



Putnam Valley Central School District

**"The Child, First and Foremost...
Building a Foundation for the Future"**

Winter 2017



Arch For Kids - Architecture for Children - PVMS Students Use Pudding Street Overpass as an Experiential Learning Opportunity

Seventh grade students in Mrs. Conlin and Mrs. VanDevelde's math classes have embarked on a five-session residency with ArchForKids (Architecture for Children) to give our students the opportunity to work with engineers in designing a bridge. In this program, students are designing and constructing a scaled 3D model of a bridge. They will first learn about the various types of bridges including uses and geographic significance. They will come to understand the engineering principles and forces behind what makes bridges stand up. Teams of students will use this new knowledge to design a bridge that is appropriate for the Pudding Street/Taconic Parkway intersection. They will create a scaled drawing of their design and then construct a replica bridge. Teams of students will then be prepared to present their designs to the greater school community.



Fostering Respect at PVES~PVMS~PVHS

All three of our schools have programs in place to foster respect and to help our students build social and emotional health and strength. Our youngest students are reminded every day to *Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible*. This is a message we carry forward in many ways and are so proud to see in action every day in the hallways and classrooms of our schools. This month, PVES will continue a school-wide read of *The Energy Bus* and will discuss questions like: "What does diversity mean to me?" and "How can we show respect for the unique qualities of others?"

Flags representing the diversity of PVES.



In our Middle School, we recently celebrated the nationwide initiative of *No Name Calling Week* with "Kindness In Action" and have recently completed a school-wide read of *Bystander*, by James Preller. Teachers facilitated conversations regarding bullying and being a bystander.

Our High School continues sharing the message of Rachel's Challenge: *Look for the best in others. Dream Big. Choose Positive Influences. Speak with Kindness. Start Your Own Chain Reaction.* In addition to classroom conversations, more than 25 after-school clubs offer students a variety of ways to share their passions, celebrate their differences and help others.

[Click here for HS Clubs.](#)

[Click here for MS Clubs.](#)

Athletics

Six Section 1 Wrestlers and our Cheerleading Team Compete in State Championships



Left to right: Michael Bruno, Satoshi Abe, Kyle Sams, Jared Eliopoulos, Robert Velichko, Constantine George

Our Field Hockey team achieved the Scholar-Athlete Team Award with more than 75% of their team achieving a GPA of 90 or above.

Eighty-three fall varsity athletes achieved the Individual Scholar-Athlete Award by achieving a GPA of 90 or above.

PUTNAM VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL **TheatreWorks**
Proudly Presents

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

Buy Tickets
ONLINE at:
www.pvc.org

\$12.00 for Adults
\$6.00 for 18 & under & Senior Citizens

Friday, March 31, 2017 - 7:00 PM
Saturday, April 1, 2017 - 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 2, 2017 - 2:00 PM

146 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579
For Information Call (845) 526-7847 x1369

Digital Citizenship

Social media, and its presence in student lives today, challenges our school community on a regular basis. Social media is a very powerful tool that we continually try to educate our students about. In the Middle School, Digital Citizenship is an 8 week encore class for all students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. As a District, in a myriad of ways, we are working to expand student understanding and provide skills needed to thrive in a world driven by social media and technology. Please watch for more information on Katie Greer, a nationally recognized cyber safety expert, returning to Putnam Valley in October 2017. We must continue to work together to keep up with this ever changing digital world. Please check out these helpful links:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/video/advice/cell-phone-parenting>

Rising Stars:

Tess Rhian Represented PVHS at the NYSSMA Winter Conference

Rochester, NY: Tess qualified and was selected to perform as a first soprano in the All State Mixed Choir, the highest state wide recognition that a high school music student can achieve.



PVHS Team Takes 1st Place in Digital Arts Experience Tech Challenge: Ella Torregrossa, Zach Franze, Jasper Katzban and Haley Kelly.



HS Schedule Changes Under Consideration

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends later start times:

PV considers options for our High School students. Since September's first meeting of the study committee, the District has been wrestling with the possibility of a later start time at the High School to address research-based evidence of biological and emotional effects of too little sleep and early rising with risks of depression, poor impulse control, aggressive behavior, drug and alcohol use and cognitive distress, even "drowsy" driving. Attendance and lateness are chronic issues at the High School, particularly during first period. Challenges to the implementation of a later time include the cost of contracting for four additional buses and concerns of students that their clubs and athletics would be curtailed and their homework would keep them up later. Most school districts in our region are able to provide time for clubs and activities despite their later start time. Please note that Putnam Valley and Carmel have the earliest start times at 7:10 am. We are certainly committed to offering clubs and activity programs as well. With a belief that the well-being of our students has to be the primary factor in the decision to make the change, the Board is considering a "pilot" of the later start to be implemented in the second semester next year, February 2018. With the opportunity to see the benefits of the shorter bus routes and the possibility of 40 more minutes of sleep, the pilot project would be a way to get feedback with real experience of this healthier lifestyle. Conversations will continue on this topic. [Click here for Superintendent's letter.](#)

New High School Schedule to Reduce Stress and Increase Student Engagement

As High School staff explored the possibility of a later start, they also began to think about a more flexible approach to providing the academic program. A new design for the High School schedule is starting to take shape with a mix of conventional forty minute periods and longer blocks of class time on a rotating schedule. Students would not have all of their classes every day. This would lead to more time for project-based work and increased student engagement. This type of schedule exists in many high schools, as educators look to provide flexibility and reduce stress on students that often have assignments for eight or nine classes each night. Our current high school schedule includes five periods of lunch and limits our scheduling options. More and

more schools are moving to one or two common lunch periods with a more individualized and adult approach to serving based on student needs and preferences. Faculty members and students have started to visit other schools to look at different models. Please stay tuned as we continue to discuss these options at upcoming Board of Education meetings. [Click here for Board of Education meeting video](#)

Other New Initiatives at PVHS

At a recent Board meeting, Principal Intrieri gave a thorough presentation on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, a program that elevates and deepens student learning and expectations, available to all, and is well regarded at universities across the country. This course of study is offered in grades 11 and 12 and is grounded in a problem-solving model with in-depth writing and production using a variety of media to express student interests and passions through their learning. Students may take classes individually or the entire diploma sequence. This is a rigorous program but has been successfully offered at top ranked high schools in New York State. Most recently, Harrison High School and Red Hook High School have become IB schools, and Somers has initiated the program as well. Dobbs Ferry has had IB for twenty years and has been awarded national accolades for its inclusive and rich program offerings. PVHS is currently in the application phase, and if accepted as an IB World School, implementation would begin in the fall of 2019 at the earliest. Learn more by viewing Ms. Intrieri's presentation. [Click here for PowerPoint presentation.](#)

[Click here for BOE video of presentation.](#)



Anonymous Alerts now available via our website or District App

The best way to address any concern is to go to a trusted adult. However, we understand that, at times, students or parents may want to communicate anonymously. This alert system should be utilized only for serious concerns. All students, 5th - 12th grade, have been introduced to this reporting system. Please support its proper use with conversations at home. [Click here for link.](#)

Energy Efficiency with No-Cost to Taxpayer

Con Edison Solutions has been selected to implement an energy performance contract for the Putnam Valley School District. During this process, the ConEdison Solutions project development team conducted a thorough energy assessment of the District's schools and facilities. The team visited each building, met with facilities management and staff to discuss areas of concern, and reviewed available plans and drawings to verify existing conditions and develop constructability plans for proposed improvements. After reviewing both its findings and available documentation, ConEdison Solutions determined which combination of proposed improvements would maximize the school district's cost savings.

A project plan has been submitted to New York State Facilities and Planning for approval. This project will generate over \$384,000 in annual savings, which will pay for the project costs over a 15-year finance term. This means NO COST to the District taxpayer. If the proposition for the energy performance contract is passed by the voters, the District will receive an incentive of an additional 10% in building aid estimated at \$600,000 over the course of the contract.

The Energy Performance Contract will allow the District to upgrade the facilities with more energy-efficient equipment. Guaranteed energy savings will cover the financing of new equipment. Some of the highlights include:

1. Solar Photovoltaic rooftop systems on the Middle School, High School and Elementary School bus garage roof
2. New window upgrades in the Elementary School 1962 & 1935 wings
3. New LED lighting throughout the district
4. A Geothermal Heat Pump system at the Elementary School to significantly reduce reliance on oil at that school
5. Upgrade of the Building Management System, heating and cooling controls, at each of the Schools.

After the NYS Education Department approves the project, the District will receive building aid in the amount of 45.7% of the cost over 15 years. If the project is voter approved via the proposition, the District will receive 55.7%, an additional 10%, in aid. For additional information:

[Click here for BOE/ConEd Solutions video presentation.](#)

Putnam Valley High School Music Department
presents

CARMINA BURANA

COMPOSED BY CARL ORFF

FREE CONCERT

PUTNAM VALLEY H.S.
WIND ENSEMBLE, CONCERT CHORUS &
MIXED CHOIR

With Special Guests

Conducted by Ryan Odell and Gerard Micera

MARCH 1, 2017 7PM

PVHS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Snow Date March 2

Carl Orff's 1937 composition *Carmina Burana* remains one of the most popular pieces of the classical music repertoire. It is based on 24 poems from the medieval collection of the same name.

Please join us for an evening of spectacular music as performed by students at Putnam Valley HS.

New Curriculum Component Ties to Energy Performance Contract

Our Board of Education has always been strongly in favor of sustainability models and reduced energy consumption. As part of this project, the Board proposed that the District develop an accompanying curriculum. We are interested in providing K-12 opportunities and access for students to use the sustainability measures as part of problem-based and hands-on learning for students. This process also connects with the Nextgen science standards and, more importantly, allows the students to be more aware of their school environment and the way technology and alternative energy models actually influence their lives. CELF (Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation) will work with our staff to provide background and professional development, including a summer institute at Manhattanville College.

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