hear the dire financial situations of their employers, who will receive fair compensation? They will claim resources are limited (tax cap here in New York) so, once again, who will get

compensated fairly? Will some components of staff “get more” because of special arrangements with their employers? Maybe some components will be perceived as being “less difficult” than others and worthy of a larger slice of the pie.

Maybe in districts where the relationship between the district and union is hostile, this new arrangement just might provide the catalyst to bust the union.

The implications of this case are truly frightening for the labor movement. Brent Jeffers, who is the President of the Inter Faculty Organization, released a statement regarding the case saying “This lawsuit is part of a nationally coordinated strategy by powerful forces aiming to destroy collective bargaining. It is a direct attack on our shared values and collective voice. United, we are powerful advocates – and our solidarity threatens the national anti-labor organizations behind these attacks.”

Brothers and Sisters...we must always stand united in the face of these attacks against our livelihoods. Strong unions are good not only for us, but also for our students and communities. We are very fortunate to be working here in Bellmore-Merrick. Staff members work diligently and our efforts are appreciated and supported by the community. Administration is also supportive of our efforts, and our relationship with them is very positive. Concerns and differences get discussed and worked out. Believe me, that is not the case in some districts.

As always, I appreciate your participation and support of our union. United we will always be strong.

In solidarity,

Mark

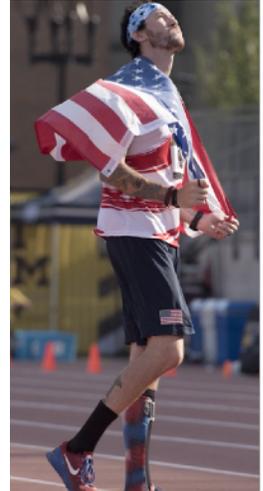


Mark Steinberg,
President, BMUST

“ENDURING ACTS OF CHARITY”

BY BILL MORRIS (MEPHAM H.S.),
LOCAL DO'S STAFF WRITER

Mepham H.S. students and teachers just donated a home to a true American hero - Retired U.S. Navy Petty Officer Ryan Shannon. Shannon was injured through his service to our nation and was selected by the organization Building Homes for Heroes to have a home built and donated. Mepham teachers, under the leadership of Kerry Dennis, Christopher Patten, Sarah Bender, Marc Achtziger, Stu Stein, and Robyn Einbinder (Dept. Chair), took up this very worthy cause on behalf of Shannon and his family. Mepham's Senior Experience, School and Community Leadership, and Participation in Government classes, under the direction of their teachers, worked incredibly hard to complete and make this most memorable and meaningful community service initiative a reality.



Through school and community fundraising events, including Battle of the Classes and the installation of our Flag Field of Honor, our school community was able to raise over \$20,000 to gift Petty Officer Shannon and his family the new home in Illinois. Ryan received his home in late November and traveled to visit Mepham H.S. on Dec. 19th. Officer Shannon spent the day in our Participation in Government classes, Senior Experience, and School and Community Leadership classes meeting with students and sharing his remarkable, personal story. He shared a message of integrity, courage, resilience and hope.

What made this project so impactful for our students is the personal connection they immediately felt toward Ryan and his family. The students and the staff alike were able to see how their fundraising efforts were directly affecting the lives of others. The students understood that their fundraising efforts were truly going to change Ryan's life, and the lives of his children, and this encounter was something that will stick with all of us forever.



Please check out the Bellmore-Merrick Broadcasting Channel, run by Mr. Stein and his students to see some of the footage of Ryan Shannon's visit to Mepham, including this remarkable interview conducted by Mepham Junior, Spencer Mattes. [Click here!](#)

TOYS FOR TOTS

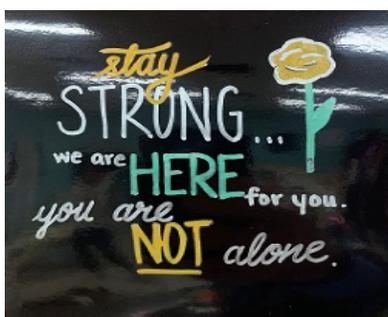
BMUST volunteers greeted children at the Nassau University Medical Center on December 13, 2018 with cars filled with BMUST-donated toys. With Henry Dircks as our cheerful Santa, BMUST retirees and active teachers alike visited children in the Emergency Room, the Pediatric Center, and other hospital wards, delivering the toys generously donated by our BMUST staff during our Holiday Party.

Special thanks to Meg Hirsch, our BMUST secretary, for your impeccable organization skills! Thanks to all the volunteers who took time to participate in this BMUST tradition. And thanks for all who helped to make this event successful with your generous donations!



“A HELPING HAND” BY BRUCE REED (KENNEDY H.S.) LOCAL DO'S EDITOR

The **Kennedy** community has been collecting snacks to donate to the **Community Cupboard** and other food pantries in the surrounding areas. Today every Kennedy student took part in the packaging of these goods. On Saturday, student ambassadors from Kennedy along with students from Mepham and Calhoun delivered the goods to several Nassau County food pantries. This is a great example of collaboration between the students from all three high schools and it demonstrates the strengths of our student body when they become unified in action.



Remembering Parkland: This week every Kennedy student was able to take part in an art therapy exchange with the students of **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida**. With the guidance of Licensed Art Therapist, Susan Kappel, Kennedy students created inspirational messages and art that will be sent to MSD High School next month on the anniversary of the tragic events that took place at their school. There are many connections between the students at MSD and JFK and we hope that this art therapy experience is beneficial to students at both schools.

“KNOW YOUR CONTRACT”

BY JONATHAN DELL'OLIO (BMUST GRIEVANCE CHAIR) LOCAL DO'S CONTRIBUTOR

The second half of the school year is upon us. Soon it will be June and finals and then vacation. However, there are still some important aspects to our contract that you should be aware of as we continue to move forward:

1. Page 16, Article IX (Vacancies, Promotions, Transfers, Seniority, Excessing) Section A

The district recognizes that is desirable, in making assignments, to consider the interests and aspirations of its teachers. Requests by a teacher for transfer to a different class, building or position shall be made in writing, with one copy filed with the Superintendent, the Professional Advisory Committee, and one copy filed with the Association. The application shall set forth the reasons for transfer request, the school, grade or position sought, and the applicant's academic qualifications. **Deadline for submission of a general transfer request will be March 1st and no transfer request will be honored if such request is received after March 1st.**

1. Page 33, Article XX (Professional Compensation) Section E

Any teacher who, in the course of the school year, becomes eligible for column advancement, shall be advanced to the higher rate therein, provided for in the salary schedule following approval of his/her said qualifications by the District. Effective July 1, 2007, such advancement shall be at the beginning of the first semester (September 1) following completion of said qualifications. In no case will said advancement be retroactive to a previous fiscal year.

In order to qualify for September 1st salary advancement, all required coursework must be completed by August 31st of said school year.

Tenured teachers will be allowed to advance on the salary schedule no more than one column per year. Probationary teachers shall not be allowed column movement until their effective date of tenure.



“RAMILY HOLIDAY”

BY LISA SHAPIRO
(MERRICK AVE M.S.),

Happy 2019! Before we know it, the end of the school year will be here. It seems like the older we get, the faster time moves! As the **Ramily** approached Winter, we turned our efforts towards helping those in need in neighboring communities as well as our own.

Lauren Cress spearheaded our first ever Holiday Door Decorating Contest. Those who were interested donated a small participation fee. Students excitedly helped to ‘deck the halls’ and it was great to see the variety of themes created by staff members. In the end, **Phyllis Fuschetto’s** door, “Under Surveillance” won, but we all agreed that notoriety, in lieu of a team prize, was a better reward. All donations were given to the **BMCHSD’s Community Cupboard.**

Audrey Drakos, Renee Molinaro, and Lisa Shapiro teamed up with the **Book Fairies** to run a week -long book drive. The week kicked off with a Pajama Day, encouraging students to help others “curl up with a good book.” The entire English Department did an excellent job talking up the drive and over 1,000 books were collected for distribution to under-funded libraries & schools throughout the metropolitan area in an effort to support literacy.

Finally, **Carly Gould** and her 8th Grade FACS classes were busy in the kitchen baking chocolate chip cookies that were sold after school to raise money for the **Best Friend's Animal Society.**

On behalf of the Merrick Avenue staff, wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!

“SCHOOL-WIDE CONTEST”

BY STACI PEKUSIC
(GRAND AVE M.S.),

This fall, the **Bellmore-Merrick Student Ambassadors** came up with a novel idea for a service project: Why not start a book drive to celebrate the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service?** The idea took flight and was announced to schools in December.

From the first, Grand Avenue students and faculty were enthusiastic. Teachers lugged from home bags overflowing with old novels and children’s books. English teachers culled their classroom libraries. Parents and students went home and “Kondooed” their shelves. The books arrived in both droves and dribbles, accumulating at the front of every classroom. By the contest’s end on January 18, GAMS had collected over 7,000 books!

A school-wide contest may have had something to do with all that enthusiasm. GAMS ambassadors sweetened the deal with the promise of an ice cream party for the first period class that collected the most. Not only that, the individual student with the greatest number of donations would be given the opportunity to throw a pie into the face of the principal, Mr. Conte. That honor went to Kyle Haglitch, who alone brought in over 1,000 books. Ms. Raphael’s class won the ice cream, with over 2,000 books.

Once again, the Grand family has shown what can happen when people come together in the spirit of service.



“TAKE A TOUR!”

BY LAURA SHERIDAN (M.A.P.), LOCAL DO'S STAFF WRITER

Greetings from Meadowbrook Road!

I've decided to do something a bit different this issue. MAP is heading into the second half of its 13th year, and I realize that most of our district's faculty have no idea what MAP looks like or... what we do here. This often leads to misconceptions. One instance that comes to mind is when a visiting teacher was surprised to learn that we had desks.

So I would like to show you all what MAP is actually like: a vibrant, progressive, educational environment where we do what all educators do...we just tend to do it differently. I'm proud to say that over the course of the past 12 ½ years we have expanded from a hallway to a hallway-and-a-half of teaching classrooms. In fact, if you add the rooms that we use for outside-the-classroom learning experiences, we are almost two hallways! It's very exciting.

I'm also attaching a link to my Weebly page that shows what we've been up to this year and introduces our newest project: MAP Happenings. (And if someone would please tell Joe Innaco that I just promoted my Weebly page, I'd be grateful.)

That all being said, please join me on a tour of MAP. I'm delighted to have you along.

Best regards,

Laura

**[CLICK HERE FOR
THE VIDEO TOUR OF
THE MEADOW
ALTERNATIVE
PROGRAM!](http://msshersenglishpage.weebly.com/map-happenings.html)**



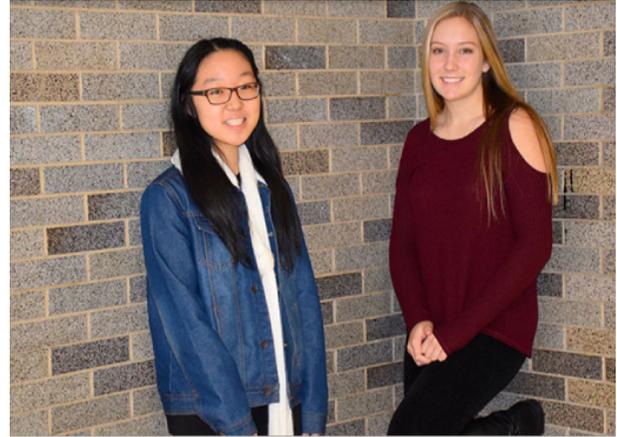
<http://msshersenglishpage.weebly.com/map-happenings.html>

“COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE”

BY WENDY SIMSON

(CALHOUN H.S.)

Heather Berberich and Jessica Lin are among **45 Long Island high school seniors** named semifinalists in the **2019 Coca-Cola Scholars Program**. This is an achievement-based scholarship in which more than 95,000 students applied to be among 150 recipients of \$20,000 scholarships. Berberich and Lin are awaiting notification for the next round. The two girls are among the top 2 percent of students chosen nationwide



Calhoun High School had its annual **Health Fair** on November 30th where students made a connection between mind, body and soul.

They were able to try hands-on activities such as stationary bicycling, Zumba, fencing, and meditative practices.

The fair was organized by our very own health teacher here at Calhoun, **Keri Cinelli**. “The goal of our health fair is to show students a wide variety of ways to stay active and have fun doing so,” she explained. “Better choices leads to better living.” There was even a buffet named, “eat this, not that” which offered students healthier eating options.

Congratulations to the **Calhoun and Kennedy High School Advanced Science Research** programs who were chosen as two of five state finalists for the **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow** competition. **Christine Boyce**, Calhoun's Advanced Science Research teacher was the sponsor for the winning team. In the months ahead, Christine and her students will work on a project to address community issues by working with professionals in the STEM fields such as mathematics, physics and computer science. “We submitted a proposal to solve a complicated issue that affects our community and will now work on an action plan,” explained Boyce. “We are incorporating a multitude of STEM sciences among other resources to show how our concept will be most beneficial to our community, in hopes of capturing the state finalist honor.”



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NYSUT members and their loved ones have access to dozens of endorsed shopping, travel & personal programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including discounts on hotels & vacations; car & truck rentals; international group tours; sports & concert tickets; theme parks & attractions; and more.

Whether you are participating in one of our shopping/entertainment/travel offerings; auto, homeowners or life insurance plans; or financial or legal services, NYSUT members have the "Power of the Union" behind them ready to serve as their advocate.

The following is just a sample of the endorsed programs available to NYSUT members:

Bose -- NYSUT members receive special educator pricing on high-end, high-quality electronics such as music systems, headphones and bluetooth speakers. You must contact Bose toll-free at 877-709-2073 and mention "educator pricing" to receive this exclusive pricing.

Orlando Employee Discounts -- NYSUT members save up to 30% on unforgettable Orlando, FL excursions to Disney World, Universal Studios and many other attractions.

Grand Circle Travel -- NYSUT members can enjoy a number of unique travel deals on international river cruises and other travel opportunities with Grand Circle's small ship cruise tours, river cruises and land tours.

Member Appreciation Month is back!

One of our most popular annual events is set to return this February. The 2019 Member Appreciation Month celebration will be filled with a series of prize drawings for items donated by NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers -- including gift cards, iPads, Echo Dots and more!

As a MAP Alert member, you are eligible to win prizes every single day throughout the month of February.

All MAP Alert members are already entered to win; if you have colleagues who would like to be eligible to win, they simply need to sign up for our MAP Alert service on the Member Benefits website. Prize winners will be listed daily on the Member Benefits website.



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.