



IT'S PLAYTIME...Beechwood students assist Nancy Lubarsky, Ed.D., Chief School Administrator at Mountainside Public Schools, in cutting the ribbon for the two new Beechwood playgrounds. Pictured, rear, from left, are: Mountainside Board Member Carmine Venes, Board of Education (BOE) President James Ruban, Jr., Mountainside Officer in Charge, Lieutenant Joseph Giannuzzi, Sergeant Michael Jackson, Detective Corporal Shaun Bendik; front, from left: Freeholder Sergio Granados, Mountainside BOE member Dana Guidicciopetro, Freeholder Chair Bette Jane Kowalski, Ms. Lubarsky, Freeholder Kimberly Palmieri-Moude, Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli.

## Beechwood School Installs New Playgrounds through Grant Monies

MOUNTAINSIDE—May 20, was the official ribbon cutting for not one, but two playgrounds for Mountainside's Beechwood School thanks to two grants from the Board of Union County Chosen Freeholders, and funds from other community/school organizations.

The first grant, the Kids Recreation Trust, was for \$30,000 with matching monies provided by the PTO, the

Mountainside Education Foundation, the Watts Foundation and the Mountainside Board of Education.

The second grant, Level the Playing Field, provided \$25,000 of additional funding specifically geared toward equipment for special needs children.

These grants enabled the district to provide two playgrounds, one for grades K-2 students, and one specifically designed for preschool students.

## WEA Awards Scholarships To The Class of 2019

WESTFIELD — This year's Westfield Education Association (WEA) scholarship will be awarded to Ava Maurillo. In the fall, Ava will be attending Boston University. This scholarship is based on academic achievement, school activities, and community service.

The Barry Judd Memorial Scholarship is given in the memory of Barry Judd, who was a well-respected World Language Teacher at Westfield High School from 1974-1992. Mr. Judd's teaching career embodied a love for learning and a devotion to helping others. The award is granted to a WEA member's son or daughter who

will be attending college in the fall. This year's recipients for the Class of 2019 are Chris Tarashuk and Charlotte Moore. Chris is a senior at Summit High School and will be attending Seton Hall University. Chris's mother, Mary Tarashuk, is a teacher at Wilson Elementary School. Charlotte is a senior at Westfield High School, who will be attending Roanoke College. Charlotte's mother, Susan Moore, is a teacher at Edison Middle School.

The awards were presented to the students on May 22 at Westfield High School. Funds for these scholarships are raised through the generous donations of the WEA.

## Westfield Grad Earns BC Degree, to Start Career at Morgan Stanley

WESTFIELD — Greg Gao, a graduate of Westfield High School (WHS) Class of 2015, recently earned Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Finance from Carroll School of Management at Boston College (BC). BC's 143rd commencement was held on May 20.

A Dean's List student, Greg Gao was also president of BC A Capella group. The Heightsmen. Greg was a Marketing Intern at MassECON for the Summer of 2017 and studied at Dante Alighieri Institute in Italy for the Spring semes-

ter of 2018.

A graduate of McKinley Elementary School and Edison Intermediate School, Greg was a member of Westfield School District's Gifted and Talented program. Greg was an elected officer of National Honor Society WHS chapter. Greg worked as a Camp Site Supervisor at Town of Westfield Recreation Department.

Greg will start his professional career in July as an Institutional Securities Audit Analyst for Morgan Stanley in their headquarters at Manhattan.



Greg Gao

## Perrone of Cranford Graduates From Mount Saint Mary College

CRANFORD—Anthony Perrone of Cranford graduated with a Bachelor of Arts at Mount Saint Mary College in May.

Mount Saint Mary College graduated 600 students during its annual Commencement ceremony this May. Of the 600 graduates, the college awarded 120 master's degrees and 480 bachelor's degrees. Nearly 200 students earned degrees in Nursing and related fields, and another 138 earned degrees in Business.

The graduating students hailed from 11 states: California, Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Maine, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as one graduate from Trujillo Alto in Puerto Rico.

The Class of 2019 was the first to graduate under Jason N. Adsit, Ed.D., president of the college, who began his tenure at the Mount in June 2018. It was also the first class to rally together under Mr. Adsit's vision of

the college's future: a comprehensive, institution-wide commitment to service-learning and community engagement.

# HONOR ROLL

Edison Intermediate School - 3rd Marking Period

### Honor Roll Grade 7

Benjamin Ackerman, Oliver Agar, Ava Andreottola, Gavin Andretta, Obinna Anyaale, Ava Aronowitz, Tyler Ballingall, Aylinn Beinhaker, Olivia Berger, Christopher Beriont, Ava Biedermann, Jacob Blaustein, Gabrielle Brennan, Danielle Brown, Rachel Bryson, Julia Carbone, Tomas Cestero, Nina Chermak, Emma Clark, Samuel Clark, Allison Collins, Ricardo Colon, Aidan Crane, Jeremy Cruz, Steven Csorba, Gabrielle Del Monico, Isabella Donofrio, Jackson Dowden, Natalie Dragan, Justine Dudkiewicz, Evan Dunham, James Dunn, Max Eisenman, Rebecca Eisman, Casey Engel, Kate Finn, Aris Frantzeskakis, Giuliana Gallo, Akshit Garg, Genevieve Gauthier, Nikita Goldfeld, Sigal Goldstein, Christopher Gonzalez, Madison Gordon, John Hickey, Matthew Jean, Charles Jeckell, William Jepsen, Lena Jimenez, Brienna Karaban, Amelia Katz, Evan Katz, Alexander Kiefer, Grace Kim, Jessica Klingelhofer, Michael Kobori, Ryan Koellhoffer, Cassidy Koetje, Zachary Korr, Cody Lam, Lindsey Leavitt, Yumin Lin, Jacqueline Link, Michael Logozzo, Samuel Lopez Gutierrez, Sebastian Lorenzo, Zachary Marceau, Elle McSweeney, Zachary Meisinger, Danielle Might, Julia Miranda, Pedro Miranda, Dennis Moore, David Moreland, Caroline Morrelli, Bryan Ng, Ava O'Connor, John Paris, Athena Perialis, Noah Petrassi, Elena Pinho, Sofia Pinto, Zachary Preucil, Erica Prip, Heather Prip, Anne Reilly, Nalysa Reyes, Nicolas Rodrigues, Ximena Rodriguez, Maxwell Rotter, Mario Russo, Christian Sanford, Alexis Scherzer, Keira Schroppe, Max Schutzer, Evan Sewald, Logan Shepherd, Jack Singer, Owen Singman, Evan Swiat, Ryuichi Tanemori, Aaron Taylor, Sofia Tsarsi, Adam Tukaczynski, Jackson Varhley, Maxwell Victorino, Rebecca Vitorino, Andrew Vo, Madeleine Von Boch, Naomi Waller, Miriam Walsh, Evan Ward, Christopher Wellnitz, Rebecca Willson, Zechari Wilson, Ian Yu

### Distinguished Honor Roll

#### Grade 7

Sarah Attia, Olivia Bach, Maya Balakumaran, Nicholas Bartlett, Aaron Behrens, Eve Behrens, Karolina Bonn, Lauren Bromberg, Caitlin Cabrales, Ella Cadigan, Patrick Cadigan, Sophia Chen, Maxwell Cho, Cara Cogan, Leilani Cruz, Kaitlynn Czarnaeki, Nolan Daly, Pietro Del Re, Ethan Delforte, Aiel Delos Reyes, Erin Doherty, Owen Dunham, Stephen Edwards, Carys Evans, Josue Fajardo, Adrian Fleming, Colin Foley, Zoe Frantzeskakis, Victoria Gee, Shannon Gibbs, Sofia Gil, Collin Greco, Lucas Gunzberg, Alexandra Haar, Caroline Heinze, Morgan Hoch, Hannah Hollosi, Alexander Hu, Charlie Hu, Yenjay Hu, Gregory Hurford, Anusha Iyer, Jonathan Jiao, James Johnson-Milstein, Samantha Kaplun, Avery Keith, Kathryn Kengeri, Katherine Kermanshahi, Rachel Klemm, Caroline Kobin, Nicholas Labin, Paige Landry, Andie Lehman, Sarah Lincoln, Gabriele Lisci, Grace Lisnock, Clare Logan, Dillon Ma, Monica Manescu, Zachary Marcus, Tague Mehta, Robert Meisinger, Edward Mendel, Julia Murphy, Jaden Natt, Benedict Nematazdzira, Illyria Norwood, Jillian O'Brien, Sean O'Brien, Marisa O'Connell, Clarabelle Owens, Devan Patel, Deven Patel, Chloe Pinkowski, Gianna Puglisi, Makenna Reed, Nathan Reynnders, Aidan Richards, Ethan Roitman, Darcy Scheiner, Isabella Scipioni, Avital Sclar, Isabelle Shih, Michael Singh, Emily Spirn, Philip Spirn, Grace Virmani, Riley Walker, Alishba Waqar, Cate Weinstein, Emory Wilner, Rebecca Xiong, Chen Yang, Ethan Young, Derrick Zhao

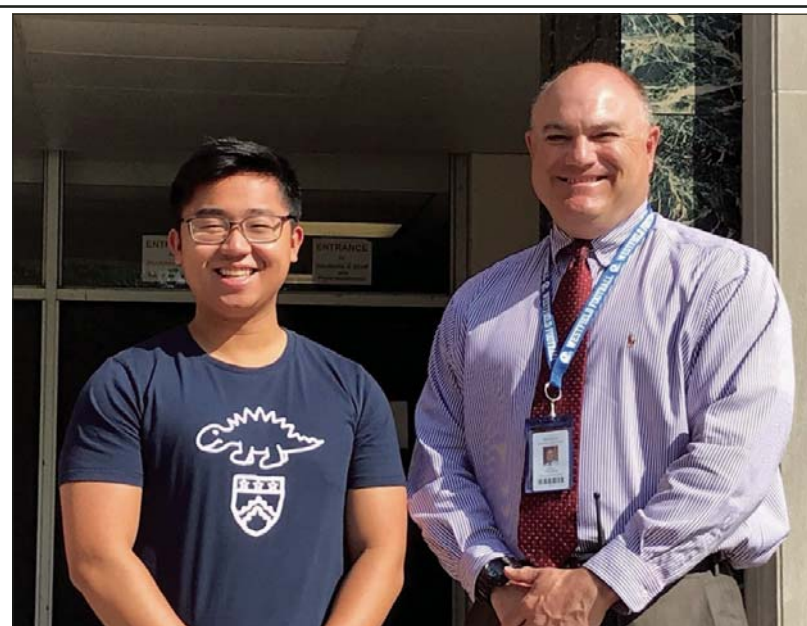
### Honor Roll Grade 8

Vanessa Abdala, Eissa Amin, Sophia Andersen, Aidan Arabatzis, Quetzal Araya, Maya Azeem, Nathan Bass, Vincent Binetti, Anna Bongiovanni, Michael Bongiovanni, Kyle Bradley, Carter Brillantes, Eric Buecklers, Lucas Buonopane, Paul Cerro, Aprameyo Chakravarty, Kevin Chen, Matthew Christian, Ethan Composto, Chiara Cosenza, Valentina Cosenza, Hale Cozewith, Imperio Cuccaro, Jessica Currie, Jessica D'Agosta, Kieran Datwani, Gabriel Dayon, Richard DeRick, Lindsay Doyle, Jeremy Dudzinski, Logan Elfstrom, Matthew Epp, Tate Esler, Joseph Gamba, Valeria Garcia-Lopez, Mason Gibbs, Caitlin Givand, Senu Glasco, Daisy Gonzalez, Benjamin Greeley, Adrian Gripp, Kevin Halleran, Thomas Halloran, Aidan Harper, Kyle He, Nicholas Healey, Gabriella Henriques, Donovan Hickey, Tyler Hourie, Alexander Hutchinson, Chelsea Hynes, William Kahney, Theo Karter, Grace Kelly, Joshua Kelly, Sarah Klemm, Andrew Kornfeld, Hannah Krihak, Samuel Laitman, Derek Lam, Lauren Lane, Mikkel Larsen, Ian Le Warn, Abbey Levine, Jack Linsen, Brigham Luna Santamaria, Christian Marquet, Thomas Matt, Joseph McGovern, Joshua Metz, Albert Michael, Phineas Mindak, Sophia Narciso, Katherine O'Connor, Teela O'Marra-Chen, Imanuel Pantow, Gabriel Pastore, Camila Perafan, Ariana Pinto, Sofia Pinto, Andrew Pops, Emily Rego, Brandon Ribeiro, Aaron Richman, Carly Rodrigues, Olivia Rosario, Olivia Ruiz, Damian Rusek, Lucie Saint-Denis, Skyler Schaible, Flannery Schifando, Samuel Schupak, Johanna Sexton, Evan Sinocchi, Jessica Strauss, Matthew Sturchio, Carolyn Tananbaum, Joelle Tannenbaum, Perry Tarleton, Grace Thorburn, Grace Waibel, Kendall Wernes, Jessica White, Georgia Whitman, Mackenzie Wilson, Madeleine Young, Ethan Yucetepe

### Distinguished Honor Roll

#### Grade 8

Zachary Albert Halevy, Evan Alexander, Catherine Angel, Michelle Audino, Eric Bautista, Abigail Bebel, Leah Becker, Sophia Braun, Isabella Broaduss, Mattia Butera, Klara Butler, Juliana Cardoso, Max Chang, Matthew Chen, Catherine Collins, Julia Consales, Owen Craig, William Crall, Edward Davenport, Rohan Davies, Elaine Deignan, Anushka Desai, Allison DiFalco, Jessica Dianda, Maya Dias, Natalie DuHaime, Alexa Dudkiewicz, Sayee Edekar, Hannah Everrett, Olivia Falletta, Kaelin Ferguson, Jackson Gagliardi, Ryan Gasson, Michael Gauthier, Gabriela Gil, Sophia Guerrero, Anahi Guerrero-Herrera, Jane Guglielmo, Sean Henderson, Isabella Hill, Luke Hobbie, Morgan Howland, Logan Hunt, Jillian Isaacman, Gabriel Jackson, Sharanya Jairam, Olivia Janaczek, Nikhil Jyotishi, Ariana Keith, Emma Kelesoglu, Timothy Kobin, Sofia Korotka, Ava Koslowsky, Patrick Lanza, Juan-Diego Lara, Madeline Lechner, Jessica Lee, Yusuf Lee, Michael Liebermann, Christopher Lin, Leo Mangiamele, Andrew Matus, Sofia Mauryshchay, Iskandar Mirtagavi, Aashi Mishra, Luke Mokrzycki, Bridgett Morrison, Alessandra Muller, Alessandra Pacifico, Peter Palles, Isabella Panora, Brennan Restivo, Josefina Rios, Juliana Ripper, Amanda Rosenthal, Jack Rothfleisch, Alyssa Rubenstein, Chloe Samet, Jolie Schreiber, Seth Seiden, James Silecchia, Alan Silva, Devon Snyder, Hannah Stavim, Julia Sugrue, Kevin Sun, Vicky Tang, Nancie Tieri, Luke Vaccaro, Annika Vesuna, Sophie Waibel, Ryan Waldman, Youhao Wang, Jenna Weinberg, Emily Weinstein, Nathan Welsh, Brooke Williams, Rachel Witzel, Madison Wright, Sophia Xing, Clara Yu, Felix Yu, Taylor Zinnie



MERIT SCHOLAR...Westfield High School interim principal James DeSarno congratulates senior Austin Chen, a 2019 National Merit Scholarship winner. Austin was among 2,500 students selected from approximately 15,000 finalists across the United States to receive a national achievement scholarship of \$2,500.

## The Student View

A Column Written by Local High School Students

By Mateo Gonzalez

The rate of vape use continues to soar across the country. Young adults and teens everywhere have started using vape products, primarily the Juul. In recent years, this young company, now dangling in the hands of big tobacco companies, have skyrocketed their sales. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported, between 2016 and 2017, Juul's sales increased 641 percent with revenue reportedly reaching over \$16 billion by the end of 2017. According to the Food and Drug Administration, approximately 3-million high schoolers vape, accounting for nearly 20.8 percent of all high-school students. This was a 78-percent increase in usage from 2017. Despite the legal age for individuals to purchase tobacco products set at 21, many teens are easily able to get their hands on vape products.

The negligence and greed of small businesses is one of the key contributions to the prevalent vape addiction amongst teens. In a survey done by Truth Initiative, 74 percent of teens nationwide reported buying their vape product at a gas station or convenience store. Juul has taken little action in preventing this problem. Some question whether banning the sale of

Juul would restrict adults from acquiring the product, but this should not be a legitimate concern. In the same study done with adults, there was a much more even spread in where these products were purchased, 36 percent purchased at vape shops, 31 percent at brick-and-mortar stores and 31 percent online.

A tool used for adults to quit smoking should not be falling into the hands of teenagers. It is unfortunate to those businesses who do sell the products responsibly, but the problem of illegal teenage use has grown too big. As a high-school student, I have seen the effects of this problem first hand. The number of students using vape devices grows each day. Vaping causes many problems in one's life, not just physically, but also financially. In addition to inhaling chemicals, teens pay steep mark-up prices to fuel their addiction. A pack of Juul pods runs roughly \$20 to \$30 at most convenience stores. The preservation of a healthy lifestyle for teenagers must be a higher priority. It is hard to blame the teens that have fallen into the trap of vaping. The increased acceptance of vaping has turned it into a social norm. Vaping is not a phase; it is a problem that must be addressed with action.



WORLD FINALISTS...Westfield students participate in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University. Students pictured, left to right, are: Max Rotter, Lucas Gunzberg, Owen Ng, Benjamin Ackerman, Avery Keith, Ted Carl and Nate Reynnders. Also pictured: far left, Asst Coach Ken Rotter, back right, Head Coach Aaron Keith.

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## It's Almost Graduation time!

### ATTENTION PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS:

Congratulate your child or grandchild and send them well wishes for the future in

The Westfield Leader

The Scotch Plains - Fanwood TIMES

Contact Jeff Gruman, Sales Manager  
Phone: 908-232-4407  
email: [sales@goleader.com](mailto:sales@goleader.com)