

Sayville High School Named a NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

By Linda Mittiga

Sayville High School has been designated an Exemplary High-Performing Schools National Blue Ribbon School for 2018 by the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. This makes Sayville High School one of 349 schools in the nation, one of twenty schools from New York State and one of only four on Long Island to be recognized in 2018.

“This very high honor,” Sayville Superintendent Dr. John Stimmel remarked, “reflects the exemplary work of all our teachers, staff and students, not just in our High School, but in our Middle School and elementary schools as well.”

Since 1982, the United States government’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has been honoring public and private K-12 schools that are academically superior in their state due to high levels of student achievements or that demonstrate improvements in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups, this according to the National Blue Ribbon website.

For a school—such as Sayville High School—to be eligible for the high-performing designation, it must first rank in the top 15 percent of all schools on state assessments in both reading and mathematics and must have a graduation rate that ranks in the top 15 percent of all schools in their state.

However, it was not just high ranks that earned Sayville High School the coveted National Blue Ribbon of Distinction. It was in great part due to its dedicated administrators and teachers who ensured high standards of learning for all students along with its accountability in data collection and analysis to determine the efficacy of instruction and assessment. And while the Sayville students have demonstrated academic excellence, Sayville educators have also shown extraordinary commitment by undertaking professional development to stay at the forefront of best practices.

Sayville School district offers congratulations to Principal Ron Hoffer, the entire Sayville High School community of educators, staff and students for this fine achievement.



Superintendent of Sayville Schools Dr. John E. Stimmel along with Sayville High School English Department Chair Edward Schmieder and High School Principal Ronald Hoffer recently attended the National Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Ceremony held in Washington, D.C. At this ceremony, many school representatives and supporters shared ideas, conversed with US Department of Education officials about excellence in education, and attended a networking reception. Each school received a National Blue Ribbon School flag and plaque at the awards luncheon.

High School Library Nears Completion

The sound of drills and saws can often be heard in the Art Hall, as the high school library nears completion. The temporary library, in the Band Room, has provided students with a quiet place to work, but the new library, which through the construction looks bright and open will be a welcomed addition to our building.

Construction began right after school ended last year, and is expected to be completed in January. We can look forward to a new, state of the art facility after mid-terms.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Student
Spotlight

by Jilleen Barrett

Jessica Fraccalvieri is a junior at Sayville High School. When she began taking a photography class in ninth grade, she found herself engrossed in taking pictures. She started an Instagram and VSCO account that rapidly became popular among her peers in school, and is slowly gaining more attention from professionals. I interviewed her because I have been a fan of her captivating photos for a long time, because Jess is amazing at capturing photographs of the people and the nature that surround her.

Q: How did you become involved in photography?

A: Since I was a baby, my mom has always had a camera in my face, documenting my life. When I was little I used to hate posing for them, but as I got older I realized why my mom wanted to take them all. Each picture is special because I keep the memory alive and portray the beauty of it to others. I like telling a story through my lens.

Q: What would you say to other aspiring artists?

A: I would say that as cheesy as it may sound, never give up on your dreams. No matter what anyone has to say about your work, as long as you love what you do and feel pride in what you create, nothing else should matter. I always remind myself that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and not everyone is going to like your work. As long as you are happy with how far you've come and accomplished, you're set for life.

Q: Where do you get your inspiration? Are there other photographers that you admire?

A: I'm very inspired by where I live as well as my friends and family. Living on Long Island, we're surrounded by natural beauty everywhere we go. I love using subjects that I know are beautiful on the inside as well as on the outside. I really look up to Alex Currie, one of the first photographers I found on Flickr when my interest sparked. He influences me to think outside the box and explore outside my comfort zone.



Q: Are you interested in other forms of art?

A: I love to paint landscapes on canvas, as well as graphic design.

Q: Do you plan to turn this into a career?

A: My ultimate goal is to be a freelance photographer. I would love to travel and find people and places that can help me create memories and photos that won't be forgotten.

Q: You've taken your love for photography to a lot of different places. What was your favorite location to photograph and why?

A: I recently took a family vacation to Los Cabos, Mexico. I was able to immerse myself in another culture that was so beautiful and interesting. The sunrises and sunsets there are so vivid and peaceful. When you're taking pictures in such an amazing location, whether it's in the town or on the shore, you never want that moment to leave.

Q: What do you use to edit your photos? Are there apps your specifically depend on?

A: When I'm in school, I have access to a desktop MacBook so I use Basic Adobe Photoshop. I don't have my own MacBook at home, so there I use my favorite app, VSCO. I've been a part of the VSCO community for years and it's my go-to editing and inspiration app. I've had a few of my photos curated by VSCO as well.

Q: What kind of camera do you use?

A: I use a Nikon d3400, as well as my iPhone 6.

Q: What are your future plans for the future? How big a role will photography have?

A: I plan to try to build my social media bases as well as my reputation in the photography world before I graduate high school. I would like to go to school for photography or graphic design. Even if I don't end up going into a photography career I know I'll never stop taking pictures. It's my life and my passion.

Follow Jess on her social media platforms:

Instagram: fraccphotography VSCO: jessfracc

Robotics: Building More Than Robots

by Maggie Mongiello

Sayville students have a rich selection of clubs to choose from. Each clubs offers a different advantage; while one might offer a great source of peer bonding, others are perfect for bolstering your resume. The Robotics Club might be a lesser known club, but it's a great way to learn new things and build lasting friendships.

Every year the Robotics Club participates in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. Students work together to build a robot that conforms to that year's theme and can complete specific tasks. Each January the tasks the robot is required to complete are announced and then club members have six weeks to develop a fully functioning robot. Last year's theme had to do with retro video games. The robot was required to pick up cubes, and latch onto a bar and perform a "pull up" motion. This year's theme is Destination: Deep Space.

Challenges won't be announced until January, so club members focus on learning the skills required to build their robot in the six weeks of competition season. Club members need skills in fabrication, electronics, pneumatics, and programming.

Besides technical skills, club members are forced to learn budgeting and fundraising. The club needs to fundraise four thousand dollars in addition to the money the school gives them. To gain these funds, the Robotics Club holds a raffle each year.

As explained to me by Mr. Coon, the advisor, and Connor Sullivan, President, the Robotics Club is more team-building than anything else. Though students are immersed in technology, they work as a team to develop problem-solving, and people skills. The bonds between Robotics Club members are seldom found in other clubs.

Jess Fracc
Photographer



Sayville High School Welcomes
International Scholars

By Jilleen Barrett

As you have probably noticed, Sayville has a few new faces, particularly from different cultures this year. I sat down with two of them, Nicole Vertolo, 17, and Lucas Oliveira, 15, to learn more about their cultures, their interest in coming to a new country, and how they're involved here in Sayville. Nicole traveled here from Italy and Lucas is from Brazil.

J: Who do you live with in your home country?

N: My mom, dad, and 12 year old brother.

L: My dad and stepmother. I also have two brothers and one sister.

J: Who do you live with here?

N: Gabby Ulloa (Gabby is a senior), and her parents.

L: My host mom and dad, their kids, and another exchange student named Javier.

J: What is your favorite thing about Long Island?

N: The town of Sayville is really nice. I love that it's close to New York City.

L: Going out with my friends. We have been bowling and we went to the beach.

J: What other countries have you been to?

N: Other than the USA, Austria, UK, France, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. I also went to Disney World with my host family when I arrived.

L: Uruguay and Argentina. I have also been to Maine.

J: Do you plan on going to college in the US?

N: Yes, I would like to, but I have two years because Italian high school is five years.

L: I want to go to college here but I don't know if that will happen.

J: What is your favorite thing about your home country?

N: The art and culture, and the weather- it's always warm!

L: The food; we eat lots of rice, beans, and meat, like steak, hamburger and farofa. I also love brigadeiro (Brazilian chocolate).

J: How is school different here than in Italy?

N: Apart from it being only four years, we don't change classes, teachers do. For five years I stay in the same classroom with the same people. We can focus on certain types of school, not so much individual classes. It's sort of like picking a major in college and filling the requirements. We don't do the same subjects everyday. School is much less of a community- here you have sports and clubs, but in Italy we just do our six hours and go home. Also, we go to school on Saturdays.

L: I go to private school in Brazil. It's better here because we change classes, but better there because people are nicer, mostly.

J: How is the lifestyle of New York different than the lifestyle of Italy?

N: In Italy, I live in the city and take the metro or walk wherever I want to go. I spend more time with my friends and we go to lunch in restaurants. On Saturday night I always go out and I'm much more independent. I don't do much with my parents because I can get around without them.

L: The food is very different. In Brazil, we stress healthiness. It's much safer here than in my hometown. We have a lot of parties and people are nice to everyone, even if they have to be nice to someone they don't like or know. When we meet new people, we hug. Men and women kiss on both cheeks. Also, it's normal to have a photo of yourself as your lock screen background! Here in America, you don't like that.

J: How are you involved in school here?

N: I joined the swim team to enjoy a community based school.

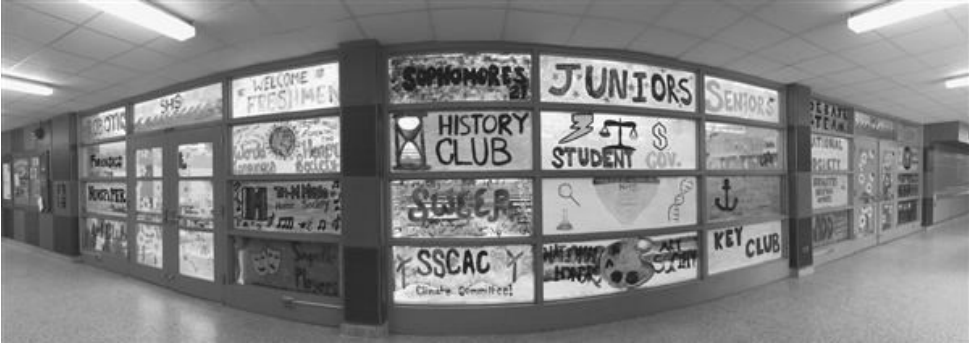
L: I joined the volleyball team.

J: How did you decide to come abroad?

N: I've always been very interested in the US and I wanted to improve my english. I also wanted to flip my lifestyle, and New York is so different.

L: As a child, I wanted to go live in the US. International Student Exchange was introduced to me and I was told I could go with other international exchange students.

In the next issue of *The Current* we will feature interviews with our other International Scholars.



The Current is a publication of Sayville High School

Jilleen Barrett, Editor

Staff: Nora O'Donnell, Maggie Mongiello, Vincent Vertucci, Jessica Fraccalvieri

Advisors: Mrs. Stoll DePompeo, Mr. Shaw

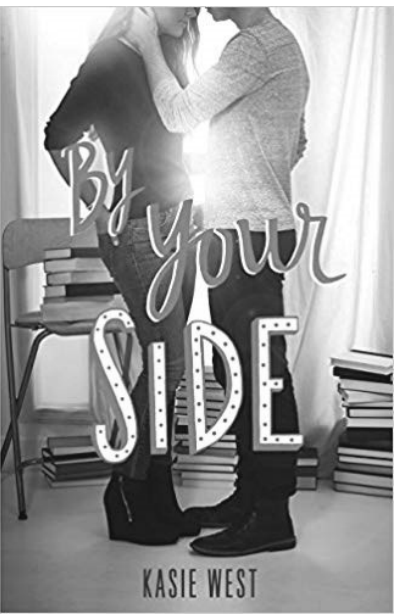
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Book Review

By Your Side

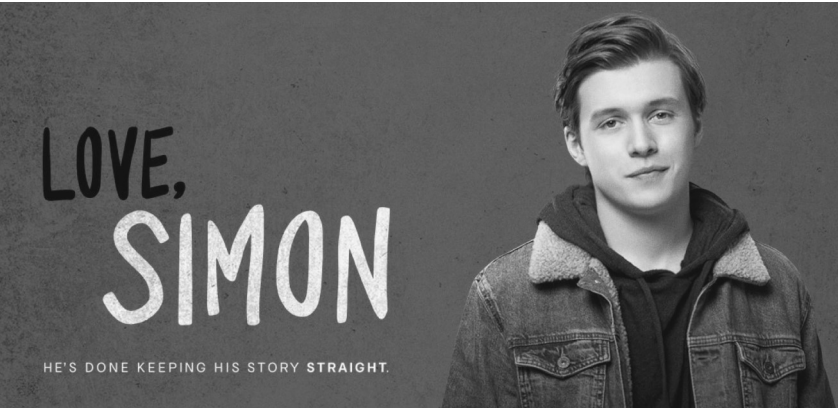
By Kasie West

Reviews by Nora O'Donnell
After a miscommunication between Autumn and her friends results in her being locked in the library, Autumn doesn't think things could get any worse. That is before she realizes she is not alone. She is trapped with Dax a mysterious and troubled boy from school. It soon becomes clear that Autumn will have to spend the weekend eating vending machine food and talking to a boy who wants nothing to do with her. Autumn soon realizes that there is more to Dax than meets the eye. Read *By Your Side* by Kasie West to see what happens to Autumn. Will she ever get out of the library?



Movie Review :Love, Simon

It's difficult enough to figure out who you are, especially when you're in high school, your life looks perfect and you have a secret. That's Simon, played by Nick Robinson. His life looks perfectly normal from the outside, but when he forgets to log off a school computer and a classmate finds his emails, his secret: that he's gay, just might come out. The movie follows Simon through his senior year of high school, complete with homecoming, holiday parties, math class, an obnoxious Principal, college applications and a mysterious online boyfriend. This very realistic, often heartbreaking film is available on Amazon Prime Video.



Upcoming at Sayville High School

Sayville Players Present

PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER

Thursday, 1/17 7:00 pm
Friday, 1/18, 8:00 pm
Saturday, 1/19, 2:00 pm, 8:00 pm

Little Theatre
\$7.00 Adults
\$5.00 Students and Seniors
Free for District Gold Card Holders

ANYTHING GOES!
Auditions!

Auditions are open to the whole school!

December 10th; Call Backs: December 17th

A LOT OF SINGING, DANCING, & COMEDY.



Current Cartoon by Liam Cummings

Every Child's Dream

Friday, December 14

CHECK WITH YOUR CLUB AND CLASS ADVISORS FOR YOUR ROLE.

Coat Sorting: Monday 12/10, 10th Period Cafeteria

Gift Wrapping: Wed. 12/12, 10th Period, Cafeteria

Mandatory Server Training: December 11 or 13, 10th Period, Little Theatre

Max Maizus and the Legacy of #9

by Maggie Mongiello

If you were to be watching a Sayville football game, you might notice that one player is wearing a patch on his shoulder with the number nine on it. Nine was the jersey number of Mitch Cangelosi, a Sayville High School graduate, and former football star. Mitch was said to be a good student and a great person. An athlete who gave his all on the field and in the classroom. In 2006, after graduating from Sayville High School, Mitch passed away in a car accident. Every year, to honor him, and to encourage excellence among current players, one player who embodies Mitch is chosen to wear his number. This year, that player is lineman Max Maizus.

Along with the leadership role, and the honor of wearing the number, the chosen player receives a thousand dollar scholarship. Every year the coaching staff chooses the student they feel deserves this award. This student needs to succeed academically, be respected by his peers and teachers, and be kind to those around him. Since Maizus is a lineman, and linemen numbers are restricted to a range that doesn't include nine, he wears

the number on a patch on his shoulder. When I asked Max for input on this article he stated "Number 9 was a dream to me when I first started playing football in 5th grade. All my life my parents have set me up to work hard and never quit and try to share that same mentality with the people around me and that's exactly what number 9 stands for. This year's team is something special and attitude is going to be the biggest part of our success or failure. We should all strive to be number 9; It should be a competition nonetheless. I love being a leader to this team. Number 9 is a way of life and I'm honored to be part of it."

Everyone who lives in Sayville knows the importance of our football program. With a team that's so central to our community, the importance of excellence is imperative. Mitch Cangelosi was a wonderful student, player, and person, and his legacy lives on through the team. This award encourages every player to live as Mitch would have; to work as hard in school as they do on the field, to gain others' respect, to be kind, and to be successful and happy in life.



First Annual (?) Not-So-Scary Halloween



In what is likely to be Sayville High School's newest community service project, a seeming endless stream of elementary schoolchildren came through the hallways of the high school in search of entertainment, easy scares and a lot of candy. The event, for which every club and class took a movie or storybook theme and decorated a part of the Science and World Languages halls. Of particular interest was the "Quiet Room" set up by Brady Dolan and Athletes Helping Others in Room 120, guaranteeing that children with special needs were able to enjoy the event.

Homecoming '18

Photo Essay by Jessica Fraccalvieri
Article by Alex Pittari

During my four years of attending Sayville High School a question has always crossed my mind. Why does most of the student body not participate in the festivities of Spirit Week in preparation for Homecoming? In my opinion Spirit Week is the only time that students can have a little fun in school to get everyone excited for the Homecoming Game. The fact that students, especially underclassman are not dressing up or helping without with float building is disheartening to me. This is the time for the school to come together for one common goal, while still having the concept of competition between the grades. Because it is my senior year I wanted to go all out and leave with a bang. I was proud of what I produced even if it was a bit eccentric, that's what I think it should be. Not doing the bare minimum just to get the participation point for your grade. My advice for students is you only get a high school experience once in your life so make it memorable. Go all out be eccentric; take full advantage of the festivities and have a little fun. You don't have the much time left in this school so make every day count, because before you know it you're going to be graduating.

