

# HONOR ROLL

Roosevelt Intermediate School - 4th Marking Period

## Distinguished Honor Roll Grade 8

Noah Autmezguine, Aidan Beran, Aidan Bertsch, Alexandra Blancato, Ryan Borak, Isabel Boufarah, Bianca Cammarano, Lily Ceraso, Jed Cohen, Andrew Cunningham, Jaclyn Dencker, Adam Dunaief, Emily Duncan, Olivia Ebel, Rileigh Ferguson-Hewson, Nicolas Gambello, Andreas Gesser, Liam Glenn, Katherine Hamilton, Emma Hanley, Sean Hazard, William Heflin, Samantha Hoffman, Jessica Isser, Sophie Kamenetsky, Laurajane Kehler, Emily Klag, Eliza Lox, Caroline Maher, Julia McGann, Kathryn McHugh, Matthew Meixner, Sophia Nazzaro, Heather O'Hern, Jillian Ombreg, Angela Panikiewsky, Samantha Salz, Thomas Savorgiannakis, Caroline Schafer, Chloe Shanebrook-Wein, Justin Shen, John Spellman, Brianna Stewart, Hailey Stogner, Samantha Surks, Cassandra Szaro, Naia Tan, Eva Terry, Victoria Toal, Kayla Turnof, Natalia Vollaro, Lindsay Wang, Benjamin Zakharenko

## Honor Roll Grade 8

Isabella Albano, Maggie Aslanian, Kyle Azzaretto, Ashleigh Bahadur, Nicholas Barbella, Kaitlin Bavaro, Matthew Blake, Emily Braterman, Alexandra Brennan, Ellie Brown, Annabella Buontempo, Margaret Burke, James Bushell, James Calcagno, Alexa Cassiba, Alexander Cha, Laura Channell, Maeve Collins, Sally Crandall, Evan Cronin, Macey Cullen, Benton Cummings, Aidan Dailey, Gianna Davis, Alexander DiMaria, Charlotte Durse, William Fiorentino, William Fischer, William Fischer, Kate Fishman, Nathaniel Fountain-Jardim, Olivia Galdi, Allison Gaminbro, Shannon Garguilo, Giulia Giannetta, Kyleigh Gildea, Sean Glenn, Holden Grantz, Mia Grogan, Isabella Guggino, Yasmeen Habayeb, Parker Hanna, Shane Hanna, Elizabeth Healy, Casey Heintz, Elizabeth Herz, Allie Hinkel, Megan Hinkel, Jacob Holtzman, Jordan Horowitz, Rebecca Horvath, Luke Jacobello, Jackson Jordan, Zaria Katz, Wil Kehler, Noam Kelner, Jack Kiely, Russell Kobrin, Alexa Kopolow, Brendan Kotiga, Dylan Kronick, Meghan Lambert, Madeleine Leaver, Andrew Leone, Maya Levitt, John Luerssen, Paige Macry, Gabrielle Manganello, Daniel Matin, Chester Maz, Finn McGurn, Robert McIntyre, Lila McMahlill, Henry Meacock, Zachary Mendelson, Daniella Miedrzynski, Matthew Miller, Liam Mooney, Matthew Moran, Kevin Moriarty, Juliette Mueller, Jade Nicosia-Garcia, Isabel Nolan, William O'Hagen, Chloe Pappalardo, Sara Perlin, Erin Petrie, Thomas Pinto, Mack Prybyski, Declan Quinn, Jade Radice, Sarah Rappoport, Ryan Richter, Aimee Riley, Sophia Rossetti, Julia Saltzstein, Eleanor Sanderson, Claudia Santangelo, Alexandra Savin, Joshua Saxon, Jack Schlegler, Juliana Schuttevaer, Matthew Shinners, Elizabeth Shober, Maya Simpson, Molly Stogner, Mathew Storms, Braden Stryker, Jack Sumas,

## Univ. of Hartford Tells Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. - The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean's List for Spring 2017.

Megan Rendon of Westfield.  
Matthew Haggard of Mountainside.  
Amanda Debellis of Scotch Plains.

## McDermott Receives Degree From Saint Joseph's Univ.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. - Mary Shea McDermott of Westfield received her Bachelor of Science degree cum laude, with majors in Elementary Education and Special Education, from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia at Commencement ceremonies held May 20.

Mary was recognized as a member of the executive board of the Hand in Hand service organization, and for her service with Habitat for Humanity teams in Alabama, Louisiana,

## Loyola University Maryland Announces Graduates

BALTIMORE, Md. - Loyola University Maryland recognized the following students from the class of 2017 at its Commencement Exercises that were held on May 20 at Royal Farms Arena in downtown Baltimore.

Nicholas Constantine of Westfield received a B.B.A. degree in Business Administration.

Jessica Mattera of Mountainside received a B.A. degree in Speech-Language-Hearing Science.

Catherine Serzan of Westfield received a B.A. degree in Speech-Language-Hearing Science.

Lauren Anzevino of Westfield received a B.A. degree in Communication.

Jessica Ciampa of Westfield received a B.A. degree in English

Jeremy Thompson, Brandon Tso, Brian Urbano, Meredith Valentine, Maya Varkey, Barnabas Veres, Alexia Veiates, Rachel Vinnelrod, Isabella Wolff, Sebastian Wroe, Edward Zucker

## Distinguished Honor Roll Grade 7

Taylor Addis, Jordyn Ament, Jakob Ayala, Kaity Bai, Blake Baretz, Marlena Bartlett, Alexa Bebel, Hayley Bloch, Lauren Bloch, Leo Carle, Phoebe Chadowitz, Emily Cheng, Norah Chinn, Rebecca Coelho, Joseph Compton, Ella Conover, Micaela Cortese, Lilyana Demerdjjeva, Jackson Derman, Christopher Desouza, Alexa Diziki, Caroline Donnelly, Dylan Ferraro, Margaret Ferris, Charles Garretson, Gracie Gigantino, Sydnee Goulet, Ryan Gruters, James Haley, Lindsey Hamlin, Avery Hoeft, Amaechi Ijoma, Jordyn Ives, Siena Jabon, Ella Johnson, Sara Kaplan, Caitlin Kearney, Josiah Kim, Katelyn Kim, Grace Klag, Teagan Kocaj, Catherine Korins, Chloe Kreusser, Lucy Langhart, John Lanza, Logan Lenner, Yuxin Lin, Alice Lisak, Chelsea Little, Madison Little, Avery Longstreet, Matthew Lynch, Natalie Manzo, Sarah Martin, Ethan Messerman, Arden Meyer, Bridget Mooney, Meghan O'Connor, Richard Panikiewsky, Kyra Paternoster, William Powell, Jacob Root, Joshua Sacher, Megan Sandstedt, Jonathan Schaeffer, Kevin Shao, Meredith Shephard, Thomas Smith, Aidan Supranowitz, Jack Taylor, John Tedesco, Olivia Terry, Ryan Van Allen, Riya Varkey, Remy Waldman, Jacob Watson

## Honor Roll Grade 7

Steven Angeli, Murad Assadi, Jason Aurigemma, Roan Baker, Adrien Bekker, Mateo Beltran, Julia Beran, Brooke Bradford, Aidan Brennan, Patrick Byron, Owen Carolan, Margaret Cassidy, Emma Channell, Clara Christian, William Cladis, Michael Constantinou, Ava Coustan, Alec Crispino, Adelaide Cummings, Anna D'Angelo, Nicholas Dec, Shane Edmondson, Katherine Evans, Maxwell Feldman, Alfonso Ferrara, John Fischer, Jordan Foley, Samantha Forno, Duncan Foster, Elise Fox, Ryan Friedberg, Matthew Fuccillo, Lance Fule, Kevin Gao, Zachary Gigantino, Jonathan Giglio, Russell Gurland, Evan Hammer, Sabrina Harrison, Katherine Hoerle, Victor Houbanov, Christopher Iacoponi, Kate Johnson, Mia Johnson, Cailyn Jordan, Kelsey Katt, Aidan Kearney, Pierce Kelly, Sarah Kennedy, Katherine Kim, Kieran Koenke, Christina LaPera, Lance Loeenberg, David Link, Mikalya Melvin, Reilly Melvin, JP Meyo, Daniel Michel, Dylan Murphy, Lydia Murray, Anand Nair, Angela Nazzaro, Audrey Nelson, Ella O'Brien, Ava Ostroff, Alexandria Pace, Margaret Paladino, Carsyn Parmelee, Jack Percival, Courtney Pinkin, Jonah Plawker, Priya Quinn, Erin Rafferty, Colin Redmond, Aiden Reed, Gracyn Reed, Ella Renshaw, Emma Riley, Gavin Roth, Aidan Royce, Ryan Rubel, Samantha Russo, Andrew Salvato, Chloe Sarrazin-Boespflug, Sydney Scholder, Lucas Schreiner, David Schuster, Walter Schwartz, Aidan Sheppard, Samuel Sherman, Zoe Sherman, Alyrie Silverman, Samantha Smith, Samantha Smok, Charlie Stock, Kelly Sullivan, Alexander Taaffe, Isabel Thompson, Alessandra Verga, Jack Walter, Ciara Weber, Kelly Wright, Jason Yang, Peter Youssef

Oklahoma and New Mexico. She has received a fellowship from the Alliance for Catholic Education, through which she will serve as a full-time teacher in an inner city school in Philadelphia for two years and has received a full scholarship to complete her Master's degree in Education. Earlier she was awarded a scholarship grant by the Rotary Club of Westfield.

Mary is a graduate of Holy Trinity Interparochial School and Mother Seton Regional High School.

Literature.

Jake Heroux of Westfield received a B.B.A. degree in Business Administration.

Tyler Schiavo of Westfield received a B.S. degree in Mathematics.

Megan McCusker of Westfield received a B.A. degree in History.

Cassandra Clark of Westfield received a B.A. degree in Art History.

Kathleen Colonna of Fanwood received a B.A. degree in Psychology.

Allison Geissler of Scotch Plains received a B.B.A. degree in Business Administration.

Elise Ringel of Scotch Plains received a B.A. degree in Speech-Language-Hearing Science.



SENIOR AWARDS...Members of the Class of 2017 at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison joined their parents, family, faculty and staff members and administrators at the annual Senior Farewell Dinner on June 12. Students who excelled in their internship and thesis projects were recognized. Senior Awards of Distinction were presented to Carlin Schildge of Westfield (W-H Pin), Samantha Anastasiou of Scotch Plains (Parents' Association Award) and Brennan Wright of Westfield (Upper School Head's Award). Pictured above, Ms. Schildge receives the W-H Pin from Assistant Head of School Bob Bowman.

## Auditions for A Christmas Carol Planned at CDC

CRANFORD - CDC Theatre in Cranford will be having auditions for its December production of a musical version of *A Christmas Carol*. This high energy version of *A Christmas Carol*, first performed at Madison Square Garden, is full of heart and optimism. The score composed by Alan Menken (*The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*) with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens (*Ragtime*, *Once on this Island*, *Seussical*).

Auditions will be held at the CDC Theater, 78 Winans Avenue, Cranford

N.J., on Tuesday, September 19 at 7 p.m., Saturday, September 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Performance dates are December 8, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16. Actors are asked to please prepare 32 bars of a musical theatre song in the style of the show, provide clearly printed and legible sheet music in a binder, (an accompanist will be provided). Actors should be prepared to dance at all auditions. Female dancers are asked to bring tap shoes as well as regular dance footwear.

For additional details, visit [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org).

## Plainfield Symphony Orch. Announces 98th Season

PLAINFIELD - World-renowned guest performers; a reprise of an original work commissioned by the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra (PSO) to commemorate its 50th anniversary; rarely performed works by Shostakovich and Mahler; and a collaboration with the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey will be among the highlights of PSO's 2017-18 season.

Robert Taub, the internationally acclaimed pianist, will open the season on Saturday, October 7 with Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15. The companion work on the program will be Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 2, Op. 61.

A Saturday, November 18 concert will feature Gary Karr, classical double bass player who is considered one of the best bassists of the 20th and 21st centuries. Karr will return to Plainfield to reprise Nueve Concerto for Solo Bass and Chamber Orchestra, a work commissioned by the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra for their 50th anniversary in 1969 and composed especially for him by the legendary composer/conductor José Serebrier.

On January 27, 2018, the Gold Prize winner of the 2017 Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey will be featured in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23 in PSO's annual free Afternoon Family Concert. The program will also feature a John Philip Sousa march led by a surprise celebrity guest conductor.

The March 10, 2018 concert will feature two rarely performed works by Shostakovich: Symphony No. 9 in E-flat major, Op. 70 and his Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 77 with soloist Evelyn Estava, PSO concertmaster.

The 98th Season will conclude on April 28, 2018 with Mahler's Resurrection Symphony (Symphony No. 2). This work will include an expanded Crescent Choral Society choir of 80 voices and two soloists.

Music Director Charles Prince will conduct each of this season's concerts. He has led a wide range of international orchestras from the Moscow Symphony to the WDR Orchestra in Cologne and Essen, Germany, as well as the Munich Philharmonic and orchestras in Switzerland, Austria, Finland and Bulgaria. He began his tenure with PSO in 2009 and has guest conducted orchestras from Portland, Oregon to Fort Worth, Texas in North America. He served as Associate Conductor for the New York Pops from 1996 to 2003.

In addition to the musical highlights, the 2017-2018 season will include social highlights: "Plainfield Symphony Soirée," Saturday, September 9, 2017, PSO's annual blacktie gala held on the

**Daniel Edward Weber  
Named to Clarkson  
University Dean's List**

POTSDAM, N.Y. - Daniel Edward Weber of Cranford, a senior majoring in civil engineering, was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2017 semester at Clarkson University.

Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

## POPCORN

### A Ghost Story Lacks Spirit 2 & 1/2 popcorns

One Popcorn, Poor — Two Popcorns, Fair — Three Popcorns, Good — Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER  
film critic

Faced with reviewing writer-director David Lowery's supernaturally obscure *A Ghost Story*, my first inclination is to ask myself, 'Why didn't I just see some nice, old-fashioned cowboy movie?' Y'know...something about the waning days of the Wild West, where there's nothing more symbolic to scrutinize than the ubiquitous tumbling tumbleweed. How nice, how tranquil, how straightforward. But *nooo*, I have to complicate my life by trying to describe in normal human words a film preoccupied with no less than eternity and the meaning of life.

Were I back at Olde Ivy Film Criticism College, still bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and *A Ghost Story* was the week's feature downtown at The Pretension, I'd probably look forward to the après theater challenge that surely awaited at The Hungry Brain Coffeehouse. Such opportunities for pomposity with pals were as much social as intellectual. But alas, several decades of witnessing each era's film directors' attempts to answer the universal question has made me slightly cynical. I mean hey, even Ingmar Bergman didn't uncover the secret of life.

Thus I must say, in hopefully my least obnoxious tone, that I commend auteur Lowery on the conviction required to take his generation's turn at trying to grab philosophy's brass ring. But I fear his attempt adds nothing more to the timeless dilemma that has flummoxed the greatest thinkers from Socrates to Louis C.K. As such, *A Ghost Story* is much more dissectible than it is entertaining. But while I was mostly bored during its screening, forced to contemplate loose ends that ultimately were never tied to my satisfaction, I haven't really stopped thinking about it.

Did I miss something, or is *A Ghost Story* just the paranormal version of the *The Emperor's New Clothes*? It is my hope that by writing this review the evil spell of critical discomfort will be lifted, and I will be haunted no more. I wouldn't want this impasse in analytical acumen to become my Miss Havisham's cake.

That said, the surface plot is quite simple. A loving couple played by Rooney Mara and Casey Affleck living in a suburban ranch house hear bumps in the night. They also see unexplained flickers of light. There are long, long pauses, assumedly to underline emotion, like how much these two mortals are devoted to each other, as well as to represent the time continuum the saga enters into once the title character materializes, white sheet and cut out holes for eyes. This becomes the signal for symbolism to run rampant, some of which is ex-

plained later, some not.

It's all put in motion after a devastation befalls our lovebirds. But without the benefit of either Dr. Albert Einstein or Rod Serling's opinion of how the timelessness of being might be depicted, we are put in a quandary. If we believe in ghosts, we could provisionally accept Lowery's gauzy take on the idea. However, skeptics unconvinced by his perpetration are apt to throw up their hands in frustration, chalk up the wasted ticket price, and see the wisdom of a soul-satisfying trip to the concession stand for something they can believe in, like a box of Goobers.

Still, with all those ideas about life, death, love, devotion, infinity and everything else that might keep you up at night now swirling around in your brain, the pump is primed. You want answers to stuff, like do you get to see all your old dogs when you go to Heaven? You were perfectly happy before entering the theater, content with simple thoughts like how you might build that little enclosure for your garden hose and perhaps go the extra bucks for the tire shine at the car wash this weekend. But now this can of worms has been opened and your mortality is at the fore.

While you initially welcome the good mental exercise that comes of contemplating things occult and virtually incomprehensible, ultimately the task must end or you wind up being that guy who sits at the last stool at the diner counter and just babbles on about some movie he once saw. Which is precisely why there is an inherent problem with any film that dares tackle the imponderable. If unsuccessful in changing everything that we've come to know and understand since time immemorial, it's a failure. But aha, there is a way the artist can dodge this Catch 22.

It's called creativity. Make something up that truly captures the imagination. While the filmmaker's construct of perpetuity, fate and destiny is not without its esoteric aura, its serious, almost mechanistic conception never really gains our suspension of disbelief. Hence, because *A Ghost Story* fails to supply the quotient of fantasy one should expect in any afterlife that's worth living, my suggestion is that, until someone comes up with a better filmic representation, Heaven will just have to wait.

\*\*\*

*A Ghost Story*, rated R, is an A24 release directed by David Lowery and stars Rooney Mara, Casey Affleck and Will Oldham. Running time: 92 minutes.

See it all on the Web!  
[www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com)

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