

# New High School Library Opens!

## Current Staff

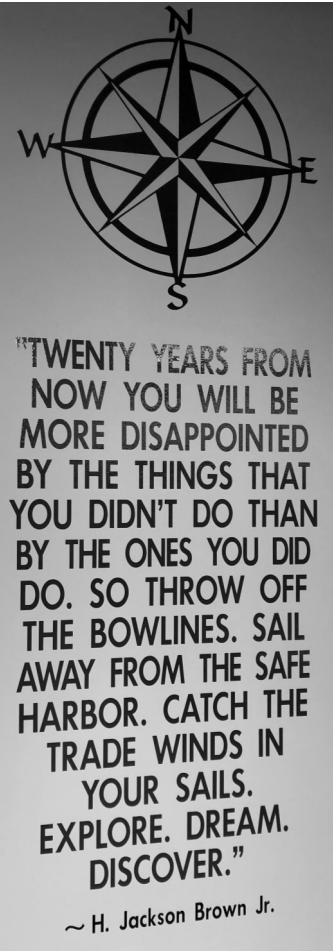
Valentine’s Day is always a day of celebration at Sayville High School. Chocolates, carnations and prom-posals fill the halls. But this year brought another reason to celebrate: the opening of the new high school library.

After a renovation which began as soon as school let out in June of 2018, the new, bright, technology filled space has opened to the delight of students and faculty alike. A main feature of the new library is a huge skylight over the main floor which floods the space with natural light which has been proven to enhance productivity and lower energy costs. The opening celebration included poetry readings, a book fair, and Valentine’s treats. Many students participated by reading their favorite poem or by sharing a favorite book.

Since the opening day, the library has already become a well-used feature of the building. Before school, students can be found finishing up last minute homework. During the school day, students in need of a quiet place to work can find a corner of the library, and after school many students meet to complete group projects or work on the computers.

A main feature of the new library is a new computer lab, with computer workstations and a smart screen. This room has already been well used by teachers doing professional development and classes which need access to desktop computers. We were sad to lose the old New York City mural that was painted on the wall, but the new wall of windows looking out onto the courtyard brings additional light into the room. Students are looking forward to working out in the new courtyard once the weather improves.

We recently caught up with several groups of students working in the library to get their input on the new facility. Juniors William Krug, Ethan Gross and Matt Grossi said, “The new



library is great. Right when you walk through the door you can see how beautiful it is.” Steven Devery and Amy Gallagher were found working at one of the high tables. They said, “The new library is a beautiful, quiet space to come and study before a test, do homework or come sit in the morning before school starts. We enjoy it every day and are very glad that it is here.” Juniors Courtney Giattino, Jack Cheshire and Louis Maffetone agree. “We think the new library is very open and the media center is amazing. It is very comfy and has a lot of natural light. Also, there is space for people to sit down and study or do some homework.” Everyone we spoke to agreed that the renovation of the library was money well-spent by the district. The library is the only academic room in the high school that is used by every student, so it is a worthwhile investment. Librarians Mrs. Finnerty and Mrs. Greco are very satisfied with the results of the library renovation, and hope that all students and teachers will see the new library as a valuable school resource.



Mrs. Finnerty and Mrs. Greco seem very happy to be back in the library.



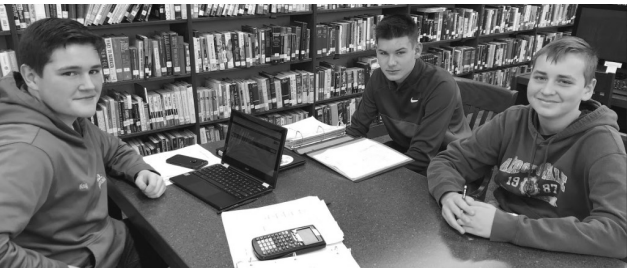
Mary Vermilyea, Lukas Walters and Connor Campbell at the opening day book fair.



Superintendent Dr. Stimmel chatted with students at the opening.



Students enjoying the new library.



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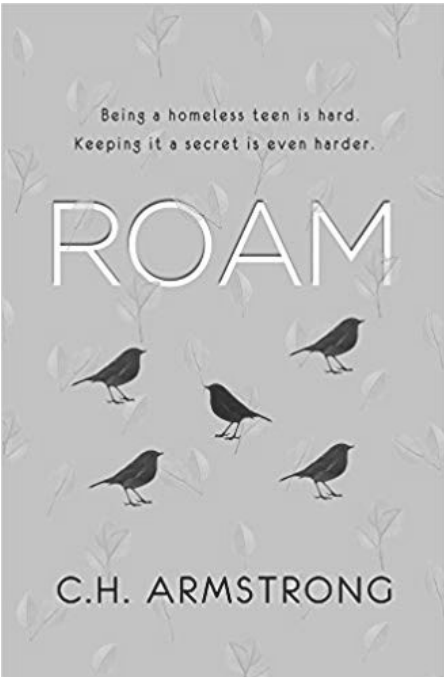


# Roam

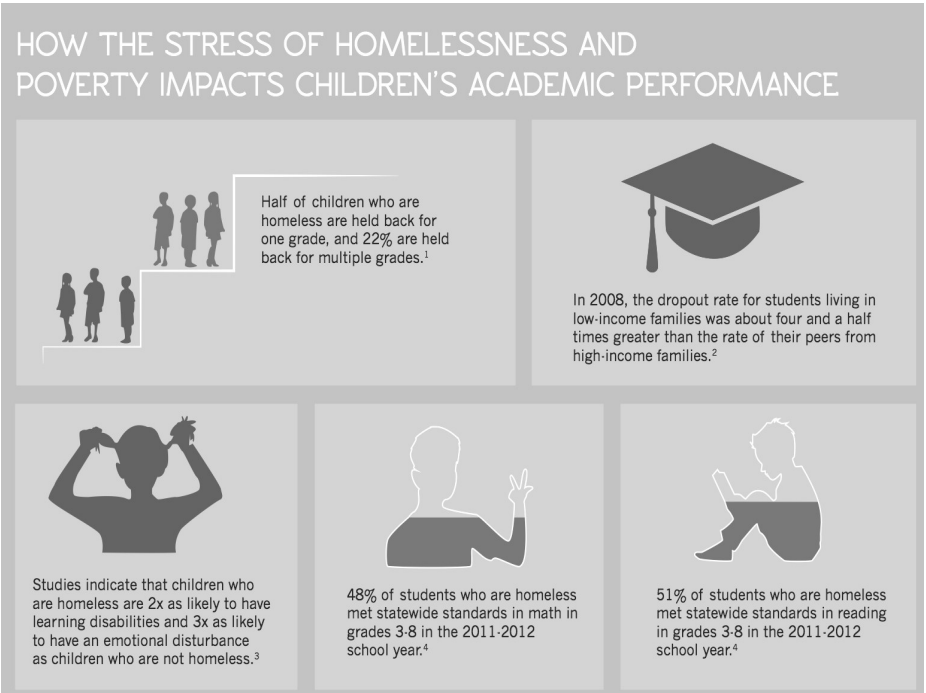
by C.H. Armstrong

Review By Nora O’Donnell

Have you seen the new library? In case you have been living under a rock and have yet to notice, the new library has been finished. The band has been displaced no longer and the books have been relocated to there new forever home. Not a big reader? Well, no problem! We now have more computers and room for you to hang out during you free periods and to get you projects done. From the from the new books to new computers there is something for everyone at the library.



The book *Roam* follows the life of Abby Lunde. After Abby's mom, a teacher at her school, makes a mistake, Abby's life goes into a downward spiral. Her mother and step father end up losing their jobs and the friends Abby thought she had quickly disappear. Due to not being able to pay the rent, Abby and her sister along with their parents must leave their home and most of their belonging. Readers follow Abby as she begins attending a new school as a homeless teen surrounded by privileged children. Trying to keep her home life hidden, Abby soon makes a couple great friends. But will they stand with her is they learn about her home life or will there be a repeat of her last school and she will be left alone? This novel shows the struggles many teens face when events in their lives lead to the loss of their homes.



# Review

## Peter and the Starcatcher

By Jilleen Barrett



A prequel to childhood favorite Peter Pan, the story of *Peter and the Starcatcher* captivated audiences with its magical characters and hilarious scenes.

As a privileged but down to earth little girl finds an interesting friendship with a boy who wasn’t even loved enough to have a name, they discover something that they have in common: a need to find something beautiful in the world, or what the little girl- who’s known as Molly- calls “star catching.” Eventually, that boy becomes Peter and Molly becomes his partner in crime. Molly’s most important task in the play is proving that girls can do anything boys can do. She and Peter fight pirates, communicate with nature, save the world from evil, and most importantly, catch the stars- hence, *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

Personally, my favorite part of the play was the acting. Most notably, Gabriella Medeck (Molly Aster) did a terrific job portraying the mind of a young heroine. Not only did she make her character shine like the stars, but she made the audience laugh with her careless smile and childlike excitement throughout her performance. Though she didn’t sing that much in this particular play, when she did, her voice was exceptional. Another remarkable execution of character was made by Kyle Finn, who played “Tubby” Ted. He played his part with such amusement- it was obvious he really enjoyed what he was doing. Obviously, another significant actor in the play was Hunter Caiazzo, who played Peter. I thought he did Peter justice and he made his emotions truly resemble that of a twelve year old boy who has never felt love, which must have been difficult. There was never a time where the facial expression he made or the sentiment he gave the audience seemed insincere. I thought every actor in this play was magnificent and deserve the part they got, but Gabriella Medeck, Kyle Finn, and Hunter Caiazzo were most certainly the actors who stood out the most in this show. Alex Pittari and Aidan DeVerna demonstrated excellent comic timing as the dastardly duo, the Black Stache and Smee, and the cast was round out with fine performances by Evan May, Kaitlyn Maher, Liz Campbell, Erika Powers, Evan Powers, Ayla Kaczmarek, Patricia Madden and a hilarious cameo role by Amber Gidden as the scotch salmon turned mermaid, Teacher. Word from Thursday night, and the Saturday matinee was that the opposite cast, featuring Paige Gaiser, Olivia Reiss, Eric Person, James Anderson, Jacob Diaz, Katrina Kranzle, Maggie Mongiello, Sarah Ramsundar and Jude Ramsaywak was equally entertaining. I really enjoyed this play and I could tell the other audience members did as well. It was comical, entertaining, and uplifting. It’s the type of play anyone young or old can watch, but not just anyone can perform or produce. The actors, the sound and lighting crew, the costume department, the set designers, and everyone in between did a fantastic job putting this show together. Usually every play executed by this high school is pleasurable, but this one really took the cake. Peter wanted to catch the stars, and *Peter and the Starcatcher* caught five.

Below: Members of the cast of the Sayville Players production, *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

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Meet us Wednesdays,

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*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

*The Current* welcomes letters to the editor and article submissions

# Does College Education Live up to Its Popularity?

By Andrew Jones

Almost every student gets tired of being asked “So what college are you thinking of applying to?” The question is so often asked by relatives, peers, teachers, parents, etc. to high school students who may not have even started to consider college, but why? It’s almost like the general consensus is that college is the number 1 answer to what a high schooler should absolutely aim for after graduating. However, with such a popular idea spread across the families and friends of high schoolers, it may be better to stand back and question something.

How worth it of a decision should post high school career paths to be set on college?

To most people, a college education must seem like the best course of action to take after graduating from high school. However, the cost of college might outweigh the worth it provides, at least compared to other career options. Nevertheless, the popularity of college shows being that around 70% of high school student enroll into college as their career choice after high school according to Timothy Pratt, in his article "The Open Access Dilemma"published in *Education Next*. With this popularity that the college decision has amassed, it seems that choosing a college education after high school can’t go wrong. Even a past president stated a standard for the average student’s education level based off college saying that a college degree is an “economic imperative that every family in America has to be able to afford.”

However, he mentions that every family should be able to afford it, and why that incentive is difficult to meet is one of the reasons it may not be so worth it. College itself is really, really expensive. According to Farran Powell, in "An Ultimate Guide to Understanding Financial Aid for College", the amount of money the student ends up paying towards the college, adding up all of a tuition, fees, supplies, possibly transportation, and so on, is the reason for the creation of financial aid towards college. He questions the ability of students to be able to pay off what they owe. “Delinquency rates on student loans have jumped in the last year, and are now higher than those for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards.” With almost all of college fees and tuition being managed by borrowing loans, almost all students are left dealing with overwhelming debt to owe the colleges they attended. For example, Earlham College in Indiana is at a \$13 million deficit which resulted in the college having to cut its budget to try and fit its own financial situation caused by student loans not being paid. However, this isn't just one college being in an unfortunate situation. According to Moody’s Investors Service, 25 percent of private colleges are running deficits, and that doesn't even include public or state run colleges. In all, there are 44 million students who paid loans that add up to collectively owing \$1.5 trillion in the US alone. The average student debt after four years is \$37,127, which, in many parts of the country, is higher than the average starting salary.

Loans don't wait for the student either since if a loan ends up being delinquent for too long, loan programs can put the loan into default (Studentaid). Loans in default can make it even harder for students to deal with paying it back among various financial punishments for it going delinquent in the first place (StudentAid). Even with the help of various financial aid programs made to help students afford the expenses of college, it seems that paying off the extensive amount of debt for colleges might not make the provided education worth it.

With the expensive costs for college already making it seem like it may not be the best option, alternative career paths that cost way

less while providing jobs with just as much money can make college seems like even less of a worthy investment. In her article "Has College Become a Riskier Investment?" Renee Haltom asks, “If the cost of college is rising and the payoffs are more uncertain, should fewer people be going?” Studies show that the risk for taking the “college gamble” may not be worth it with increasing cost of college with questionable return for jobs (Haltom).

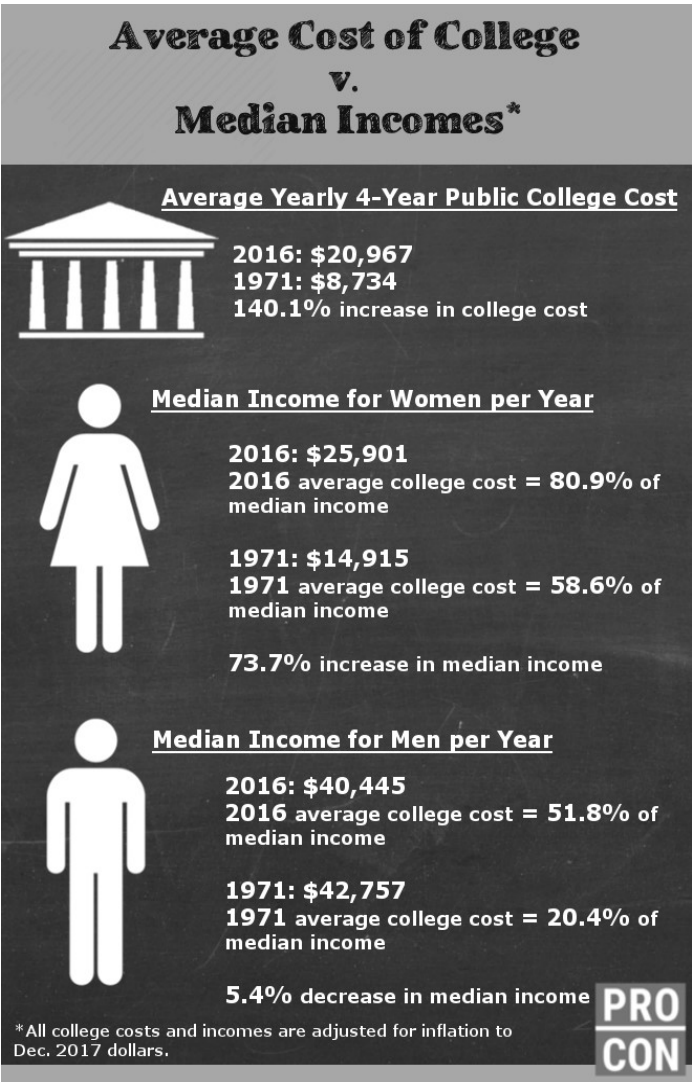
In her article, "College May Not Be Worth It Anymore," published in the New York Times, Ellen Shell questions the return on the investment of college. She indicates that there are plenty of known jobs that require only a two year degree, or only a high school diploma that still pay salaries of over \$70,000 a year. Some only require some additional on-the-job training. Additionally, even the students who end up dropping out of college which happens to make up 40% of all that attend, on average earn slightly more than those who stick with a high school diploma at best without having to pay a portion of a student loan back that the dropouts would.

However, if college was only this bad, people would have no reason to invest in it as a potential career path, but it does hold redeeming qualities. There are a great deal of jobs that could only be learned and practiced through a college education, which would make attending college a requirement for someone who wishes to work a certain career. Careers requiring college degrees tend to pay more on average than those for a high school graduate. A high school graduate earns, on average, almost \$30,000 a year; a bachelor graduate earns an average of \$50,000 a year according to Becton Loveless’ article "Benefits of Earning a College Degree." However, a good amount of this increase in income could be balanced out with the fees and tuition that college courses demand. College careers also tend to have higher demand for fields if they do not pay as much as other higher paying fields which draw in more competition.

Students learning a career field at college are usually better suited, being supplied with an entire course with better educated staff teaching over multiple years’ length. Finally, having a degree provides better job security as employers would likely be willing to replace somebody without a college degree if they needed to do so. Turns out having a college degree does hold its share of benefits for students and brings multiple advantages that support college educations being a decision that's worth it.

All things considered, there are many reasons why taking up a college education might not be worth the cost, making it better to stick to a high school education. However, there are also benefits to a college education that, in comparison, would give better opportunities and options than only having a high school diploma.

If the cost of college is rising and the payoffs are more uncertain, should fewer people be going?







## Congratulations to our Winter Sport Athletes!

Senior Days were celebrated late this winter. Congratulations to all of our senior athletes competing in winter sports.



## Senior McKillop Jumps in New Balance Indoor Nationals



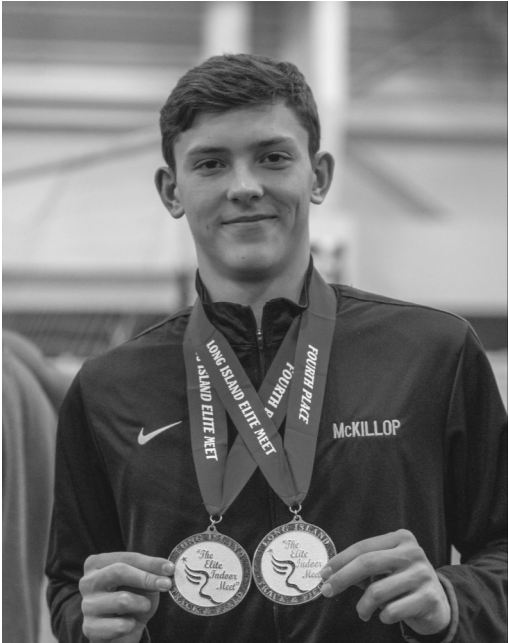
Senior triple-jumper Michael McKillop participating in the New Balance Indoor Nationals on March 8 at the Armory in New York City. McKillop is ranked number seven in the triple jump New York State public schools. The highlight of McKillop’s season so far has been being named to All-County honors for the triple jump. Michael plans to attend college to study water management at either University of Nebraska or Virginia Tech.



Chris Knappe, Brett Doxsee, Tyler Schaefer, Eric Famularo at the recent Suffolk Country Elite Meet



Connor Reilly receiving the handoff from Brendan Dillon



Michael McKillop showing off his hardware at the Suffolk County Elite Meet.

Track photos courtesy of Susan Knappe

**Sayville Ford and the Class of 2019 present**

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**9:00 am—1:00 pm**

**At the High School**

*Class of 2020*

Junior Banquet

April 5, 2019, 7:00 –1:00 pm

Bellport Country Club

*Class of 2019*

Senior Prom, June 26, 2019, 7:00—11:00 pm, Land’s End

Commencement, Saturday, June 29, 10:00 am, Sayville High School

SAVE THE DATE