



Putnam Valley Central School District

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

*District and
business offices
have relocated to 171
Oscawana Lake Road
behind the
Elementary
School*

A Publication of the Putnam Valley Central School District

Spring 2019

Budget Highlight Issue Spring 2019

- ✓ Budget to budget increase is .75%.
- ✓ Proposed tax levy is less than the allowable limit.
- ✓ Taxes have remained below the allowable tax cap since 2012.
- ✓ Over the past five years the tax levy change average is under one percent at .67%.
- ✓ Student outcomes continue to show positive achievement.
- ✓ Preserves and protects student programs.
- ✓ Increased learning opportunities have enhanced the curriculum for students K-12.
- ✓ A tax cap compliant budget has provided homeowners with an annual tax credit as well as ensuring eligibility in the STAR program.

Subscribe to our Newsletter!

Send your email address to:
Newsletter@pvcsd.org
Or call (845) 528-8143 x1320

Download our Mobile App-

Putnam Valley CSD K-12
Blackboard

Putnam Valley CSD
By Blackboard Inc.



Free

Changes to STAR program.

\$\$\$ You may receive a greater benefit if you \$\$\$
switch to the STAR credit to receive a
check instead of the exemption.
Go to: tax.ny.gov
for all changes to the STAR program.

Please Remember to Vote!

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 6 AM to 9 PM
Putnam Valley Elementary School, 171 Oscawana Lake Road
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and the PVCSD app



To view our complete PVCSD
school newsletter please visit our
website, PVCSD.org

Board of Education

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Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Frances Wills



Dear Putnam Valley Community:

The 2019-20 Putnam Valley School District budget proposal demonstrates our continued strength and commitment to offering a supportive learning community that fosters the future success of our students. For many years, we have strived to provide prudent budgets that reduced the overall financial burden of residents by remaining below the allowable tax cap since its inception in 2012. In fact, during the same time period, the District has lowered the amount of total allowable taxes (tax levy) by more than \$4 million.

For this year, our allowable tax cap is 2.08%. Continuing to be sensitive to the fiscal concerns of our residents, we are proposing a tax levy change of 1.99%. Staying below the tax cap for the eighth consecutive year will ensure that eligible residents (based on income) receive the property tax relief credit offered by New York State. The budget impact on the average assessed Putnam Valley home would be less than \$200 per year.

Notable changes include: a reduction in salary costs due to the retirements of three teachers and 13 support staff; employee mandated benefits showing a net reduction due to a decrease in state pension rates partially offsetting an increase in health premiums; utilization of \$2.5M from the fund balance and reserves reducing the need to seek additional school taxes from district residents. A modest 2% increase in state aid totaling \$220k is expected.

Academic highlights include: the authorization of our High School to provide the highly regarded IB Diploma program beginning in 2019; continuation of the later high school start initiative and the popular community lunch period; adding a third year of Mandarin Chinese available to ninth graders, and continuation of our sustainability initiative. The Yale RULER program furthers the District's efforts for social-emotional learning as part of a national and regional effort to combat serious mental health issues that affect young people.

We must continue to manage our costs, protect our reserves, maintain our strong bond rating and invest prudently in program development while continuing to support educational and future advancement for all students.

Putnam Valley Board of Education



Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Frances Wills, Superintendent of Schools

We thank Dr. Wills for the enormous impact she has had on our school district, bringing all of our schools to new levels of inquiry, awareness, achievement, and passion. Dr. Wills' mark on this fine school district will be with us forever. We thank her for her dedication and tireless leadership and send best wishes for a long and healthy retirement. The District welcomes Dr. Jeremy Luft to the position of Superintendent, effective July 1, 2019.

PVHS now an IB School



The 2019-2020 BUDGET PROPOSAL IN THREE-PART FORMAT

All public schools in New York State are required to report appropriations in three official categories: Instruction, Capital, and Administrative. The following data shows how the Putnam Valley School budget breaks down:

Proposed 2019 - 2020 Budget

EXPENDITURES	Actual Budget 2018-19	Proposed Budget 2019-20	Budget Changes
THE INSTRUCTIONAL BUDGET INCLUDES:			
The salaries and benefits of all teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and speech therapists. Also included are textbooks and equipment, library costs, transportation, co-curricular programs and interscholastic athletics.			
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS 77%			
Curriculum & Instruction	27,380,708	27,425,949	45,241
Pupil Transportation	2,784,631	2,882,402	97,771
Employee Benefits	9,683,743	9,597,991	-85,752
Interfund Transfers	93,000	83,000	-10,000
TOTAL	39,942,082	39,989,342	47,260
THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET INCLUDES:			
The salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing, curriculum and staff development, school board-related costs, tax collection, and legal services.			
ADMINISTRATION 11%			
Business & Finance	1,594,350	1,577,080	-17,270
Administration	433,605	442,869	9,264
Supervision	2,025,091	1,918,956	-106,135
Benefits & Community	1,470,495	1,457,473	-13,022
TOTAL	5,523,541	5,396,378	-127,163
THE CAPITAL BUDGET INCLUDES:			
Operations and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits for custodial staff, debt service from capital projects, utilities, cleaning supplies, tax certiorari, and court-ordered costs.			
CAPITAL 12%			
Operations	1,867,224	1,870,383	3,159
Maintenance	623,882	671,083	47,201
Employee Benefits	800,999	793,909	-7,090
Debt Service	2,537,191	2,958,915	421,724
TOTAL	5,829,296	6,294,290	464,994
TOTAL: GENERAL FUND	51,294,919	51,680,010	385,091

Where the Money Comes From *

Revenues \$51,680,010

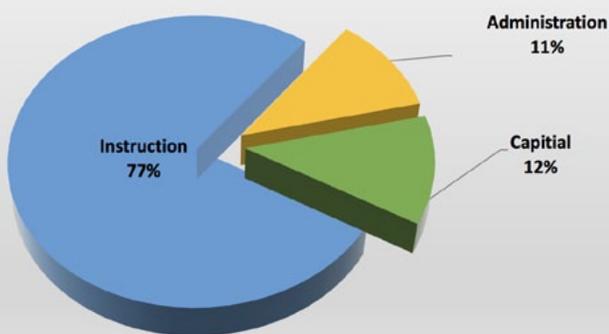
Real Property Tax Levy	\$37,480,010
72.5% of revenue in the budget is derived from property taxes. Individual assessed values determine each taxpayer's share.	
State and Federal Sources	\$11,000,000
21.3% of revenue is from anticipated State Aid.	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,500,000
4.8% of revenue includes utilization of District reserves to meet revenue needs and avoid raising taxes.	
Local Non-Tax Sources	\$700,000
1.4% of revenue comes from sources such as charges for services from outside groups, out-of-district tuition, sales tax, and interest on investments.	

Where the Money Goes

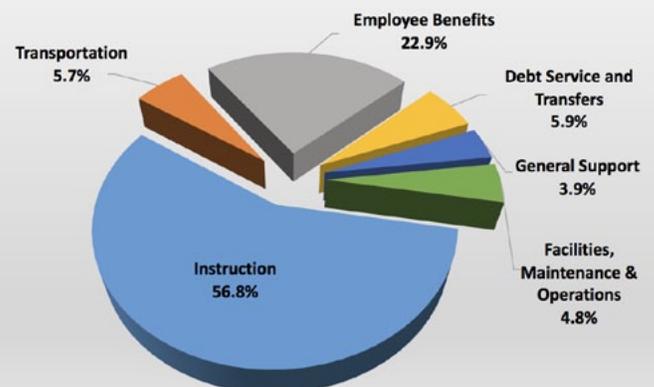
Expenditures \$51,680,010

Instruction	\$29,344,905
56.8% of expenditures includes teacher salaries, instructional materials & supplies, library & media, computer assisted instruction, Special Education services, Pupil Personnel, BOCES services, health services & Athletics. (17 different sports)	
Employee Benefits	\$11,849,373
22.9% of expenditures includes mandated costs for Social Security, Medicare, retirement, health and other related insurance costs. There are decreases in pension contribution rates and increases in health premiums.	
Transportation	\$2,942,402
5.7% of expenditures reflects the cost of home-to-school transportation, salaries and materials for in-district transportation, employees and fuel.	
Facilities and Maintenance	\$2,466,466
4.8% of expenditures are used for district wide upkeep of buildings and grounds.	
General Support	\$2,034,949
3.9% of expenditures covers the cost of central administration, finance and treasurer, personnel, public relations and legal expenses.	
Debt Service and Interfund Transfers	\$3,041,915
5.9% of expenditures are used to pay principal and interest on capital projects and unaided portion of the Extended School Year Program. The Debt Service Fund is also used to supplement the debt payment.	

Three-Part Component 2019-20 Budget



* Proposed Expenditures 2019-20 Budget



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$51,294,919	\$51,680,010	\$50,947,311
Increases/Decreases for the 2019-20 School Year		385,091	(732,699)
Percentage Increases/Decreases in Proposed Budget		.75%	.68%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	

A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	36,747,311	37,480,010	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-	-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	36,747,311	37,480,010	732,699
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	1,229,220	1,282,557	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	35,548,091	36,228,453	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt, and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	35,518,091	36,197,453	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	30,000	31,000	

Administrative Component	5,548,541	5,396,378	5,396,378
Program Component	39,849,082	39,989,342	39,256,643
Capital Component	5,897,296	6,294,290	6,294,290

*Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education law, in the case of a contingency budget, districts are constrained in three ways: determination of ordinary contingency budget appropriations, the administrative cap and the restriction on the tax levy. Ordinary contingency expenses are defined as the expenditures absolutely necessary to operate and maintain schools.

**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.)

Description	Amount
	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
Carmel	1,299
Cortlandt	2,263
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Putnam Valley 1,268

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgt@nysed.gov

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Putnam Valley Central School District, Putnam County, New York, will be held at th Putnam Valley Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 6 AM and 9 PM, prevailing time in Putnam Valley, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law



PVMS Mandarin Chinese students attended a Chinese New Year celebration

SCHOOL BUDGET 101:

Balancing the Budget

Each year, **school boards must develop a balanced school budget proposal** for the following school year **and put it to a public vote** on the third Tuesday in May.

In New York, this requirement for a balanced, voter-approved annual budget is unique to public schools. **The school budget is the only government spending plan that residents can impact directly by voting.**

EXPENSES = REVENUE

MONEY GOING OUT

Salaries and Benefits
Curriculum Development,
Technology and Supplies
Buildings and Grounds
Transportation
Debt Service

MONEY COMING IN

State Funds
Federal Funds
Property Taxes
Miscellaneous Income
Appropriated Fund
Balance*

SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXPENSES AT A GLANCE



SALARIES AND BENEFITS

Education is a people business. On average, approximately 80 cents of every dollar goes to pay for salaries and benefits of teachers and staff.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Districts must ensure students can attend schools that are safe, clean, functional and well-maintained in a healthy environment with adequate heating, ventilation and lighting.



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPLIES

Ongoing curriculum development and training enhances the ability of teachers and support staff to provide students with a high-quality education, while instructional technology and supplies help students gain skills necessary for future success.



TRANSPORTATION

Districts must ensure that all school vehicles meet state safety standards and provide an efficient, reliable mode of transportation in accordance with school board policy and state law.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVENUE AT A GLANCE



STATE FUNDS

New York state provides funding for public schools in the form of aid for general operations and funding designated for particular expenses.



FEDERAL FUNDS

The federal government does provide some aid for schools in New York. On average, this aid is less than 5 percent of a school district's annual revenue.



PROPERTY TAXES

If there is a gap between state/federal funds and estimated total expenses, districts generally fill it with local property taxes. Districts are required to calculate a "maximum allowable tax levy" under the property tax cap law. Exceeding the cap requires approval by a supermajority of voters (60 percent or more) instead of a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one).



*WHAT IS FUND BALANCE?

If revenue collected for the school budget remains at the end of a district's fiscal year, that money becomes part of its fund balance. Districts must adhere to state laws that govern how fund balance can be spent. Options include applying it to a future budget in the form of revenue, earmarking it for anticipated future needs and/or saving it for unexpected emergencies.



District Updates

Capital Facilities Project Due to Begin Spring 2020

The proposed project includes the following highlights:

Elementary School – the creation of new innovative learning spaces and upgrades to existing auditorium/all-purpose space

Middle School – the creation of a modern learning commons, renovation of kitchen and cafeteria/auditorium, addition of small group instructional spaces and music lesson rooms, additional flexible classroom space, updated bathroom facilities, building upgrades, HVAC improvements, upgrades to gymnasium, entry canopy

High School/Middle School campus – the creation of a Health and Wellness Center designed to support both academics and athletics. This facility includes the creation of a kinesthetic lab to support active learning, Physics, Health, Physical Education and other academic classes, as well as interscholastic sports (modified, Junior Varsity, Varsity) and community youth programs.

A majority of the project will be at our Middle School, which has remained markedly untouched over the past 45 years.

[Click here to keep up with the most recent updates.](#)



Putnam Valley High School is the 1st International Baccalaureate School in Putnam County

Putnam Valley High School is now an authorized IB World School for the Diploma Programme. Schools that have been accepted into the IB network have transformed their learning process for all students and are seen as lighthouse educational institutions by colleges and universities.

IB is a model that connects our students to their counterparts in international schools around the globe and is based on an inquiry process that prepares students for college and career. All students in Putnam Valley High School will have the opportunity to participate in IB courses. Those students seeking the challenge may continue into higher level courses of their choosing. Some students will pursue the full IB Diploma, which recognizes that the student has completed a well-rounded educational experience, participated in a Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) Project, wrote an extended essay based on their own authentic research, and fostered the development of essential skills including; reflection, critical thinking, and questioning. Similar to Advanced Placement (AP) courses, many IB courses are recognized by higher education institutions and may be applied toward college credit.

IB Learner Profile

IB Approaches to Learning



State-wide Leader in Renewable Energy

Putnam Valley Central School District is a State-wide leader in renewable energy and continues to expand instructional opportunities.



This summer, the Putnam Valley Central School District will complete an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) that improves efficiencies across the district and helps to further reduce our carbon footprint. Thanks to the public approval of the EPC project, the district received additional state aid to complete

the work. As the project nears completion, sustainable power poles have been installed on each campus. These wind and solar charged LED light poles will provide instructional opportunities for teachers to make curriculum connections with sustainable energy. Generated data can be accessed by our teachers via the internet.

EPC complete to date:

- ✓ Changed all district lighting to LED
- ✓ Added geothermal at the Elementary School campus providing heating and cooling to approx 2/3 of the school
- ✓ Upgraded HVAC controls to increase efficiency
- ✓ Weatherization of doors throughout the district - reducing heating/cooling loss
- ✓ Installed solar arrays on transportation building, middle school roof, high school roof
- ✓ Installed Solar/Wind Poles at MS/HS campus- educational opportunities

Did you know?

The HS/MS campus does not use any oil. Heating and cooling on that campus is completely supported by a geothermal system. Geothermal at the ES is expected to save 30,000 gallons of oil per year.

Click here '[Sustain PV](#)' to read the article

Solar Panels at the ES

Solar panels have been installed on the roof of the transportation garage at the Elementary School and on the roof of the Middle and High Schools.



Social Emotional Learning

Looking within to build a culture of wellbeing for staff and students: How Yale RULER fostered a language of emotional connection in Putnam Valley Schools.

“Emotions are something that we rarely talk about, yet something that is so important. They affect us in so many ways and if we can learn how to better embrace our emotions, then we can help our students to do the same, and to have a more positive school experience.” This response from a teacher on the Putnam Valley District RULER team to the first year of training in RULER indicates that the core beliefs reflected in the program are meaningful and relevant to participants.

Click here for the full article.



Posted mood meters are making for great conversations, communication, and emotional awareness. The Yale RULER program focuses on helping students identify their emotions and learn to manage and regulate them so that they are successful in and outside of school.

PVHS Start Time Moves Back 40 Minutes

In September, the High School moved to a 7:50 am start time in alignment with the Middle School. Research on adolescent sleep patterns and the significant impact the lack of sleep has on our health and well being were a driving force in this change.

[Click here for more information and updates.](#)

The Arts



The Elementary School presentation of "The Wizard of Oz" featuring various scarecrows, tin men, lions, witches and Dorothies giving opportunity to our younger students to perform.



The high school presentation of "A Chorus Line"



PVHS Learning Lunches

The High School lunch has developing nicely. Students are enjoying their independence and are finding numerous ways to spend their time whether it is in the gym, at a club, working with a teacher or playing the piano in the foyer. Overall, students have been very responsible and using their time well. We have also had the opportunity to hold special assemblies during the Community Lunchtime with visits from the Putnam Valley Fire Department, The Vassar Acapella group and a recent African drumming session sponsored by our Music Department.



Third grade recorder concert.

The Middle School production of "Into the Woods"



PVMS Photo Album

[Click here to access photos of students in action!](#)

[Click here to access videos and playlists featuring our Middle School artists](#)



The Sciences



Science Research

Dora Rippon has been named as a semi-finalist in the Regeneration Science Talent Search considered one of the most prestigious awards for high school students. This year, 2000 students

from across the nation submitted their projects. Only 300 students were selected as semi-finalists. Only 1 student was selected from Putnam County. Congratulations Dora! Dora's topic is "Determining the minimum mass of a habitable planet by studying atmospheric oxygen escape."

Putnam Valley competed in the 19th annual WESEF competition. Over 650 students competed from all over Putnam, Westchester, and Rockland counties. Thirteen Putnam Valley Science Research students competed with six winning awards and a ZEISS Stemi 305 stereo microscope.

Ratu Boleaivalu won 1st place in behavior and won the Ying Scholar Award.

Sarah Broas won 2nd place in engineering.

Dora Rippon won the Sustainable Development Award.

Karina Davis won the Think STEAM Award.

Michael Tompkins won 4th place in behavior.

Marissa Back won the food science award



Twizzlers and Gummy Bears - A YUMMY DNA project! PVMS - Science Class with Ms. Diaz



Elementary School Science Fair

Dr. Wills celebrates the students as the Elementary School participates in their annual science fair. [Click here for more photos.](#)



Congratulations to all!



The newest members of the National Science Honor Society.

PVMS 5th-graders participated in an on demand learning opportunity with Jane Goodall designed to empower students to care about our planet and take action to make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment.



Athletics



Congratulations PVHS Wrestling team!

Four team members competed in the NY State Championships! The team closed out the season making All-Section.



MAGMAH 2019

Alternative Soccer Program
Click here for registration form.

~ All-Section Recipients ~

Football: Darnel Shillingford and John Listwan.
John was also named linebacker and defensive player of the year.

Volleyball: Kristina Turner

Girls Basketball: Kelli Venezia

Boys Basketball: TJ Brescia and Darnel Shillingford

Cheer: Nia Givan and Adrianna Raus

Wrestling: Dean Appell, Will Carano, Dustin Koshinen-Falls, Rolando Lopez and Hunter Lundberg

~All-Conference~

Volleyball: Rosanna Cruz

Girls Basketball: Cyera Daughtry and Arianna Stockinger

Football: Jeremy Aviles

~League Champions~

Boys Basketball

Cheer

Girls Basketball



CHEER!

Cheerleading Team places 2nd in New York State - again! Section champs for four straight years. At the state level they finished in the top three for the last three years.



Congratulations to Darnel Shillingford

Celebrating with family and coach for scoring his 1,000th point in his PV basketball career.



Gymnast of the Year

Caitlin Pellegrino was named Westchester/Putnam Gymnast of the year by Lohud. Caitlin was also awarded the Sportsmanship award for Section 1 at the State competition on Long Island.

Click here for FamilyID -
Athletics Registration Directions

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Frances Wills, Superintendent of Schools



We thank Dr. Wills for the enormous impact she has had on our school district, bringing all of our schools to new levels of inquiry, awareness, achievement, and passion. Dr. Wills' mark on this fine school district will be with us forever. We thank her for her dedication and tireless leadership and send best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.



Superintendent Announcement

Dr. Jeremy Luft, once a PVCSD student, returned to the Putnam Valley Central School District as the Director of Curriculum and Innovative Instruction two years ago. Effective July 1, 2020, Dr. Luft will

be the District's next Superintendent of Schools as Dr. Wills who has served the District since 2013 begins her retirement. From the start of his employment in Putnam Valley, Dr. Luft's expertise and leadership abilities were immediately evident. He quickly prioritized needs in the areas of curriculum and instruction and demonstrated his ability to motivate and support staff in implementing ways to address those needs. Dr. Luft's past experience includes holding the positions of Director of Technology and Director of Curriculum and Instruction in two local high performing districts. His communication skills and ability to work with diverse groups of people to achieve a district goal were in clear evidence in the past year as he took the lead in developing our facilities improvement plan and in communicating the need of that plan to all Putnam Valley school community members. Many years ago Dr. Luft also worked in the newly opened high school and shared, "It has been a privilege to work and learn beside Dr. Wills since arriving back in PV and now, as Superintendent of Schools, I look forward to continuing and expanding the work that is well underway in our District."

People on the Move



2019 National Honor Society Induction

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

High School Class of 2019

Valedictorian: Sarah Broas, SUNY Stony Brook

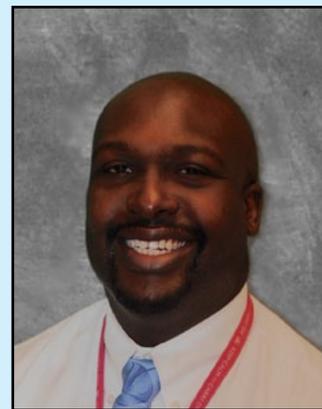
Salutatorian: Dora Rippon, University of Rochester

Administrators: Chris O'Connor and Dr. Sandra Intriери



Assistant Principal in the Middle School

Dr. Kern Mojica is the new Assistant Principal at Putnam Valley Middle School. Dr. Mojica brings a strong mathematics background, a doctorate from Pace University in Computing, thirteen successful years with the Pleasantville School District as a teacher leader, coach, creator, teacher, director of the District's STEM program, and administrative intern. In addition, Dr. Mojica was a well-respected athletic coach. He played Division I football for the University of New Hampshire, and brings his experience coaching students on and off the field to the role of assistant principal. We welcome him as a partner to our principal and staff, and a leader and role model for our students.



Putnam Valley Community



Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

The High School History Club at Veterans Memorial Park assist in the set-up of the wall.



Pride in Putnam Valley Honorees

Right: PVHS Senior Jacklyn Phillips was nominated by a community member, Kevin Backus, whom she stopped to help after a serious motorcycle accident. In his letter, Mr. Kevin Backus shared, "I just wanted to say how appreciative my family and I are of this young girl's kindness. It is a reflection of her family as well as her school upbringing and being taught the importance of being part of a team and community." Jacklyn will be attending Sacred Heart University in the fall where she will play lacrosse.



Kindergarten Registration

Please remind all neighbors and friends that registration for Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year took place in March. Anyone with children turning the age of 5 on or before December 1, 2019, should contact the Elementary School immediately to schedule a registration appointment 528-8092, x1100.

Mondrian Math



Putnam Valley Elementary School teacher, Mr. Coleman, visited the Putnam Valley Library to guide participants through creating a math masterpiece inspired by the works of Piet Mondrian, a 20th-century Dutch painter, and theoretician. Math masterpieces created by PVES students were proudly on display.

Left: PVHS Senior, Darnel Shillingford was nominated by teacher and coach, Mr. Ryan Elsasser for his exceptional achievements in the classroom, on the football field and basketball court and in service to our community. Darnel will be attending Bryant University and will be playing football for the Bulldogs.

Giovanni Silvestro, a 1st grade student, demonstrated caring and thoughtfulness by his own initiative and commitment in selling homemade crafts to raise funds for a local family in need.

