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# AYPORT Blue Point

**July 2021** 

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Lindsay Lessing is the BBP Class of 2021 Valedictorian. Below is her commencement address

## Learning to Fall By Lindsay Lessing

I've learned to love falling... which sometimes people equate with failing, similar in sound, and at times the same, but sometimes different. Falling is where you have no control, a feeling of weightlessness and then usually a very uncomfortable landing.

I can't count how many times I have been up in the air kiteboarding thinking about how I will eventually have to come down and that's when

I start screaming, letting the inner five-year-old out, to accompany a sideways landing. And don't even get me started on the perfect technique to falling off a bike, I have perfected it. I've discovered that there's an art to embracing the ability to fall... or the misstep, the tumble, or the toppling.

But before I get into that, I first wanted to start off by welcoming everyone to this year's graduation and thanking the Administration and the Bd. of Education for putting us in a position to celebrate this day. I want to congratulate Cecily, our salutatorian. From fifth grade on, I have been so fortunate to know you and I'm so excited to see what you accomplish at George Washington in the coming years.

I also need to say congratulations to the class of 2021. Together we have overcome a set of challenges that no one could have predicted or prepared us for. We jumped into this year not knowing how we would land.

continued page 17

## **BBP Varsity Lax** Long Island Champions!

The Bayport Blue Point Girls Varsity Lacrosse team brought home the first-ever Long Island Championship, overtaking Nassau County's Manhasset 6-5 in the last minute of the game at Bethpage High School on June 19th. Led by veteran varsity Coach Ryan Gick, the team ended the season ranked 5th in the entire nation and is widely hailed as one of the best groups of athletes to don Phantom blue and gold.

"This was by far the toughest year I've ever coached. The shortened season meant there was no let down, these girls went from practice to game to practice in a division that's known for its exceptional players," explained Coach Gick. "It was brutal. It's nearly impossible to keep that level of energy up, but they rose to the occasion every single time."

continued page 19







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## Sunny Days Diana Reid EXTEXT



Is it really July already??????
I think I missed June....
Oh, No I didn't.. I remembered
Father's Day:)
So let me start by saying..
Happy 4th of July!
Wow, I read that there's going to be
fireworks at Jones Beach.
I guess we're getting back to "normal"
I'm hoping I can begin to leave my home

more and re-enter into activities

So, maybe it's time to enjoy "fun in the sun" beach days, Walks through the neighborhood with a friend and picnics at the park again.

Yay !!!! Life on the "outside"...really???
Amazing !!!!

I do find myself smiling a lot more lately.

I truly enjoy the sights of summer....

Green grass and trees..blooming flowers... Everything looks alive and sprouting.....

Ahhhh.. "Summer time and the living is easy"

There was a time in my life that I didn't enjoy summer's heat..

I often spent most days indoors, in air-conditioning.

But, as I age, I seem to enjoy summer

more....

The warm days appear to now... energize me ..

Well, that is, as long as they're not too

warm and humid. I don't think I'm

I don't think I'm alone in these feelings.

Others that I speak with agree...

Ahhhh..."Summer time and the living is easy"

So, let's slowly continue to regain our outdoor lives again.

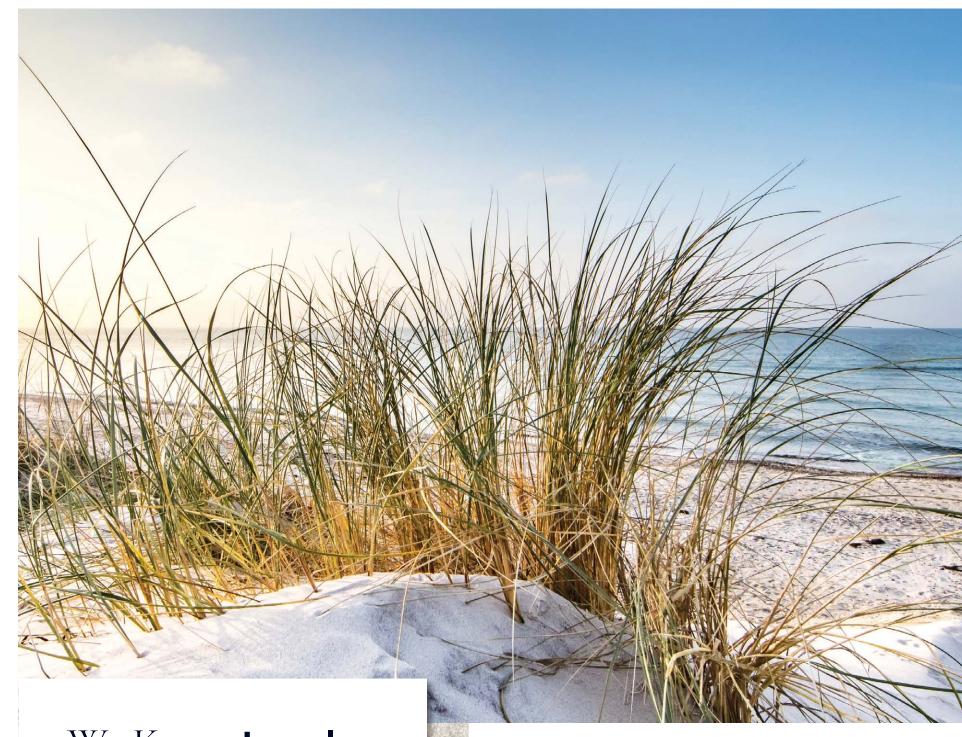
It's time to light the BBQ and enjoy some fresh air...

Happy Summer!!!!!!! Happy Living!!!!!!!









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Scouts from Troop 329 cleaned and planted flowers at the Blue Point Fire Headquarters. Flowers were purchased at Bayport Flowers House using funds raised from a car wash several weeks earlier.





#### 'Moving Up' at Bayport-Blue Point



Bayport-Blue Point School District's Academy Street Elementary School, Blue Point Elementary School and Sylvan Avenue Elementary School each held its own "moving up ceremony," recognizing the schools' fifth graders as they advance to James Wilson

Young Middle School. The middle school also held its own ceremony on the same day, graduating its eighth graders that will head to Bayport-Blue Point High School come

fall. Each ceremony was attended by proud family members and featured award presentations, musical performances and congratulatory speeches by the school principals. Bayport-Blue Point School District congratulates all of the elementary schoolers and middle schoolers who have now "moved up" and wishes them much success as they continue their educational journeys at Bayport-Blue Point.



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#### "There Truly Is No Other Place **Like Bayport-Blue Point"**

Mrs. Trifiletti Offers Words of Advice to the Class of 2025

"For those of you that may not know me, I'm Heather Trifiletti and I teach math at James Wilson Young Middle School. It is my true honor to be delivering this commencement speech to such a distinguished group of students. You know, it's funny, but before I was hired as a teacher here, I didn't even know where Bayport was. I grew up far away in a little town in Nassau County called.... Massapequa. Things are different there. As much as I loved my hometown, it didn't take me long to realize how lucky I was to be right here, in this place that I hadn't even known existed, with all of you. Kids ride their bikes to school here. They take their boats out on the weekends. Everyone waves to me. Seriously, what is this place? Before I knew it, I was buying a house here with my husband. And now this is where we're lucky enough to be raising our three children. There truly is no other place like Bayport-Blue Point. The way that we rally around the people in this town that need us, is like no other place I have ever known. Through the good and the bad, the people in this town always show up. Living through this last year has made that even more apparent. We are a family. We're stronger together. And I wouldn't want to be on this crazy journey anywhere else but here, with

When we first started the year, I really didn't know what to expect - and neither did you. Masks, asynchronous learning, hybrid learning, virtual learning, what didn't

we do this year? You were flexible and resilient through it all - which, to my everlasting surprise, made this school year one that I will truly cherish more than I could have ever imagined. In the most difficult of times, we saw you rise to the challenge. You showed up. You lifted each other up. You plastered the school with positivity posters. You founded a new organization that will have a lasting impact on our school, and you did it with grace while educating your peers and elders alike. You put on an amazing

production, Annie, and blew us all away with your talent. Our sports teams did not just come back to play, they came back to win. Shout out to all of our champions! Hey - the Algebra Regents was optional this year - and these kids didn't only show up, they gave it their all down to the very last minute. That is something special. It says a lot about who we are as a school and a community. In this ever changing world, we chose to

What I learned about this town many years ago has continued to shine through

the difficult moments we had this year. It doesn't matter if you're a student or a staff member, a parent or an administrator, we're all here to accomplish the same goals. When we work together, respect each other, and lift each other up, we have incredible strength. We got through this year as a team. We were there for each other. We made sacrifices but we did not let those sacrifices diminish our spirit. So as you leave middle school, remember all of the challenges that you overcame. Remember the importance of being yourself, as you are a vital and unique member of our BBP team. Remember the importance of community and having each other's

ber to check in on your people, because everyone needs a little encouragement from time to time. Remember that you can conquer every-

thing, because more than anything... you are

Congratulations Phantoms! You did it! And the best is yet to come."

The Class of 2025 is moving up to Bayport-Blue Point High School this fall. BBPHS Principle Robert Haas was on site to lead the newest freshman off the field and into a new era.



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Wishing everyone a

Happy 4th of July!

All photos Kate Berube

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## ROUNDTOWN

#### **Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts (BAFFA)**

47 Gillette Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782

Over the past year, due to COVID, live musical performances by the orchestra and chorus of Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts (BAFFA) were put on hold as were art exhibits at The BAFFA Art Gallery. During the past months, a series of videos highlighting past performances by the orchestra and chorus, and virtual Art Gallery exhibits, titled The BAFFA Beat Goes On, were available for the public to view on the

As we come to the end of BAFFA's performance season, the group is presenting two final videos looking back at their 52 years of bringing music and art to the local community. Founded in 1968 by a group of Bayport-Blue Point parents and teachers, BAFFA is beginning its 53rd season with a video looking back at BAFFA's history and the many local people who have been involved with the group over the years. The BAFFA Board is making plans for the coming concert and art season and hopes to be able to go "live" beginning in the fall.

Meanwhile, please view BAFFA Beginnings at www.baffa.org. Look for Bay-Area-Friends-of-the-Fine-Arts-Long-Island on Facebook and YouTube.

BAFFA Beginnings can be viewed beginning on June 30th. For further information: (631)589-7343.

#### Meadow Croft is open for tours!

Tours run Saturday and Sunday 2-4pm until the end of October. Email BBPhistorical@gmail.com to schedule a group tour.



### Who We Are

### The People Involved

Publisher: Tom Reid Chief Editor,

Art Director: Gala Scibelli Associate Editor: Kate Berube Writers: Diana Reid, Kate Berube, Tom Reid, Rich Vatalaro, Bayport-Blue Point Schools, Danielle Golden- Giglio, Lenore Ringer-Prezioso, Fred Keating (Retired)

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#### Once a Phantom, Always a Phantom: Reflections of a **Student Photographer**

As the scoreboard ticked down to 0:00 on Saturday, My time as a student photographer for the phantoms had also come to a close. Luckily, I got to end it in the best way possible... watching the BBP Girls Lacrosse Team win their first ever Long Island Championship to complete their perfect season 17-0.

I am so blessed and grateful for this community and everyone's endless praise and support over the past 3 years. While these past 2 months have been quite hectic with games every day, I will definitely miss staying up late editing, uploading to websites and links, and posting on Instagram every day to get all my photos out there. I know I will miss standing on the sidelines, cheering and yelling for all of you... but I can't wait to do the same at Clemson next year.

Winnie the Pooh said it best: "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?"

But once a phantom, always a phantom. It's been one heck of a ride.





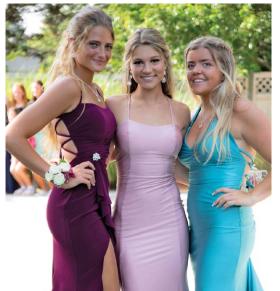


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All photos Kate Berube

## Bayport Memorial Park Summer Concerts Kicks Off

By Kate Berul

The sound of live music could be heard drifting down Middle Road last week, as summer concerts return to Bayport Memorial Park. Starring Nina Et Cetera, the event was hosted by the Bayport-Blue Point Heritage Association as a gift to the community for their continued support for the organization. "It's so great to see everyone out enjoying each other again" remarked Heritage President Mary Bailey, "this is a wonderful way for our group to give back to the community for helping us fundraise all year while supporting local artists. It's a beautiful way to spend the evening." Community members gathered on blankets and chairs to watch the show, celebrating the start of summer and being together again.

Mark your calendars, the next summer concert in the park will take place on July 22 and kicks off at 6pm featuring local musical sensation the Flat Levers. Pack a cooler, grab some chairs, and we'll see you there.







#### Mini Monet Moves to Main Street



Everyone's favorite art studio is getting a new home. Mini Monet, located for years on Railroad Avenue, is moving to 128 Main Street in Sayville. "We made such wonderful memories at our old location," said Mini Monet owner and instructor Pam Brewer, "but the new space will allow us to expand and offer the community so much more." The extra room will allow an art gift shop and open studio sessions, among other things. The studio currently hosts classes, birthday parties, and summer camps for young children and teens. Many of those classes and camps are so popular, spots in them quickly sell out when they are announced. With the larger space, they hope to give everyone an opportunity to experience the magic. Known for its warm and welcoming vibe, Mini

Monet exists as a place for kids to explore and create while fostering a life-long love of the arts. For Brewer, that's the most important aspect. "Nothing here is cookie-cutter art or copy paintings from books. They're encouraged to be original! Creative! Unique! To see things around them their own way. Art should be messy and fun."

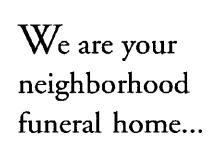
For 5-year-old budding artist Saoirse Jane Garvey, it was the take home ceramic sculptures she loved the most. "Miss Pam has the best stuff!" Saoirse recently told the Gazette. "Mini Monet supplied ready-made craft kits to the PTA to sell as an alternative when our traditional Christmas boutique wasn't possible due to COVID. It allowed the kids to make beautiful presents for their family instead of buying them," explained Saoirse's mom Nora Garvey. "Everyone really loved it and it was such a help. Pam always looks for ways to support our towns and build up our kids. We're lucky to have her."

A talented painter in her own right, Brewer was recently profiled by Facebook page Sayville Artists, that showcases local creative personalities. Her artistic gifts coupled with her natural connection to children and adults alike, make it easy to understand why her published coloring book has sold out on Amazon and why Mini Monet continues to be everyone's favorite place to sit down, hang out, and find the inner artist in us all.

Open Studio at Mini Monet's new location:

Wednesday 11am - 6pm Thursday 11am-6pm Friday 11am - 7pm Saturday 11am - 5pm Sunday 11am - 4pm www.minimonetsayville.com

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#### **BCA Scholarships** At the June Bayport Civic Association meeting, the 17th Annual BCA Scholarships were awarded to the graduating seniors who best excelled in the performance of their Civic Duties. This year's winners pictured from left to right are Jaimeson Graham, Julia Drago and Ashley Friscia along with BCA President Bob Draffin. Missing from the picture is winner Rebecca Hoek who had Honor Society obligations that evening. Each of the four seniors have been involved with the BBP Junior Civic Association since Middle School, and have participated in numerous community projects. Thanks to the assistance of the "Friends of Bradstock" the Bayport Civic has been able to award over \$25,000 in scholarships throughout the years.



**PROFESSIONAL** 

#### Faces Behind the Sayville **Farmers Market**

Photography by Belinda Randolph-Mills

The Sayville Farmer's market is open every Saturday 9 am until 2pm at the Islip Grange (10 Broadway Ave, Sayville, NY 11782) all summer long.



#### Pickle Packing Papa | Rocky Point

"I've been making pickles for 30 years, but my favorite by far is the Fresh New Cucumber Pickle. They're lightly salted and crisper. On a hot day, if you bite into that, it's the most refreshing feeling in the world. There's nothing better." - Joy Glas, The Pickle Lady

We second that recommendation and add the garlic dill.

#### Condzella Farm | Wading River www.condzellasfarm.com

"We grow our strawberries the old fashion way, on straw. That's actually why they're called strawberries. It worked for my great grandfather in 1910 and it works for us now. They're packed with flavor, and delicious. If it's not broken, don't fix it." - John Condzella, 4th generation farmer

Be sure to check our Condzella's three types of asparagus, they blend beautifully together when sautéed.



#### **Nautilus Roasting Co.** www.nautilusroasting.com

"People cut coffee with cream and sugar because frankly, it's not good coffee. If the coffee is too bitter, you're going to need to cover that up." The bitterness comes from over roasting, basically burning the coffee beans, because it adds a longer shelf life that way. "The best thing you can do with bad bitter sitting in the pot for 8 hours gas station coffee is... add salt. Seriously. During World War II when sugar was rationed and they often burnt the coffee beans to make is last longer, they realized if you put a pinch of salt in it cut the bitterness. Salt is the

secret weapon." - noted coffee historian and Nautilus owner Hugo Fitzgerald Luckily you never need to add salt to Nautilus cold brew, as it's perfectly roasted, fresh, and incredible tasting.



"We've been in wholesale seafood for 20 years. During COVID, we switched to farmers markets because restaurants were closed. The nicest part is seeing everyone! Sayville is my hometown, where I grew up, being here is like a High School Reunion every weekend." - Shaun Cunningham, owner and operator of Dolphin Seafood Visit their Facebook page for a delicious recipe on steamed Long Island clams. It's that good.

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#### **Under The Table**

#### www.underthetablehotsauce.com

"People say it's brilliant marketing. I mean, initially it was just paper labels that I wrote the name of the sauce on, I gave two to my brother-in-law, but it was really boring. I wanted to draw something, but I only draw one thing well... my own face. That's what I did. Every label has a different version of me reflecting what's in the sauce. It took off." -John Buscemi

The Never Lie Cherry is back in stock and hotter than ever.

#### Long Island O'Oldtymer Moonshine Riverhead | www.liooldtymer.com

"Back in Portugal my great grandfather made a sweet brandy from discharged grape skins. He always gifted it to his friends, family, people he loved. After he passed away, the supply of his brandy that made everyone feel close to him started to dwindle. The whiskey you see here is my father holding on to that tradition. We source our corn from a farm on the East End, that's been in the farmers family for generations. During the season, they might be able to sell an ear of corn to tourists for \$5, but day to day they can't compete with big box grocery stores. Now there's somewhere for them to sell that product to. Us holding on to our family's



traditions allows local farmers to hold on to theirs too."

- Nicolas Cunha

The offerings of infused whiskey are influenced by the season, so make sure you grab a bottle of strawberry before it's all gone.



#### Priscilla's Farm | Southold

"It was our dream to have a farm. Right after we got married, we started a GoFundMe to raise money for our first acre through the Peconic Land Trust. 3 years later we are going strong with 4 acres."

- Priscilla Howard

Priscilla's swiss chard is particularly gorgeous.



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KNOWS.

#### Women Sharing Art, Inc.



The members of Women Sharing Art, Inc. were delighted to finally gather, support, hug, and share their art in person. After a year of quarantine and interesting zoom meetings, it was energizing to physically be together and enjoy newly created works of art.

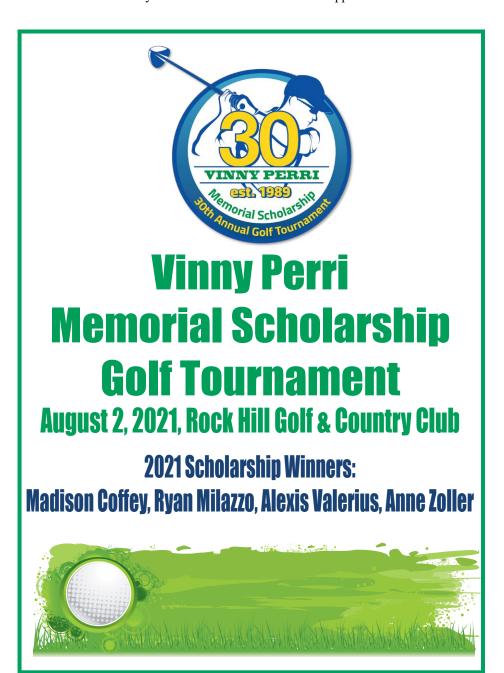
Women Sharing Art is proud to announce that our annual Student Scholarships will be awarded at a live presentation (date and time to be announced) to the following High School seniors:

Winners of Women Sharing Art Student Scholarships Amanda Campbell – Sachem HS attending University of Scranton Fatima Gonzalez – Sachem HS attending Fashion Institute of Technology

Nicolette Surgit – Commack HS attending School of the Art Chicago

Pat D'Aversa Memorial Scholarhip
Wahca Waste Win McNeil – William Floyd HS attending Pratte Institute –

Women Sharing Art, Inc. www.womensharingart.org provides avenues for women artists to nurture and encourage one another to further their artistic accomplishments. We thank our community for their continued interest and support.



#### **Spring Sports Wrap Up**

By, Karen Costa

The school year has come to a close for the 2020-2021 academic year and for our athletic teams, and it ended with an explosion! After a delayed start and multiple



changes in rules and protocols, we finally got in every sport and the spring sports season provided some amazing moments and lots of wins.

Our spring season teams had multiple playoff berths, undefeated teams and county championship wins. Here are some of the highlights:

Boys and girls track and field were both undefeated division AND county champions. In boys track: BBP sent many athletes to the state qualifier meet. The 4x400 relay team of Colin Strain, Brendan Style, Nick Gelsomino and Aidan Garafola earned all-county honors. Brendan Style also earned all-county in the 400m hurdles placing second in the county. Had there been a state meet this year, the following people would have

qualified: Jack Baron for the pentathlon, Brendan Style for the 400m hurdles, Colin Strain for the long jump and Strain, Style, Gelsomino and Garafola for the 4x400 relay team. In girls track: The following athletes participated in the state qualifier meet: Andi Swedborg for shot



and disc, Eva Morris for the 1500m, Leeann Redlo for the 100m hurdles and Morris, Redlo, and Ava and Ansley Brogan for the 4x400 relay. The 4x400 relay team won all-county honors.

Baseball finished the regular season 15-3 and also earned a spot in the playoffs. This was the 20th consecutive year that Coach Moccio's team made the playoffs. After a stellar outing beating Babylon in the first round, they couldn't get past SWR for the second. Fabulous season and some well-earned accolades for senior Luke Schartner who won the League V MVP and the prestigious Long Island Silver Slugger Award. Our nationally ranked boys lacrosse team finished their year with an 11-3 record and also qualifying for the playoffs. Their first round game was against a strong SWR team. That game went into sudden death overtime with junior Gavin Locascio scoring the winning goal. The next stop was the county championship against Mt. Sinai and they couldn't get past that team who went on to win the Long Island Championship. Girls golf came off a strong season with 3 players qualifying for counties: Haley Jenner, Cecily Phua and Annie Zoller. Annie made it to the second round placing 11th in the county.

Boys tennis ended their season with a 7-3 record and a playoff berth as the 8th seed. They won the first round against 9th seed East Islip, but Commack, who went on to win the county championship, proved to be too strong for them.

Softball had an incredible season ending with a 10-2 record. They also qualified for playoffs and went on a win streak first beating out Sayville then knocking out top seeded East Islip putting them in the county championship against Miller Place. BBP took the first game of a best of three series, but ultimately Miller Place pulled ahead to secure the title.

In addition, we had a few more undefeated teams to mention: JV softball and JV boys lacrosse both ended their season without a loss. In the middle school: boys and girls lacrosse and baseball also finished their seasons undefeated, as did the football team from the fall season.

What an exciting way to end the school year. Best of luck to all of the seniors who will be moving on and thank you for your participation, leadership and sportsmanship.

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## CAN'T BE BEAT: BBP'S UNDEFEATED TEAMS

by Kate Berul

To say this was a challenging year for sports would be an understatement. Faced with unprecedented restrictions, quarantine, condensed seasons, and limited spectators the Phantoms nonetheless not only showed up to play... they stayed to win. In the end this year's athletics will be remembered not for its hardships but for it's hard won victories.

The following teams went UNDEFEATED in their 2020-2021 season this year.

JWY
Girls Field Hockey
Boys Lacrosse
Girls Lacrosse

Boy's Baseball Boy's Football

BBPHS JV Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse Girls Softball Girls Field Hockey

BBPHS VARSITY
Girls Lacrosse
Girls Cross Country
Boys Cross Country
Boys Track and Field
Girls Track and Field
Boys Fencing
Girls Swimming
Boys Wrestling



Photos Mikaela Carroll





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#### **New Flags Around Town**



You may have seen some new house flags flying around town. These blue and white flags are being sold by the BBP Booster Club as a fundraiser and are customizable for your child's sport and last name or nickname.

After seeing these hanging on houses and advertised on our Booster Club social media, some of the music and art parents were inquiring about them and Hollywood began creating some flag samples for them as well. To order one for your student, please send an email to bbpboosterclub@gmail.com for more information. These are available to everyone in the district, not just high school students.

The BBP Booster Club is a parent-run organization, working in coordination with the Athletic Director, to support our student-

athletes by supplementing every sports program with equipment, training, and scholarships that are not covered by the school district budget. Our donations have funded items such as: the middle school gym scoreboard, weights for the middle school gym, new cheer and wrestling mats, rage cages for the lacrosse teams, light rentals for the white out football game and scholarships and dinner cost for seniors at the senior ath-

Some other fundraisers that the Booster Club runs all year are the sales of engraved bricks for our walkway from the district office to the main football field. Many people have requested these for graduates, in memoriam of a former student or for a special team or championship. You may have also noticed some banners on the sports fields as well, these are also sold through the Booster Club and can be customized with any saving or name. For more information on how to purchase either of these, please send an email to the address listed above.

The BBP Booster Club is comprised of hard-working volunteers who want to provide as much as we can for our student-athletes. We always welcome new members and look forward to watching all of our kids reach their full potential.

#### **Applauding Accomplished Artists** & Authors

Bayport-Blue Point School District proudly congratulates the following students who recently won contests for their work in the visual, literary or performance arts:

PTA Reflections Contest Winners Sylvan Avenue Elementary School

- Arlen Coverdale
- Scarlett Iebba
- Sophia Johnson Camryn Bruckner
- Kyle Bruckner
- Charlotte Johnson
- Sydney Zwaik
- Kiera McCormack James Wilson Young Middle School
- Jackson Zwaik
- Shlock Parekh
- Lianna McCormack London Sawaya
- Ryan Iebba
- Colin Shaw

• Mia McCormack

Sagtikos Manor 2021 Spring Story

Contest Winner Angela Cavuto (Academy Street Elementary School)

Great South Bay Lions Club **International Peace Poster Contest** 

Nicolette Diemer (James Wilson Young Middle School)



Photos courtesy of Bayport-Blue Point School District



## Graduation from page 1

Starting on day one, things were different:

From one-way hallways (though those didn't last long), Changing bell schedules.

Navigating new classrooms every few days and google meets.

How many times have we had to tell our teacher, "sorry, I think you're muted", or "We can't see your screen." At least for me, I hope I never have to hear the word "co-

It feels as if we have seen and dealt with it all.

However, this is not necessarily to say that "we are bulletproof" and we will not face

But I think this past year has helped show us that even in difficult times, as a community we are stronger than we think. I also wished to take the time to thank the teachers and building staff on behalf of the class. Just as this year was very difficult for us students, you worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide us with the ability to return to school and create the best year possible under the circumstances. Now back to falling, which doesn't always mean failing.

I spent a large part of my childhood excited to grow up (though not literally apparently because I still fit into my 2nd grade field day shirt).

One lesson our miniature selves knew better than our current selves is that failure is certainly not something to be afraid of. As kids, we weren't afraid of failing. In fact, we probably didn't even know we were failing. As toddlers, we eventually had to learn to walk. But this process comes with a lot of falling. However, the idea of failing while walking wasn't something that crossed our minds. We just knew instinctively that we needed to learn how to walk at some point.

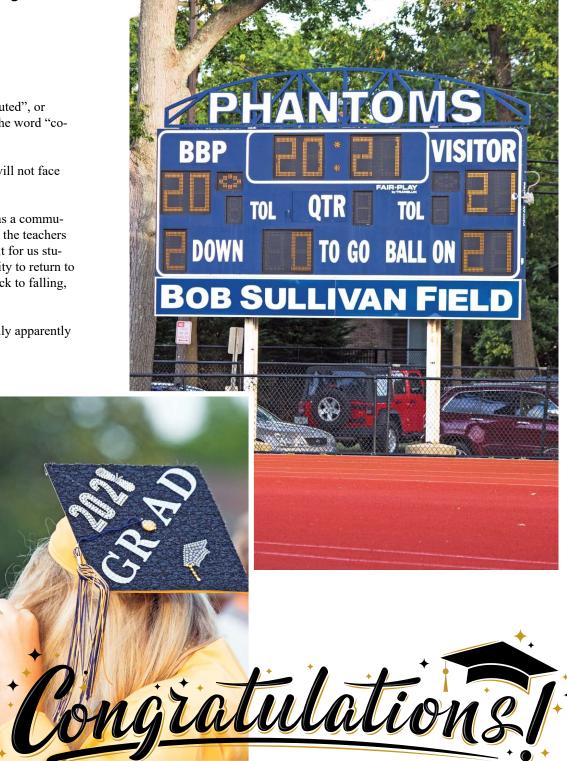
First our parents were afraid of us walking. Then once we could walk, they were afraid of where our feet would bring us. We would run up to complete strangers and the most ridiculous things would come out of our mouths, unaware of the necessity of a filter. We weren't worried they would turn us away or laugh at us because then, it wasn't about succeeding or failing, it was about exploring and learning more about the world around us. Looking back, we may regret what we once said, but there may come a time to embrace this inner child in the coming years. As we go off on our own, meeting new people may be scary, but embracing the awkwardness may be the key to our success.

Being embarrassed wasn't something that would prevent us from doing something that would make us happy. There's something to learn from our own lack of awareness as kids. Over the past couple of years, I've learned that I can't go into a 15-foot jump while kiteboarding thinking, "Wow, this is really going to hurt when I fall and hit the water." I found that not being afraid of failure makes things more enjoyable. Rather than getting angry when I crash during a backroll, I scream, laugh it off and try again. In fact, I crash so often that it has become a running joke in my family about how good I am at retrieving my board after losing it. Whether I land on my feet or not, I come out having a good time because I wasn't afraid of falling in the first place.

Lastly, it wouldn't be a true speech if I didn't leave you with a cheesy quote. Something my dad always used to say growing up is, "if you can't tie good knots, tie lots of them." Even if it feels like we are in over our heads and lost, giving double the effort can do the trick. Keeping our options open to tasks that seem like too much at times can pay off. Only a couple of times (that I can count) has a boat or kayak drifted away due to a bad knot. But the swimming to recover lost items was worth it, as eventually, we learned how to tie good

So class of 2021, I stand here today grateful that I had the opportunity to grow and experience new challenges with you all. We have fallen together, but also gotten back up...

Lindsay Lessing is the 2021 Bayport-Blue Point Valedictorian. The above speech was given during the Class of 2021 commencement ceremony.





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## Walter Found Another Cool Bird

Sometimes the joy that I find in photographing birds doesn't end with capturing the image. A lot of bird species are dimorphic: the males and the females have different coloration. Because field guides tend to show the more colorful males as the "typical" look, you can spend an awful lot of time trying to identify the female. But one thing that I have learned about digital photography that you don't have to waste valuable daylight leafing through a guide book trying to identify a particular bird.

I saw this little bird on a recent trip to Fire Island. I didn't recognize the bird immediately and thought it was a female variant of some warbler species or another. But since it was providing me with the courtesy of sitting still, I clicked away. It wasn't until I got home that I consulted my Peterson Field Guide that I discovered that this was an Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapilla), so named because it builds a domed nest with the entrance hole on the side, resembling an old fashion oven. It is also on of the few birds that will continue to sing during the heat of the day. Perhaps this is the attribute that inspired Robert Frost to write his tribute poem, "The Oven Bird":

There is a singer everyone has heard,
Loud, a mid-summer and a mid-wood bird,
Who makes the solid tree trunks sound again.
He says that leaves are old and that for flowers
Mid-summer is to spring as one to ten.
He says the early petal-fall is past
When pear and cherry bloom went down in showers
On sunny days a moment overcast;
And comes that other fall we name the fall.
He says the highway dust is over all.
The bird would cease and be as other birds
But that he knows in singing not to sing.
The question that he frames in all but words
Is what to make of a diminished thing.









Hello readers,

Windows 10 had a release date of July 29, 2015, and Microsoft told us this was it.

This will be the last edition of Windows. There would be no more new versions just some incremental upgrades once or twice a year. Well guess what Window 11 is knocking at the door.

Windows 11 according to Microsoft is going to be available to download by years end holidays. Those folks who are Windows Insiders should see beta

versions beginning the week of June 28, 2021.

Windows 11 will be free to download for Windows 10 users if your device is compatible. Windows 11 brings with it a fresh design most notably the Start Menu will be in the center of the taskbar. To see if your device is eligible and compatible with Windows 11 visit Windows.com to download the PC Health Check app. While you're there it will give you some insight of what's to come and whether your PC will need to be upgraded to something newer.

Other changes that Window 11 brings is the ability to run Android apps and will offer a video conferencing app called Teams that will be right in the taskbar and will rival Apple's Facetime app. I will continue to keep you updated as more develops with Windows 11

Remember I am always available to offer advice, answer your questions, and access your PC remotely for repairs and tutoring. I'm back making house calls again with the necessary precautions. I have added Smart Home Speakers such as Alexa and Google Home to my list of services from setup to automating your home. I can install your new equipment and can show you how to use them. I can set up your Wi-Fi or wireless printing and show you how to use your new Smartphone. Any situation you encounter or to simply answer a question via an e-mail or phone call I am available. Simply send your questions to: Rich@PCHelp101.com or call me at 631.590.1469. Thanks for reading, Rich Vatalaro







Aided by senior starters Alexis Niblock, Maddigan Miller, and Alexandra Fusco, the girls can now lay claim to a pristine 17-0 record, beating fierce rival Mount Sinai not

It's impossible to fully capture this remarkable moment in BBP history without speaking to the strength of the Bayport-Blue Point Youth Lacrosse League and what they have built here. In 1997, when the league began with a simple flyer in the deli, there were no school lacrosse teams. A group of dedicated parents built the program from the ground up, until the district established the girls varsity team in 2004 with some of the league's earliest players. Three years later Gick took over as head coach and in the 13 years since has grown the girls varsity team into a nationally recognized lacrosse powerhouse, consistently producing Division 1 recruits, 25 of which played NCAA D1 this season alone. It is incredibly telling that almost every name on this year's championship winning roster began their career learning to cradle

with BBPYL. "The success is in the support network," said current league President Patrick Shanahan. "Our kids get introduced to the sport and grow up playing together.

When they move on to the school teams, they come back to help teach the next generation, building up the players that will replace them." Despite being in the thick of a grueling game schedule, on a recent Saturday morning you could find several members of the varsity team laughing and running drills with this year's kindergarten players. Looking at them now next to their mini counterparts, it's



hard to believe that it wasn't too long ago that these girls were playing Hungry Hungry Hippos in the same spot, instead of gearing up to make another run for the elusive Long Island Championship title.

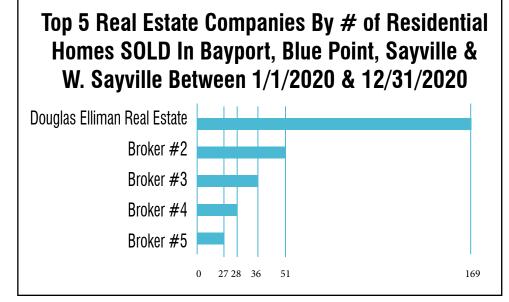
Though varsity lacrosse won the Suffolk County Championship in both 2014 and 2019, until now they had fallen shy of the Long Island title. Down by 3 with only 15 minutes left on the clock, it looked like this year would end the same when sophomore Haydin Eisfeld broke through with a goal to bring the score to 3-5. In a true comeback moment, sophomore Katie Clare capitulated the momentum with an unassisted goal and put the team back in the game. Fusco tied 5-5 with an assist from Clare, and with assistance from junior Mairead Kelly, Eisfeld was able to circle back around to clinch the title 6-5 at the last moment. Cheering wildly from the stands were members of last year's top seeded 2020 team who heartbreakingly lost their final season when COVID forced school closures weeks before they were set to take the turf. "By far the best part of the LI championship game was all the lacrosse alumni who turned out, with the parents and community members who really built this program," Reflected Gick. "This was a cumulative effort, a product of the years of support and dedication we receive from these people. It was a win for us all."

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