

POW WOW



BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

BRENTWOOD, NY 11717

2017-2018

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 1



The POW WOW Email!

Write to powwow@bufsd.org with comments or contributions!





To the Brentwood High School Students

by Oscar Mata

I am a Brentwood High School graduate and I welcome and congratulate you for making it into Brentwood High School. I am going to be completely honest in this article, I am going to give you some advice I wish I had when I was going through high school. Many people may take offense or see this as nonsense but I do not care. I am going to tell you the truth plainly and simply.

High school is very important as it determines your possible future, but you should not treat it as the be all end all. In the years to come you will hear many teachers say how high school is preparing you for the real world and it is true. Since high school is preparation for the real world then it would make sense for you to treat it as such, make mistakes, practice, and try out different things. Do not treat high school like a stressful job where everything has to be a certain way. High school is a time of experimentation as you prepare for the another life outside of high school.

I would also suggest doing whatever makes you uncomfortable or scared because no matter what happens you will grow as a person from it. You may fail and hate it even more but you still had the guts to go out and try. Plus, you never know, maybe you will end up really liking that thing, you might even be good at it. Always stay focused on your goal.

I say go out and have some fun. You have three years inside of school left so just make the most of it while you are there. Act like an idiot, fool around, relax, and do something crazy.

Which brings me to why I started this message. Last summer I chilled out with my friends as much as I could. I knew I would be leaving for college come late August so I wanted to have some fun before I left. While I was with them, I noticed one thing that that haunted everyone and that was regret. See I would find myself telling past high school stories with my friends and a common comment would pop up after each story, "Where was I during this?" So now, while you are in still in high school do not miss all the cool stories or memories you can create; take all your chances while you can because you never know when they will pass you by.

Juniors, Listen! Do's & Don'ts

by Annie Green

Stop worrying, and start learning, because as a Junior it's your last chance to make an impression on your college application. That's right. This is it. This is your time to show to universities how much you have improved since your freshman year. Don't take it for granted. Large improvements to high grades will be so impressive, you may be eligible for scholarships that can bring you to the college of your dreams, and, don't worry, even if academia isn't your strong suit, do what you love! It's just as impressive to be completely dedicated and invested in a meaningful club or sport as it is to do well in Honors or AP classes. Dedication is hard to come by, and some students forget that joining ten clubs will not make you look impressive. You will look like you're trying to be impressive. If you truly want to stun admissions officers, prove how much one or two clubs or sports mean to you by becoming a leader and improving on the society you're in. Do not ever mistake spreading yourself too thin.

Most of all, have fun your junior year.... Okay yeah, it's a cliché, sue me, but it's absolutely what universities want to see. They don't want to admit people that will waste their time doing things they don't enjoy, so prove to them that you can enjoy things! Here is another cliché: keep your grades up. Seriously. There's nothing more impressive than showing that you can be dedicated to clubs while maintaining above an 85 average. Speaking of scores... the SAT and the ACT are imperative to admissions to most universities. As a junior, recognize that you have a year to study, so use it. Never take your time for granted when a \$15 book and a few months of studying can change your future. There is no one route to success, but if you've read this far, that means that going to a great university is your end goal. If I'm right, then please see guidance coordinator Mr. Abenes in the Sonderling guidance to join the Generation Success Mentorship program which is dedicated to educating Brentwood students on how to go to an amazing college. If there's one thing you can do immediately as a first step to college, it's that. And remember, it is never too late to turn your life around.

ATTENTION BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Write about your friends! Show off your work to your parents! Make your English teachers love you! (Not necessarily a guarantee.) The Pow Wow is always looking for new, dedicated members! All are welcome to join and voice their ideas. We are looking for individuals interested in the layout process, poets, reporters, cartoonists, sports reporters, artists, photographers, and anyone else who wants to contribute to school news! This paper is ours! Are you looking to make a difference in our school? Start here! We meet every Monday and Wednesday in 2810.

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Advice to Sophomores

by Yenifer Rubio

Welcome to Brentwood High School sophomores. It seems exciting and confusing now but in a few weeks you'll become as accustomed to this place as the rest of us. The high school is just like any other school you entered when you were younger; the only catch is that you are now older and more mature so everything seems more important. This, along with the fact that the high school is almost four times the size of the freshman center not only structurally but also in population.

Here are some tips for success:

Make time for everything, whether it is that after school activity you like or a study group for a class you're not doing well in. Make sure that there is still enough time for you. You have to accommodate yourself so that you feel productive yet not overwhelmed. One thing that distracts us from all of this is social media. Something I recommend is to turn off your phone. Your phone is your biggest distraction. It may seem harmless but minutes turn into hours and hours turn into days. The more time you spend on your phone the less time you are taking to better yourself as a student. It may not seem like a big deal now but in the future it will. What happens in the future are the consequences of what you do now.

Something that many people are afraid of is getting out of their comfort zone but at the high school that's something that is inevitable. So don't be afraid to meet new people or join clubs. Meeting new people, especially people who have already attended the high school before, helps you learn more about the high school and also helps you feel comfortable and welcomed. Those things will not only help you get through sophomore year but it will also help you get through the rest of high school.

The high school is a very crowded place, so naturally the ambiance is very lively. The only concern there is getting to classes on time. You may be given a minute pass but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't worry about what time you get to class. At the high school if you miss out on something important if you're late to class, it's tough luck. Sometimes those small things are vital because for many of our classes you take quizzes and exams. Those grades go to your overall average which may be very crucial if you're planning on requesting a course next year or even just simply trying to pass the class. Talking with your friends makes you walk slower, so remember you do have a class to get to. If you need to, take the upstairs wings, they're usually much easier to get through than the crowded hallways on the main wings.

One of the biggest adjustments that you might need to make when attending the high school is having classes with students from other grades. Remember, the high school is obviously bigger so there are more students. Don't always expect to have a class where you know many people but expect classes where the majority of students are people you haven't even met.

One of the simple truths is that sometimes you have to sacrifice some things for something greater. The people you interact with now may not be the same people you interact with tomorrow. Most of the time you only interact with the group of people you hang out with every day, whether it's your study group or the group that stays for the same extracurricular activity as you. Frustration is inevitable when it comes to situations such as these but making time for yourself makes it all bearable. I've already mentioned this before but do take time for yourself, maybe its five minutes or fifteen but don't take an excessive amount where you don't have time for anything else.

Remember: It's never too late to try out a new sport, to join that club your friend wanted you to join or even make a new friend. Pace yourself, after all, everything you do and don't do now will affect your future. No pressure, I'm just saying.

The Principal's Thoughts

by Tiara Edwards

Brentwood High School lives to serve its students. It acts as a place of awakening for them, the location of numerous personal renaissances. This has always been the case. The district now lies in the wake of more change. The transformations occurring within the district are undoubtedly for the best, as some of our very own move onto bigger and brighter things. Former Ross Principal Richard Loeschner was promoted to Superintendent of the Brentwood School District.

This was followed by John Callan, former Sonderling principal, receiving the honor of being the sole principal of Brentwood High School. With this new title, Mr. Callan is ready to ensure that our students are at their most brilliant. Mr. Callan hopes to use his new position to the students' advantage by continuing on the path of safety and success. His main focus for the high school is to create a safe environment for maximum student growth. He referred to the high school as a "commencement institution," the last stepping stone for students before they enter the real world be it higher education, service in the military or the workforce. With this in mind, Mr. Callan hopes to expand all students' capabilities, both personally and academically. To do so, he heavily stresses "compliance, respect, and hard work" from his students.

With the dawn of the new school year, new ideas have already been brought to the table. This year was the first to feature assemblies for all high school grades, something Mr. Callan felt would bring a sense of unity to students and staff. These assemblies were meant to allow students to get to know their administrative lineup-- with this, both students and teachers alike can join one team. Still, as with any new experience, there is much to be determined. No single event throughout the school year can be predicted. When asked how he coped through the uncertainty of it all, Mr. Callan's message was simple -- be adaptable. He believes the most important things a leader can do is collaborate, be flexible, and surround yourself with people who know what you don't know. According to Mr. Callan, a leader must compartmentalize, be a good listener, team player and lead by example.

Before becoming principal, he worked at both the elementary and middle school levels. He has constantly been at the forefront of change. With this in mind, he gives this advice to the sophomores: "Be positive, work hard, and set high personal standards." He reminds them that the staff are here to help. (Lastly, Mr. Callan encourages anyone facing the unknown to have faith: "It will get done because it has to get done.")

"Attitude is everything. Character is destiny."

Words of Advice From Mr. Richardson

By Tiara Edwards

The Brentwood School District has quickly become a major hub for change. There are new roles, new positions, and new experiences lying ahead. As of right now, our future is in flux, with our newly appointed leaders choosing where we go from here. It is easy to get overwhelmed when diving into the unknown. However, Brentwood High School's very own Summer School/Evening High School Principal, Alex Richardson, has nothing but hope for the future. Richardson is responsible for helping students earn the necessary credits to graduate. He interacts with all types of students, whether it's one who has fallen behind in credits, or one who simply wants to take their dream class and cannot do so without additional schooling. His constant exposure to this multitude of personalities and ambitions qualify him as a voice for the Brentwood public.

Although the night and summer school classes exist as a separate entity from the dealings of much of the rest of the school, Principal Richardson is enthused at the introduction of Richard Loeschner as Brentwood's new superintendent. Having worked with him before, Richardson feels as though the district is in good hands. However, his faith in the district is amplified on the basis of his faith in its inhabitants. He sees the value in the individual in supplement to the whole. His belief in the students here at Brentwood High School was not only notable, but abundant. It is his belief that the American Dream is far more than a concept. His advice to students wishing to pursue this dream was simple: Work hard. There was no chance at him achieving his esteemed position without hard work.

Richardson's advice for success does not stop there. The principal expressed that the first step to success was to know your target. After that, he recommends getting the necessary credentials for your budding future. He also advises one to always be prepared for opportunity. That way, you are never surprised when good fortune hits. This combination of luck and preparation is a recipe for success. In the words of Principal Richardson himself, "From there, it is just one step at a time. Nothing is going to happen overnight. Success will find you if you seek it."

A Vision For The Future: Ms. Judy Crawford

by Yenifer Rubio



Ms. Crawford has worked in Brentwood for 23 years, 14 years were spent at the Freshman Center and then she moved to the high school. Ms. Crawford has the ability to work with multitudes of students. Ms. Crawford is one of the faculty members that lives in the community. She has been able to see the things that have been happening in not only Brentwood High School but also the rest of the community. She has seen the crowded hallways and increasing student population at Brentwood. She has expressed interest in expanding the school, and a desire to have more deans and administrators. She wants at least 2 of the board members to spend time at the high school, so that they can see how the building runs.

Last year, due to gang activity, Brentwood suffered a lot. Mrs. Crawford wants to make students aware that they can still feel safe. She wants students to know that our school district is doing everything they can to make Brentwood a better place for its students and for everyone else who lives in the community. She says that the only thing that students should do is be more aware of their surroundings.

She says that students who stay after school take school more seriously. She says it takes a group effort to keep kids interested in school and keep their grades higher. She says every student has the potential to strive and go to college and do great things.

Ms. Crawford is truly someone who cares about the students. She believes that we shouldn't fear to interact with others. After all, being active in the community makes Brentwood a great district, not only that it unites us as a population.

A Glimpse into the Life of Ms. Santorelli

By Evelyn Pineda

At first glance, Ms. Santorelli appears to be tough, yet fair, which is the perfect combination for her administrative position as the Social Studies Department chair. She's worked across districts for twenty-three years but loves Brentwood for its diversity and the feel of family between teachers and other staff. Her goals include creating a cohesive environment for all students to succeed and a collaborative environment for teachers to grow. She's determined to provide students and teachers with the resources needed for them to succeed. Ms. Santorelli is a passionate woman about things that she "holds near and dear" to her. She pursued her career for this very reason, saying, "History is a story that has many different parts that I love to read and learn about. I also believe that all subjects fall under history, which makes it a limitless subject that I'm still learning much about."

When she's not running relevant and strenuous work activities, Ms. Santorelli adores traveling. She loves Italy for its history, London for its royalty, and Australia and Hawaii for its beauty. Though these are her favorites, she has also traveled to the Caribbean, several states in the United States and many different countries in Europe, simply for the sake of learning. Even with this intense admiration for multiculturalism, she has been unable to master any other languages besides English. Ms. Santorelli believes it's hilarious how Brentwood students who are just learning English are better at English than she is at Spanish, saying how she encourages them to keep talking because she butchers Spanish more than they could ever butcher English!



An Interview with Mr. Gesseck

by Evelyn Pineda

Twenty years ago, Mr. Gesseck began his journey through a variety of professions, those of which include being a modified English teacher for students with disabilities, an administrator, and now, the assistant principal of the Ross building in Brentwood High School. He's enthralled with working directly with kids and adores the energy of the students and community here in Brentwood. Mr. Gesseck decided to pursue his educational career path because of the opportunities it held for him. He wishes to improve on his strength as a team player that builds relationships amongst everyone around him. The line he lives by is: "Always be a part of something bigger than myself."

Though Mr. Gesseck loves giving positive energy to everyone during his working hours, he's also vastly family oriented. He

loves to unwind by having family time with his lovely wife and young kids, which include two older boys and a young girl. He describes himself as dependable, approachable and genuine, and hopes others see him the same way.

Mr. Gesseck is ready for the challenges that the new school year will bring and hopes for a smooth transition with the new administrators. He hopes to keep moving forward with the emphasis on formulating everything with the students so they can have more opportunities and become well-prepared for the real world. Mr. Gesseck believes that our teachers do an incredible job understanding and nurturing their students, but wishes that our high school offered more courses and programs to prepare students after high school for whatever they decide they want to do, such as tech school or vocational programs.



BOOSTER

2017-2018

I support COPA and the students who demonstrate....

- ... respect for themselves, family, peers and people in authority.
- ... good attendance to school and all their classes.
- ... good study habits and maintain an average grade of 75% in all classes.
- ... consistently promote and encourage good behavior to others around them.

C.O.P.A.

Brentwood Students Learning the Importance of
COMMUNITY • OBLIGATION • PROFESSIONALISM • ACHIEVEMENT

Do You Know Mr. Repetto?

by Cristina Dimova and Yenifer Rubio

Mr. Repetto is the head of the science department. He was born in the town of West Islip. His favorite hobby is gardening. Mr. Repetto enjoys going to Europe on vacations but specifically to Italy. For instance, Mr. Repetto talks of working at a tie shop for a man named Francisco. Mr. Repetto knows how to speak a little Italian and enjoys his time in this country.

Mr. Repetto attended North Babylon High School. He said the easiest year of high school was his ninth grade year but he found eleventh grade challenging. He states that he took difficult classes between eleventh and twelfth grade but Mr. Repetto never looked at school with a cold heart. Mr. Repetto loves school! He states "I thought about and saved up for college since I was six years old." For college, Mr. Repetto attended SUNY Binghamton University and majored in biological sciences.

He started his teaching career by becoming a substitute teacher at his old high school. He found out that the school needed a coach for the track team so he took some coaching classes and became the coach of the track team. He describes his team as really fun and crazy to be around. He describes himself as determined, focused, and passionate. He advises students in high school, going to college, or in college already to read everything. Mr. Repetto says, "The more you read, the more power you have".



Who is the Head of The Guidance Department?

by Cristina Dimova

Born April 18, 1973, Mr. Abenes has taken full control of the guidance department and hopes to make the best of it with his use of personal experience and charismatic character. He was born at the South Side Hospital and raised in Bay Shore, New York. On his downtime, he enjoys boating and other activities relating to boating such as fishing, water skiing, or any water sports in general. For vacation, Mr. Abenes loves Puerto Rico specifically areas known as San Juan and Isla Verde. When reading, he definitely takes an interest in any books of Dan Brown but specifically The Da Vinci Code. But Mr. Abenes's life doesn't only consist of books and hobbies, he has a different personal experience that has led him into being in the position Mr. Abenes is in today.

Surprisingly enough, Mr. Abenes was born, raised, and now works in the Brentwood community as the head of the guidance department. Mr. Abenes grew up with his mother, father, and sister on his side. He attended and graduated Brentwood High School as a young adult. From all four of his years of high school, he found tenth grade the hardest year. Years ago, instead of there being the Freshman Center, it was a "Tenth Grade Center". This means that junior high school went from sixth to ninth grade while the "Tenth Grade Center" was just an isolated building as it is today for ninth graders and then you would move into the high school for eleventh and twelfth grade. He found the "Tenth Grade Center" very "isolating" and "difficult to adjust with". In general, Mr. Abenes found his senior year the greatest out of all because he knew that his college preparation was complete and that the one AP class he took was simple and not as rigorous compared to the other AP classes. He found his college process easy in the early 1990s because everything was simply done with pen and paper. He also wasn't able to apply to many colleges because he didn't get the support from his parents since they weren't college graduates and the school didn't push students to apply for other colleges. Mr. Abenes went to Stony Brook University and major in engineering at first but then decided to switch his major to pre-med. He graduated Stony Brook University with a bachelor's degree in bachelor science and psychology. Mr. Abenes found his switch in majors quite easy and states that "being an engineer wasn't as attractive once the workload comes in". With his psychology degree, he decided to pursue school counseling since it was something that he looked for.

Once Mr. Abenes got a job in the Brentwood High School, he started off as a guidance counselor. Over the years, he was able to make way as the head of the guidance department. Throughout this process, he did face many hardships in life that definitely tested his work ethic. The loss of his father at the age of twenty became the hardest time of his life since he still didn't graduate Stony Brook. He states that his father passed away during his "last semester of Stony Brook" and this made Mr. Abenes have to take over the family business at a young age. Overall, Mr. Abenes finds himself fun, easygoing, and intelligent. As the head of the guidance department, Mr. Abenes advises students in high school, getting ready to go to college, or are in college already to talk to as many people possible. This will help students build networks with professionals at a very early age. In addition, he wants students to be kind wherever they are and to learn as much as they can from teachers or any type of profession in order to be secure with an amazing future.

Getting to Know Mr. Autera

by Arianny Perez

Mr. Autera has been at the Ross center for 15 years of his 19 year career but has always worked at Brentwood high school. Mr. Autera declares that the preeminent component of his job is being able to interact with the students whether that is in the classroom or in the hallways. He says that something he wishes to do more this year is getting into classrooms more often. Mr. Autera also expressed wanting to learn Spanish as it is a very popular language in our school and in our community.

When he's not in school or working, one of his favorite past times is to coach baseball teams. One of his pet-peeves is untidiness and Mr. Autera says that he always tries to clean his desk at the end of the week to start fresh on Monday.

Her Experience: Mrs. DeVita

by Cristina Dimova and Tiara Edwards



There is a certain poise that comes along with experience. One gains a sense of familiarity, and in turn, excellence. Kristin DeVita, the math department head, has spent 13 years in the position and 20 years within the district. In that time, she has gained a certain knowledge about her position that makes her a competent and versatile leader. With three kids and many teachers under her wing, she has to constantly find a balance so that everything runs smoothly. To do so, she remains organized and committed, traits she feels are essential to leadership. Along with this, Ms. DeVita emphasized a passion for her craft that allows her to exceed the norm.

Ms. DeVita hopes to point the Brentwood Math Department in new directions. She mentioned a new curriculum for Algebra II students, as well as new textbooks, all for the main goal of improved Regents scores. Although Ms. DeVita is constantly working to help the department function, she still finds time for students through the BOCES program. With that in mind, she gave advice for them: "Have high expectations of yourself." Ms. DeVita feels that self-improvement cannot begin until you encourage it. "If you put in the effort, you will succeed," she said. Overall, Ms. DeVita preached a message of hard work. There is no advancement or refinement without first admitting mistakes. This message is one not only beneficial to the students she deals with, but to everybody.

Want to Know More About the Head of the English Department?

by Cristina Dimova and Yenifer Rubio

Born on December 9, 1969, Mrs. Weeks is the official head of the English Department for the Brentwood high school community. Although born in Staten Island, New York, Mrs. Weeks was raised in Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania and settled in Long Island in 1992, giving her a unique perspective of rural and suburban schools. Besides reading, she loves being active. Mrs. Weeks's activities include running, going to the gym, and walking her two very large golden retrievers. For travel, her favorite vacation spot is in South Carolina at Hilton Head Island. Mrs. Weeks describes that area as "relaxing" and like a southern version of Long Island. But to become the head of the English Department, it took Mrs. Weeks more than hobbies and vacation spots to succeed.

Mrs. Weeks attended Pocono Mountain High School, and she describes her most challenging years as tenth through eleventh grades. She states that in tenth grade the "uncertainty" of the future begins to rise for some students and that eleventh grade can be one of the most "demanding academic years" out of all the years in high school. She found the college process not too stressful because her guidance counselor walked her through the process, step by step. She found the transition from high school to college "very demanding", though, with the "very tough course work" due to her involvement in the East Stroudsburg University nursing program, which is the career direction she thought she would pursue at the time. However, education and helping students attain their life goals was her real passion, so she decided to pursue her bachelor's and master's degree in education at Dowling College. Mrs. Weeks also attended Stony Brook University for her administrative leadership degree. Upon reflection, she says that the most difficult time of her life was her teen years. She describes her adolescence as "tough" and she thinks that for many young women it can be difficult considering girls tend to lose their sense of self-confidence throughout those years. She is dedicated to helping all students achieve a sense of empowerment to become whatever it is they envision for themselves. In addition, Mrs. Weeks would describe herself as centered, kind, empathetic and passionate. Her advice for students in high school, heading to college, or in college already is to listen to their hearts and follow their own paths. She states that, "students should never do something for other people" because you want to look back and see the decisions and pathway you made for yourself. She also advises students to not be afraid of change because ultimately embracing change will help you grow to your best potential.

Note: Ms. Weeks is now an Assistant Principal at the Freshman Center



Interview With Ms. Dulin

by Tiara Edwards

When asked to describe the key to success in one word, Dashana Dulin, the Special Education Department Head, confidently said "resiliency." Once a program coordinator, Ms. Dulin has worked in this district for the past two years. Since her arrival, she has prevailed through the multiple duties she has been presented with. Along with overseeing teachers and students, Ms. Dulin must regulate curriculums so that they accommodate for public school standards and monitor students' IEPs (individualized education plans).

In her time in Brentwood, Ms. Dulin has found that she influences many lives. Ms. Dulin is also a mother of three. She keeps a level head by pacing herself. She strongly recommends rewarding yourself as an outlet for the stress. Her reward is dancing. She also spoke of compartmentalizing, a skill that allows her to be her best self in controlling every aspect of her life. Ms. Dulin recommends organization, time management, and structure as important skills to master. These skills helped Ms. Dulin climb to the top of her field.

Ms. Dulin has prospered despite skeptics and obstacles. She says tenacity is a vital component of her success. She wishes to set an example for those following her. She wishes to impact the student post-grad outcome and for those in her program to go beyond a high school diploma.



Dr. Akil's Words to the High School and Community

by Arianny Perez



Passionate, driven, and caring are the words Dr. Akil used to describe herself. If you haven't heard of Dr. Akil, she works at the Central Administration building and is the Superintendent of secondary education. She started her career as a teacher and then moved on to being an administrator but, she always knew her career was going to revolve around children. She has been working as an educator for over 12 years, but she says that the best feeling she gets is seeing the kids graduate at the end of the year.

Dr. Akil says that for this 2017-18 school year she plans on supporting the ENL students and them getting into more honors programs for the new school year. Akil's other objective includes having more counselors to work with the students at every level. As for improving the community Akil's ambition is to work with the parents and have them interact with the teachers and administrators more.



Le Cercle Français – French Club

The BHS French club is a great club to join, and here's why!

- We participate in many school events such as Homecoming and the International/Multicultural Night.
- We celebrate major French and American holidays including a year-end fête with the Italian Club.
- We learn about France and other French-speaking countries (Haiti, etc.), their people, and their cultures.
- We learn how to make crêpes!
- We play games that teaches us basic words and expressions in French.
- ... and much more !!!

We are a very social, communicative club! Communication is important in high school, as well as in college and beyond, since it helps us with our interaction with others. This club will allow you to talk to others more confidently and comfortably.



Come join the French Club!



We are fun and friendly

The Life of Kevin O' Reilly

by Cristina Dimova

Kevin O' Reilly is a name that has spread throughout the Brentwood School District. That is because he is the head of the athletic department. In a recent interview Mr. O' Reilly gave us his goals and outlooks for this year.

Mr. O' Reilly was born in Brentwood and went to the Brentwood School District. Academically, he found his freshman year to be the hardest and his senior year as the easiest. Mr. O' Reilly attended college at SUNY at Cortland. His favorite hobbies are spending time with his family, listening to country and live music, and golfing. When it comes to vacations, Mr. O' Reilly's favorite place to travel is to the beach or Cancun. He does not know any foreign languages, but would love to learn Spanish. Mr. O' Reilly explained that the hardest moment in his life was losing his mother to cancer. If Mr. O' Reilly could describe himself in three words, they would be perseverant, loyal, and dedicated.

Mr. O' Reilly has important goals for this school year. Firstly, he would like to bring his assistant, Mr. Robinson, back to his job as Assistant Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics for Brentwood. In addition, Mr. O' Reilly would like to get turf fields for the athletes. Finally, Mr. O' Reilly states, "I want to make sure that our athletes have the best coaches and to enjoy their time as students/athletes while attending Brentwood High School".

TRI-M

by Arleth Durand

Tri-M is a music honor society that includes anyone in the music department (orchestra, band, or chores) who does outstanding in their class and wants to be involved in more musical activities. Most students are able to start in their freshman year, if they are already in selected or in chores, but normally you can sign up during your sophomore year. There is a requirement of keeping your grades high in your music class and throughout the year. Mrs. Hillard sponsors the program with some help from the president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and sunshine of the program. Usually their meetings are held in the orchestra room (1626) most Wednesdays. Throughout the program you must earn a certain amount of credits by June like community service. The credit must be done by doing musical activities such as: holiday party, tree lighting ceremony, recorder festival, green machine home show, setting up for the school play, NYSSMA, etc. For the most part, there are new events but for the majority, the events will be posted, they don't change. At the end of the year, in the month of June, there is an Induction Ceremony which gathers every new or returning members to earn their aware and certificate. However, if you continue this program until you graduate you will receive your pink tassel on your graduation hat to show you were majoring in music as well. This looks very well on your college application showing your interest in school activities and doing new events.



Why the members of drama club return every year...

by Flor Villanueva and Yenifer Rubio

Get to know Julio, Naomi, Arly, John, Autumn, and Marilyn, a few of the drama club actors from Brentwood High School's 2016-2017 production of *And Then There Were None*.

What drove you to audition for the play?

It has been something I have always done for years! I have done musical plays before and this play seemed interesting. My friends recommended that I should do it. I was really quiet and shy, so I decided to put myself out there, coming out of my comfort zone.

Joining a club, sport and play does not only just come with the experience but with a bond to a new family of friends. It is place where people go to feel welcomed, happy, and comfortable! What does this play and club mean to you?

It is a place where I can be myself and connect with friends that have the same interests.

Family, respect, commitment, friendships, it's just like home. We worked very hard and the cast was wonderful.

For some people going on stage is their worst fear. While others love and embrace it as their passion. How does it feel being on stage?

It is a bit overwhelming but a lot of fun. It was nerve wracking but it drives me to be better. It is a rush of adrenaline with a building of confidence. When playing a part, getting into the character and how they feel and think, is transformative

As life goes on we experience different situations and make memories along the way. What has been your favorite memory during this season of drama club?

Finding out I got the part of Em.
Finding out that I was going to perform in all four shows!
Two years ago I originally made it as an understudy and I got called back to be the lead.
Getting elected president of the drama club!
Running through the whole show with the cast. It is just so amazing.

After weeks upon weeks of preparation you are finally able to perform for an audience. Do you have any words for the audience or any new upcoming drama club members? Advice?

It is going to be a play with an ending you will never expect.

Don't worry about an audience; just perform

Be prepared for an unexpected ending.

Go hard or go home!

Always be yourself.

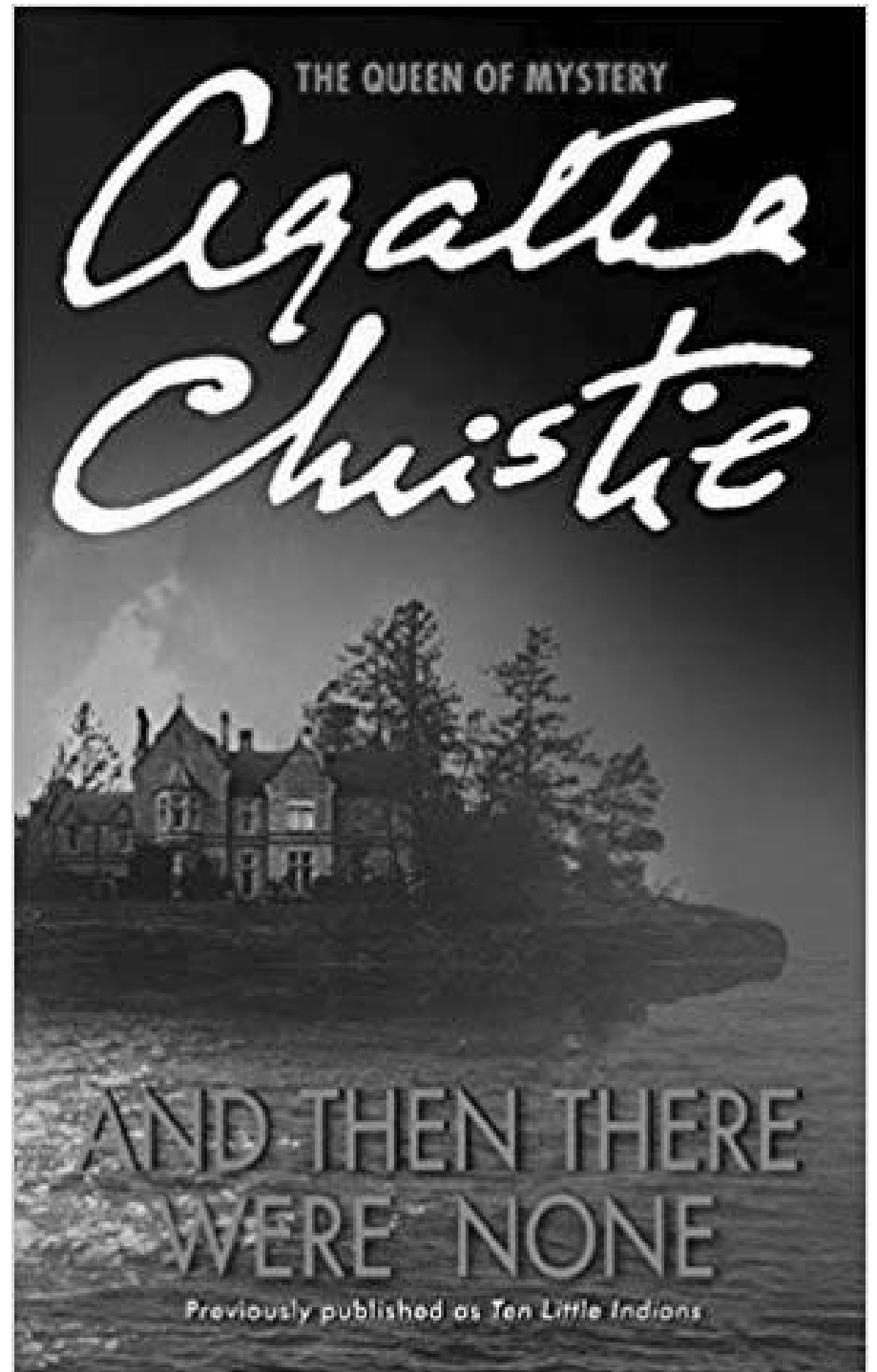
Keep your head out of the clouds, it is a real thriller.

It is a club so remember have fun, be yourself and be appreciative.

Whether you were part of drama club for three years, two years or for one season, you make memories to last a life time. It is an experience they will never forget whether it's coming out of your comfort zone or just enjoying performing. This year's seniors aren't ready to say goodbye and neither are we.

What will you miss the most about drama club?

Just performing the shows with the cast, Ms. Lamb, the environment of the auditorium, the vibe, the people, the whole aspect and experience. In the 10th grade I had just moved to Brentwood and had no friends. I was new I was scared to audition. The only reason I went to Drama was because I used to act. I got a tiny role and stayed with it. I made friends and the following years, I even got to be the lead twice. I have been active in theatre since the 5th grade. It's a passion. Before I would just do music and this was a new experience



Brentwood Summer Research Program

By: Anthony Coelho

Over the course of 4 weeks (June 26 - July 21) 42 students from the Brentwood, Central Islip, and Smithtown West High Schools gathered to conduct scientific research at the Brentwood High School Research Lab as a part of the Suffolk County Water Quality Grant. This grant of \$125,000 was awarded to Dr. Rebecca Grella (Brentwood High School research teacher) and Dr. Dianna K. Padilla (professor at Stony Brook University) by Suffolk County legislators in 2015. On this grant were 14 student led projects that were focused on topics like micro biomes, microbiology, and ecology. When asked about some of the projects involved in the summer research program Dr. Grella stated, "This summer students conducted nitrogen and ammonium analysis on sediment collected from several Long Island



salt marshes. Students are assessing the impacts of increased nitrogen levels from eutrophication on salt marsh communities. This work follows up on some of our previous findings from last year."



During the course of these 4 weeks there were three research mentors each from the three different schools, each with a different area of expertise. One of the research mentors involved in the program was Dr. Rebecca Grella. She is the research teacher here at Brentwood High School, and her area of expertise is ecology and evolution. Dr. Grella was the mentor for all projects within the micro biomes and ecology topics. Another research mentor involved in the program was Dr. Joanne Figueiredo. She is the AP Chemistry and research teacher at Smithtown High School West, and her area of expertise is biochemistry. Dr. Figueiredo was the

mentor for all projects relating to biochemistry, many of the projects for which she was the mentor involved *Nematostella vectensis* - a small burrowing sea anemone which has garnered a great deal of attention within the scientific community due to its crucial place evolutionarily, which allows scientist to study neurogenesis (the development of the nervous system). Lastly, the third mentor was Roann Roderick. She is the research teacher at Central Islip Senior High School, and her area of expertise is microbiology. Mrs. Roderick was the mentor for all projects in the field of microbiology - a new addition to the summer research program which was just added this summer.



Last summer the research program led to a great amount of success for both Brentwood and Smithtown students. Last year 2 students involved in the program, Sarah Adamo - a Smithtown student and Susell Contreras - a Brentwood student, were named Siemens Regional Finalists for their work involving *Nematostella vectensis*, and another student from Brentwood was named a Siemens Semifinalist for her work in ecology. In total, 3 students from last year's summer research program were recognized in the Siemens competition, which is the nation's premier science competition for high school students. Again this year several projects from this program will be entered into the Siemens Competition in hopes of gaining recognition and getting that \$100,000 grand prize for the first place winners.

SAT Dates 2017 - 2018

Test Date	Normal Deadline	Late Registration*	Online Score Release
December 2, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 17, 2017	December 21, 2017
March 10, 2018**	February 9, 2018	February 23, 2018	March 29, 2018
May 5, 2018	April 6, 2018	April 20, 2018	May 24, 2018
June 2, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 18, 2018	June 21, 2018

*The late registration deadline is one week earlier if you are registering by mail.

**Regular SAT only.