



## Schedule for BSGE

### *Mondays:*

- Helping Hands @2:15 in Room 203

### *Tuesdays:*

- Peer Tutoring @2:20 in the Library

- Ceramics Club @ 2:20 in the Art Room

### *Wednesdays:*

- The Bacc Rag @ 2:20 in Room 304

- Business Club @ 2:15 in Room 400

- Dramatic Arts Club @ 2:20 in Library

- French Club @ 3:00 in Room 205

- Middle School Math Club @2:20 in 416

- Model UN @ 2:15 in Room 303

- Mouse Squad @ 2:15 in Room 402

- Origami Club @2:15 in Conference Room

- Zumba @ 2:20 in Room 214

- Peer Tutoring @2:20 in Library

### *Thursdays:*

- Yearbook @2:20 in Room 416

- Knitting Club @2:15 in the Library

- Film Club @2:30 in Room 410

- Orchestra @ 2:15 in Room 409

- High School Math Club @2:10 in Room 400

- Yoga Club @2:15 in Room 214

- Peer Tutoring @2:20 in Library

- Mouse Squad @2:15 in Room 402

### *Fridays:*

- Senior Council @2:20 in the Cafeteria

- Junior Council @2:20 in Room 300

- Anime Club @ 2:20 in the Conference Room

## Lady Sting's Playoff Run Ends in Quarterfinals

MAYA JUMAN '16

This year, BSGE's varsity softball team had their longest and most exciting playoff run yet. During the regular season the team was undefeated, finishing 15-0 in their PSAL Queens B Division, led by captains Nina Don '16 and Rakia Islam '16. Lady Sting was seeded #1 in Queens, and was given a first round bye. In the second round, the team defeated Robert H. Goddard High School 10-9 in a 6-run seventh inning rally. BSGE was then granted the overall #3 seed in the city out of the remaining 16 teams. After beating Sunset Park High School 8-1 in the third round, Lady Sting advanced to the quarterfinals for the first time in BSGE history. Despite losing 3-0 to the High School for Math, Science and Engineering, Lady Sting still finished the season as one of the top 8 teams out of the total 133 in B Division softball, an accomplishment that the players, the coaches, and the many spectators and fans are truly proud of.

For the eight seniors on the team, who have played a huge role in Lady Sting's development over the past four years, the playoff push was a great end to high school softball. "It's been a great run, but I'm very sad because these girls have been my family for the past 4 years," explained Peyton Heron '16. "I'll miss the bond we have, but because we have pride in ourselves we are always going to stick together. Lady Sting Pride!" Catcher and co-captain Rakia felt similarly. "It was our greatest season yet," she said. "I'm very proud of everyone. It was a lot of fun, but I'm sad to be leaving." Coaches Virge Ramos and Aly Lakhane were excited about the team's success this year. "It was a great season," Coach Ramos said. "It was the first time in BSGE history that we made it past the second round. I am proud of each and every player." On a personal note, I know I will miss my four years with this organization very, very much, and I am honored to have had the chance to play with such a dynamic, hard-working group of girls. 'Til next season, Lady Sting!

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:





# BSGE Places Third in Pi5 Math Competition

PAMELA LI '20



On Saturday, May 7th, 20 students from the BSGE Middle School Math Club went to compete in the New York Pi5 Math Competition, led by Mr. Mehan. The competition is a publicly held event open to students from grades 6 through 8 in any of the 5 boroughs. This year, the competition was held at The Armory (at 168th Street) in Manhattan.

Students formed four teams of five, working together to solve math problems of varying levels of difficulty to earn points. The more difficult the questions were, the more points those questions were worth. The point values ranged from 100 to 500 points. There was a total of 45 minutes per team to answer as many questions as possible. "The quicker and more accurately you answer, the better the chance you have of advancing in the competition," said Christie Choi '20, who represented BSGE at the event.

Teams had to work efficiently in answering questions and communicating with each other. "For our team, we were all comfortable with each other, so it felt easier to work together, and teamwork helped us a lot," said Christy Guan '20, who also attended the competition. One of BSGE's 8th grade teams came in 3rd place in the overall competition!

Members of the winning eighth grade team were Rachael Cheung, Christy Choi, Christy Guan, Chloe Pan, and Jasmine Shum. Also representing BSGE was another eighth grade team and 2 seventh grade teams. BSGE is proud of how well the teams competed, and is also ecstatic that all of the students who attended had fun.



# Letter From The Editor

MAYA JUMAN '16

It has been a great privilege of mine to contribute to the Bacc Rag as a writer and editor over the past five years.

I remember so clearly the first time I, a tiny, terrified eighth grader, was sent to interview upperclassmen and teachers for an article. One of my first assignments was asking several seniors to reflect on the college application process, and I recall thinking about how far away college seemed, and how scary the seniors were, and how long it would be before I would finally graduate from BSGE.

It definitely went by faster than I could ever have imagined. Graduating seems surreal, but so does leaving behind this newspaper, which, although at times can be crazy and dysfunctional (I know the staff will agree with me) is so full of life and spunk. I've poured my heart into the Bacc Rag during my time at BSGE, and I can only hope that I have done half as much for this newspaper as it has done for me.

I've been to journalism conferences at Harvard and Columbia with Lydia Stetson, Erin Camia, and Samantha Calpo, as well as the next generation of writers and leaders like Moshan Guo and Justin Hamlin. I've chased down countless students and teachers to grab quotes to include in a last-minute article. I've spent too many late nights working on the layout of upcoming issues (and I'm ashamed to say I still need to work on my Adobe InDesign skills). But I wouldn't trade any of this for the world. I cannot separate my experience with the Bacc Rag from my time at BSGE; the two are and always will be inextricably linked in my mind and heart.

I have many people to thank for helping me serve the newspaper to the best of my ability. Shout out to my parents for teaching me how to write and edit! A big thank you to Erin, Samantha and Lydia, under whose leadership I grew into a better editor myself. Thank you to my young, talented staff for always keeping me on my toes, and especially Justin and Moshan - I can't wait to see you lead next year. Finally, thank you Mr. Lakhaney for your endless support, guidance, and ideas. The Bacc Rag would not be the Bacc Rag without you, and I and the rest of the school community are deeply grateful for your supervision and leadership. I certainly would not be here today if you had not encouraged me to write for the newspaper.

It feels strange to think that the next time my name will appear in an issue will be next to a "Word From the Real World" (I've been waiting years to write one!). The Bacc Rag will always have a special place in my heart, and while I am sad to be wrapping up my final issue as editor, I am also excited to see where this publication will go next. Take care, and good luck!

Yours truly,  
Maya Juman '16

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# Helping Hands Partners with L'Oreal for New Initiative

MATTHEW DUDA '19

Helping Hands, a fundraising organization in BSGE, has long been known for collaborating with organizations that wish to help the environment. Surprisingly, Helping Hands' most recent eco-friendly project is with the successful makeup company L'Oréal.

L'Oréal is in the process of moving into a green building in Manhattan's Hudson Yards, and has contacted Helping Hands to make 1500 keychains for their employees by reusing unwanted art supplies. All of the supplies are being provided through Materials for the Arts, which some BSGE students may be familiar with.

Materials for the Arts is an organization located near the school on Northern Boulevard. Various individuals and groups can donate their art supplies to Materials for the Arts, which will then give the supplies away to non-profits specializing in art, NYC public schools, or educational workshops open to the public. Without MFTA, making 1500 keychains would be out of reach for BSGE.

L'Oréal has offered to donate \$5000 to Helping Hands. Helping Hands has not yet decided how it will split this money, but it is certain that all of the money will be going towards the initiatives that Helping Hands members have been working so hard on this school year.

"I think it's a great project," a Helping Hands member explained. "It gives BSGE another way to connect with the community."

# Lead In Our Pipes?

PAMELA LI '20

After some routine water quality testing, BSGE has recently found a hint of lead in the water pipes of the school. The lead was only found in second floor pipes, and has been specifically located in the water fountain in the yoga room.

"We had some guys come and run some tests and figure out what to do from there," said the school's janitor, Darnell Murray Jr. Some may wonder if these tests were run as a result of the water crises in other areas like Flint, Michigan, where high levels of lead were found in the universal drinking water of the city. The lead found in Michigan was a serious health hazard. But BSGE's test was part of a routine examination. "In our case, it only came back positive in one location [room 214]."

According to Darnell, a possible explanation for the lead situation was that the fountain in the room wasn't used frequently enough. "Pipes all over New York City have lead in them." Fortunately, the levels in BSGE aren't significant enough to be even remotely equivalent to those in Michigan. All in all, the situation in BSGE is far from dangerous, but it is something to be mindful of.

# BSGE comes in at #32 nationally and #5 in state in US News Rankings

BSGE maintained its ranking as one of the nation's top public high schools coming in at #32 in the nation and #5 in New York State on the most recent US News and World Report Rankings. BSGE has consistently ranked in the top 50 on this list.

According to the US News website, their high school rankings consider four main factors: state math and reading test scores, disadvantaged students' results on state math and reading tests, graduation rates, and college readiness which is based on how students do on AP or IB exams.

BSGE's culture of having all students prepare for IB exams along with the expectation that all students aim to attend four year colleges and universities has led to consistent accolades on lists of top high schools.

These rankings do have their limitations though. The data being used for their 2016 rankings comes from the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, these rankings don't take into account the variety of courses schools offer or extra curricular activities.

# BSGE's Night Out in Flushing

DANIEL SAHR '20 AND DAVID MADRIGAL '20 For the second consecutive year, BSGE students, parents, and faculty purchased tickets to see the Mets at Citi Field on Friday, May 20th. For every \$25 spent on a ticket, the school made \$5. 85 members of the BSGE family sat together in a block of seats at the baseball game, and although it was a smaller turnout than last year, the school successfully raised \$425. Although it was a chilly day, May 20th was an exciting game. The Milwaukee Brewers scored first, but the Mets ultimately won 3-2. Everyone in attendance also took home a free shirt from Citi Field.

Although they are our local Queens baseball team, the New York Mets have not always had a large fan following. After an appearance in the playoffs in 2006, the Mets remained quiet until last year, which was the first time the postseason had come to Citi Field, which replaced Shea Stadium in 2008. After some important mid-season trades last July, the Mets were able to make it to the World Series before losing to the Kansas City Royals. This season, the team started again with high hopes from the fans. We caught up with the biggest Met fans in BSGE - the teachers.

Mr. Mehan, who is a season ticket holder and goes to "around 30" games a year, is most excited about watching Jacob deGrom and Travis d'Arnaud this year, although he is disappointed in Lucas Duda's performance so far. Mr. Wolov and Mr. Lakhany both agreed that young pitching talent Noah Syndergaard will be worth watching this year. Slugger Yoenis Cespedes, who was resigned during the offseason by the Mets, will also play a key role for the 2016 team, as will the rest of the pitching staff. However, just like last season, the Mets seem to be lacking the offensive power they will certainly need for a postseason run. When asked about which player in the MLB would be a great asset for the Mets, Mr. Wolov suggested Mike Trout of the Angels, while Mr. Lakhany felt that Carlos Correa of the Astros would contribute a lot.





## Model UN: A Model for the World?

JUSTIN HAMLIN '17

Model UN – a club that many have heard of, but few know anything about. Unlike most activities, there are no regular weekly meetings, no advertisements to be in a certain place at a certain time to join. But occasionally a school will hold a Model UN convention, such as the Dalton School in the Upper East Side did on April 23rd, and BSGE will be well represented.

Three juniors and five seniors, along with supervisor Ms. Meisler, attended said conference, where students from many different schools attempt to solve world issues in eight to ten hours. Each school is assigned one or more countries to represent, and for the weeks leading up to the conference, the students learn about their country's strengths and issues so they can be accurate representatives. In this case, BSGE was assigned Australia, Belgium, and the Philippines, but due to a lack of people, the Philippines ended up being ignored. During the conference, there are many subcommittees that focus on world issues such as climate change and disease control, and each participant joins one of these subcommittees to represent their country. Hours of spirited debate ensue. Eventually, proposals are created, voted on, and announced to the rest of the conference, sometimes with awards for countries and/or schools whose representatives stand out.

Model UN can be a great way to broaden one's horizons. Learning about the struggles of other countries and trying to adequately represent their interests can be challenging, but is ultimately rewarding, especially for those who are interested in law, government, politics, international relations, and debating skills. Ms. Meisler explained that she enjoys Model UN because it can "create a possibility of world peace in the future. It is a very idealistic goal." Similarly, Malcolm Sherman-Godfrey '17 mentioned that he "likes Model UN as a concept" and that at the Dalton Conference "the people who are running it were well-organized."

Of course, Model UN isn't without its downsides. The premise of solving world problems with a day of debate can lead to thought-provoking exercise, but is rather unrealistic. Moreover, there can be a lack of diversity at events. Malcolm faced this problem in his room, where the topic of discussion was payment of UN peacekeeping forces. He was the only person from a public school, and when he said as much, he was met with "a very brief look of disgust." As a result of this, the resolution the room reached did not take his opinion into consideration, instead originating from what the "seriously out-of-touch rich people" preferred.

Other Model UN conferences are formatted differently, and issues of diversity by no means apply to them all. Any students who want to go into law or politics should give it careful consideration, and all can benefit from enhancing their debating skills. The intense argument that goes on should be a convincing reason why the real UN's influence is so weak: if students with nothing personal at stake have difficult reaching agreements, how could the real representatives be expected to?

## Dutch Kills Playground Gets Funding for Renovation

CHLOE HUANG '20

Running, playing, throwing, catching - Dutch Kills Playground is used daily by BSGE students for gym class. It is located next to P.S. 112 and regularly visited by children, adults, and seniors living in the community. The park has not been renovated for 20 years until now, when Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski announced on April 12, 2016 that they acquired \$4.5 million in funding from Mayor DeBlasio to renovate Dutch Kills Playground.

"Our children come to this playground every day, and they deserve a modern, up-to-date park to use during recess, gym class, and with their families and neighbors on the weekends. Our parks and public spaces are an integral part of the fabric of our communities," Van Bramer said.

On April 18 at 6 p.m., the Parks Department hosted a meeting at P.S. 112 where community members were able to share their ideas and opinions on what changes they wanted to see. In the end, it turns out that the renovation, expected to take up to three years, most likely won't affect BSGE's gym classes. The majority of the renovation money, about \$2.5 million, is dedicated to a "comfort station," also known as a bathroom, and the playground area. It is unclear yet if the renovation is going to affect the rink area or the basketball and handball courts.

Margaret Pasach, BSGE's parent coordinator, attended the meeting. She later said, "We had wanted to get a soccer field or softball field but they said they don't have the money for it." Therefore, she explained, "It doesn't look like any changes that they're making are going to be really beneficial for us. Right now there will only be a bathroom upgrade and a playground upgrade which will be for the elementary kids."

The park renovation is currently in the planning process, so construction won't happen for over a year. The playground will have to be closed during construction and there is a possibility that the rest of the park will also be closed down when construction begins. If so, it would last for one to two years. It is quite possible that BSGE will have to find another place for gym class until eventually, the renovation finishes.

## 2016 Geography Bee

On June 8th, over 100 students from all grades participated in the fifth annual Team Geography Bee. Teams of up to three students answered two rounds of questions about state and national capitals, state flags, New York City trivia, and other miscellaneous geography topics. The competition is created and hosted by history teachers Ms. Dikes and Mr. Lakhanev who also write all the questions themselves. The top three teams received Amazon gift cards and teams with the best names received additional prizes. This year, 34 teams participated including one team of teachers who have consistently shown up to the annual event. The number of teams as well as the total number of students were an all time high. The winning team was comprised of Juniors, Malcolm Sherman-Godfrey, Adrian Kulesza, and John Bost who were among last year's top finishers as well. The second place team included sophomores Clement Leveau, Joseph Rubinstein, and Eitan Wiernik. Finishing third were a team of 8th grade students, Lily Jin, Owen Smith, and Helen Tran.





# Rocking Out for CAS!

SAMANTHA VINOYA '19

The new CAS group project requirements have led many BSGE students to explore interesting ways of fulfilling the Creativity, Activity and/or Service requirement through teamwork. One such project is a rock band created by Jotham Kim '17 and seven other juniors. While you may not have heard of the band itself, you may have noticed signs for a Rock Band Club, which is linked to the CAS project. The club involves members of the CAS project teaching other interested students to play instruments and produce music. The eight juniors host their own practices and performances separately.

Jotham says that the main purpose of their CAS Project is to “strengthen our bond as a community through the influence of music.” He and his friends were already interested in music, so it was something that everyone agreed on doing together. The band consists of three singers - Jonathan Kim, Moshan Guo, and Aadarsh Devkota - four individuals playing instruments - Jotham Kim, Kenneth Sue, Nicholas Jung, and John Bost - and one individual who is in charge of recording the band's progress, Diego Barranchara.

For Jotham, music has had a huge influence on his life and has always been a way for him to express himself. Jotham feels that “expressing my emotions through music is very enlightening and simply makes me happy.” The CAS project has brought him and his friends closer, and they work together like “one big family.” His interest in music started at a young age when he asked his mother if he could learn how to play the piano. As he

learned how to play piano and explored the basics of music, he started to compose his own pieces. Though Jotham doesn't intend to eventually pursue a career in music, he enjoys it as an extracurricular activity and a hobby.

For Jonathan Kim '17, the band has similar meaning. Jonathan is one of the co-creators of the project and is a lead singer in the band. He feels that the CAS project has changed the way he approaches music; he now appreciates it much more. A memorable moment for him was when after playing a song at band practice, the entire cafeteria started clapping for them. “I was so shocked because I did not think they were listening,” he explained. Participating in the project has helped him gain confidence. It taught him to set aside what others thought about him and instead focus on how he felt about what he was doing. Similar to Jotham, Jonathan doesn't believe he will pursue a future career in music, but it will definitely continue to be a hobby of his.

From the outside, many people regard the band as just another rock group, but in reality, they have a larger goal for our school. The rock band's main goal for this project is to reach out to the school community, and encourage others to “focus on the positive aspects of life, and move forward with huge smiles on their faces.” Practicing upbeat songs such as “One Day You Will” by Lady Antebellum and “You'll Be In My Heart” by Phil Collins, they plan to spread positive vibes through music and make our school community a better place.

# 67% of 8th Grade

## Leaving BSGE

PAMELA LI '20

This year, two-thirds of the eighth graders in BSGE will be leaving for other high schools. Since October, more than 20,000 eighth grade students from all over the city were anxiously waiting to hear if they had gained admission into 1 of the 9 specialized high schools in New York City either through a performing arts audition or through the SHSAT (Specialized High School Admissions Test). Those schools include Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, and others. During the high school application process, thousands not only take the SHSAT, but start applying to non-specialized schools as well.

BSGE, which offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in eleventh and twelfth grade, guarantees all current eighth graders a spot to stay for high school as long as it's listed on their high school application as their first choice.

This year's survey has revealed that only 27 of the 80 eighth grade students have decided to stay. Of those students who are leaving, 15 are going to Stuyvesant High School, 16 to the Bronx High School of Science, 5 to Townsend Harris High School, 5 to Brooklyn Technical High School, 3 to the High School of American Studies at Lehman College, 2 to the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College, and 7 to other miscellaneous schools. As a result, BSGE will aim to fill the spots in the Class of 2020 with a significant number of new 9th graders next year.

Eighth graders shared their thoughts on making the big decision. “BSGE, with its small size and limited opportunities, remains a nurturing environment that has positively impacted my middle school experience,” said Annelie Hyatt '20. “However, in order to mature as a person, I believe that a bigger and well-funded school is essential.” Others agree that the limited choice of classes and activities at BSGE is a downside to staying for high school. Some students simply choose to leave to focus on certain subjects they're passionate about that BSGE does not offer. “I want to become a doctor, and Brooklyn Tech offers many medical courses,” said Khalid El-Halabi '20.

Although some students feel they'd excel in a larger school like Stuyvesant, others prefer the unique atmosphere that BSGE fosters. “I chose to stay because BSGE is already a pretty good school, and I feel like the community is really tight-knit, which is something other schools may not have,” shared an anonymous eighth grader. “I also prefer the support from teachers here.” Some look forward to entering the rigorous IB program in high school. “It's sad to watch so many people leave, but I think that compared to bigger schools, the teachers here really can acknowledge your strengths and weaknesses not only as a student, but as a person,” said Rashmika Batra '20.

Ultimately, regardless of where you go for high school, it's the experiences you have that count. Although many will be parting ways, all agree they will cherish the memories made here. We remain hopeful that in the future, more students will decide to stay at BSGE. But for now, we wish the best to everyone staying and leaving. This is just the beginning.

# IB Celebration Night Draws Parents and Students

On Thursday, June 2nd, from 6 to 8 pm, BSGE held an open event for interested students and parents to celebrate students' accomplishments this year, mingle with teachers, and learn more about the college application process and IB program. After 7 pm everyone enjoyed a potluck meal in the cafeteria featuring a selection of food from different cultures across the world.





## A Run-Through of Ramadan

DALEELAH SALEH '19

Aside from just another Monday to get through, there's nothing particularly special about June 6 for most people. But for Muslims, it marks the start of a month-long holiday known as Ramadan. During these 30 days, Muslims fast (go without food or drink) from the break of dawn to sunset. This year, that means fasting from around 3:45 AM to 8:30 (both shift slightly throughout the month). Thus, for those of us living in New York City, the fast lasts around 17 hours of the day. Because the sun rises and sets at different times during the day depending on where you live, people around the world fast for different periods of time. Those in Europe, for example, fast an average of 20 hours, while those in Australia fast around 10 hours.

This may seem like cruel and unusual punishment, but in fact, many people look forward to Ramadan every year. Because while it's a month for fasting, it's also a month for praying, asking for redemption, and doing good deeds. And while that's the religious aspect, there's also the social aspect of visiting many different houses of friends and family and breaking fast together during Iftaar.

Muslims start fasting for Ramadan at various ages. Typically, kids fast partially when they're young, then begin fully participating in their teenage years. Shanizea Husain '19 for example, began fasting when she was 7, but didn't fast for the entire month of Ramadan until she was 13. As you grow up, the reason for why you fast changes. Mr. Lakhanev fasted when he was a kid because his parents expected him to, but as an adult it's a different story. After moving out and living on his own, he had to re-evaluate the act of fasting. He appreciates it now, because it gives him a reason to practice self-control, but is also a ritual that connects you to a larger group of people. Shared experiences are important.

Despite its universality, Muslims fast for various reasons, and Ramadan means something different to everyone. The first most standard reason is that fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. But there's also the idea that fasting helps you build awareness of those around you who are less fortunate than you are. By going without food or water for the majority of the day, you become conscious of what it's like for those living in poverty and those who don't easily have access to food and water. Because of this, Ramadan helps build empathy, while also

serving as a strong reminder of all that we have to be grateful for. Additionally, fasting forces you to practice self-discipline. Throughout the rest of the year, you can pretty much eat or drink whenever you feel like it. But during Ramadan, you cannot satisfy your hunger or thirst, and must instead divert your attention elsewhere.

As you can imagine, it can still be hard to get through the day, despite your good intentions. During the first few days of Ramadan it's especially difficult because your body's not used to going so long without food or water. But eventually, everyone adjusts, and finds different ways to cope. Ramisa Bashar '18 says she gets through the day by distracting herself with social media. Similarly, Shanizea Husain '19 noted that Ramadan is much easier during the school year, because being in school keeps your mind distracted and focused on other things. Having already had a lot of experience with fasting, Mr. Lakhanev had three main tips: keep yourself occupied, be committed to your goal, and make sure to eat Suhoor. This is the meal eaten before dawn, in preparation for the long day ahead. What people eat varies based on their culture, but people tend to go for food that provides an energy boost to help get you through your first few hours.

The meal most looked forward to, though, is Iftaar- the breaking of the fast. People tend to go all out for Iftaar, laboring in the kitchen all day and cooking lavish meals. Ramisa Bashar '18 commented that she always looks forward to the array of foods her mom makes during Ramadan- quite a few of which she doesn't make during any other time of the year. Shanizea Husain '19 claims that the preparation of the Iftaar is one of her favorite aspects of Ramadan, because it's become a way for her to bond with her mother. I personally love Iftaars not because of the food, but because of the togetherness, and the chance to meet up with family members and friends.

To conclude, do your best to be mindful of Muslims around you during this time. Maybe try fasting in solidarity with them, even if only partially. And even if you're not fasting, definitely break fast with them, or even go to the many Ramadan buffets offered throughout our multicultural Queens (Steinway and Jackson Heights are the prime destinations). Step outside your comfort zone, and try something new this Ramadan.

## Seniors' Thoughts on Graduating From

### BSGE!

MAYA JUMAN '16



"To be completely honest, I'm looking forward to getting out of here."  
- Aaron Morrow '16

"It feels surreal that I won't be walking the tiny halls of BSGE next year."  
- Chaimaa Riad '16



"Happy."  
- Beatriz Benares '16



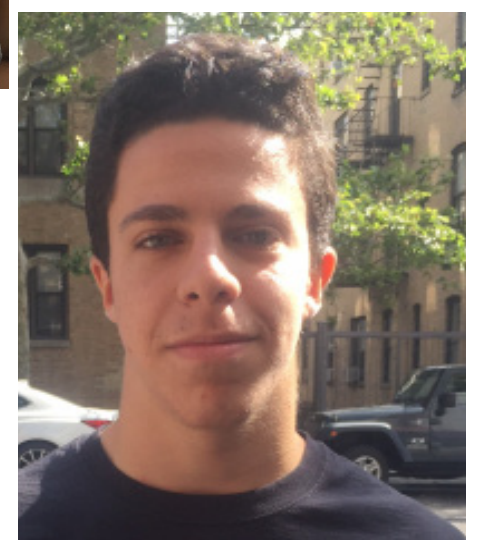
"I'm really excited to start this new chapter of my life but I will miss a lot of people here."  
- Brianna Kennedy '16



"I deserve it after six years in prison. As soon as I get my diploma I'm going to do the Running Man Challenge across the stage."  
- Peyton Heron '16



"I'm excited for a totally different time in my life, since middle school and high school were not different for us."  
- Gabriel Steinberg '16





# Teacher of the Month:

## Mr. Mac

JAIME TRAN '20 AND JASMINE SHUM '20



What were your favorite sports in high school? Why?

I enjoyed golf and tennis because they were individual sports where I was competing against myself or one opponent, but I also loved playing basketball too for the team experience.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Rhode Island, which is about 40 minutes south of Boston.

Other than sports, what other interests did you have as a kid?

I truly fell in love with taxidermy. Have you ever stuffed a dead cat? It's a passion of mine!

What's your favorite movie?

I really enjoyed the latest Star Wars movie, cried for days after Kylo Ren killed Han Solo. I hope my son doesn't do me like that.

What was one of your favorite places to travel to?

Any place with a beach, golf course, and tennis courts is paradise to me.

What other jobs have you had before being a teacher?

In high school I would go to the country club and be a golf caddie for dough. In college I did some construction.

If you had a YouTube channel, what would your channel be about?

Good question, I have absolutely no idea.

What was one memorable moment you remember as a kid?

Growing up near the ocean, summer break, sports, family, holidays, normal kid stuff.

Have you ever had any pets?

I have a pug named Brady. My dog will be playing the same amount of football games through week 4 as the other Brady.

If you couldn't be a teacher, then what profession would you choose?

After watching the movie, Interstellar, I want to be a time-traveling astronaut. Or a priest.

What would be included in your perfect meal?

I could eat steak and pizza at every meal. My favorite steakhouse is Keens in Manhattan. My favorite pizzeria is a joint in Westchester called The Parlor, crazy good!

What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

I used to make something I called Red Tuna. Essentially it was canned tuna with a ton of hot sauce, very gourmet.

What is the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you?

All I can tell you is that I'm in therapy for it still, thanks for bringing it up!

What's the laziest thing you've ever seen your students do in gym class?

I caught two students at the park smoking pot. Man, they were lazy and stupid. Probably hungry too.

Have you ever hated a teacher that taught you in school? Why?

No, my mom was a teacher, so I always had great respect for the profession. Most are there to help and motivate kids.

Describe yourself in high school.

Same as today, a handsome devil.

What did you want to be as a kid?

I wanted to be the 6th member of New Kids on the Block. Maybe there's still time.

If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring? Which teacher would you bring?

The teacher I would bring would be the great Master Yoda. I would bring a helicopter to get off the island. Take that, Bacc Rag!

What's the weirdest comment you've ever gotten about your eyes?

Do you wear contacts? That is the question asked most. Or, are you part Husky?

Who is the better athlete, Mr. Powell or you? Why?

Me. For one, I am 10 years younger, plus Mr. Powell has a bum knee now. Back in the day he was a better basketball player, but I was and still am better at almost everything else. And I'm smarter.



# Four BSGE Students' Works on Display at Queens Borough Arts Festival

MS. SCHWARZ



From May 11 to May 15, the Queens Museum exhibited artwork by K - 12 Queens public school students, as part of the Queens Borough Arts Festival. We were proud to have four BSGE students exhibiting artwork. This was a juried exhibition so not all the artwork that was submitted was chosen to be displayed. Two 10th grade students, Annika Cheng and

Nadja Martinovic, each exhibited self portrait charcoal drawings, submitted for the exhibit by Mr. Sheridan. Two seniors, Rakia Islam and Isabelle Lee, exhibited assemblage artworks that made use of found objects. The opening reception that took place on May 11th included performances by students at Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences High School, Forest Hills High School, and PS 16 The Nancy DeBenedittis School and PS 115 James J. Ambrose School. This was the second annual arts festival, in which each teacher was invited to submit two artworks each. Congratulations to Annika, Nadja, Rakia, and Isabelle!

(Photo Credit: Cecelia Cheng)

## BSGE Business Club Donates \$725 to the School

On Wednesday, May 24, the BSGE Business Club, known to most students as the BBC, gave a donation of \$725 to the school. The money was raised over the course of the past two years through various sales and events organized by the BBC, such as BSGE's first annual Club Fair and Valentine's Day heart sale. All of the funds donated will be added to the school's general budget for next year, to be used at Principal Kelly Johnson's discretion. Going forward, the

BBC will be raising more funds next year, this time in the interest of sponsoring a school event such as a dance, though the exact event has not been decided upon yet.

If you are interested in working as a member of the BBC next year, we will be recruiting members starting September. You can send an email to [bsgebusinessclub@bsge.org](mailto:bsgebusinessclub@bsge.org) or contact BBC CEO Malcolm Sherman-Godfrey for more information.



# Six Things To Do Over the Summer Rather Than Binge-Watching Netflix

SAMANTHA VINOYA '18

## 1) Free Summer Concerts

From May 20 to September 2, Good Morning America and the Today Show will be holding free summer concerts at least once a week. Both GMA and the Today Show will be holding their concerts every Friday, but the GMA ones will be in Central Park and the Today Show will be holding their concerts in Rockefeller Center. All concerts are open to the public, but some require you to reserve the free tickets. These concerts are a great way to boost your energy for the day and are just an inexpensive fun event to enjoy with friends and family. With performers such as Blink 182 and James Bay, you are sure to find an artist you'll want to see. For the lineup for GMA concerts, go to: [www.centralpark.com](http://www.centralpark.com). For the lineup for the Today Show concerts, go to: <http://cititour.com>.

## 2) The Magnum Ice Cream Bar Shop

After going to a morning concert, you are sure to be in need of a snack. Magnum is a company that creates ice cream bars and this shop is a place where you can customize these chocolate bars. For \$7, you get a fully customizable ice cream bar with up to three toppings. From dark chocolate chia seeds to rose petals, there is a wide variety of toppings and an infinite number of combinations. This is a great snack for a hot summer day and it is just a fun experience watching your beautiful creation come to life. For more about this ice cream shop, visit: <http://www.amny.com>.

## 3) Bryant Park Film Festival

If you aren't much of a concert-goer, maybe a movie sounds like fun. This summer, HBO will be showing films in Bryant Park on Mondays. Movies like Ferris Bueller's Day Off and The Omen will be screened from 5:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. and are open to the public for free. Grab a picnic blanket, food and friends and enjoy a movie on the lawn. This is a great way to just relax and enjoy New York City scenery and weather. For information about the movies, go to: [www.bryantpark.org](http://www.bryantpark.org).

## 4) Alice's Tea Cup

Speaking of movies, with the

recent release of the movie, Alice Through the Looking Glass, Alice's Tea Cup is a fun place to check out. With the original restaurant on the West Side and "Chapters" II and III on the East Side, Alice's Tea Cup is easily accessible. The Alice in Wonderland-themed restaurant is an opportunity to revisit childhood. Complete with whimsical decorations, teas and pastries, this restaurant is perfect for fans of the books and movies. If you're really feeling like a little kid, you could ask to wear one of their many fairy wings while at the restaurant—they'll even sprinkle "fairy dust" on you! For more information about finding Wonderland, go to: <http://alicestecup.com>.

## 5) I Survived the Room

An adrenaline-packed activity that is great for groups of friends, I Survived the Room is an intense game that is all about testing your limits. I Survived the Room has two rooms to choose from (and one open only on Fridays). A group of friends is placed in a chosen scenario from which they have an hour to escape. You must learn to work with your friends to find clues and solve riddles to escape the room, but if you fail to do so, then game over! The whole scenario feels real, especially with actors who play special roles. It is a bit scary, but definitely worth it because it is interesting to see how your group can work together to solve a hypothetical situation. For more information about how to book a room, go to: <http://isurvivedtheroom.com>.

## 6) Smorgasburg

Every Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., this Williamsburg market is filled with food, clothing, antiques, jewelry, and knick knacks for everyone. Great weather, friendly vendors and a variety of handmade and vintage goods make this flea market a popular spot. Most of the vendors at Smorgasburg are running their own small businesses, and many love to chat with customers. Smorgasburg is also a great place to discover new foods because of all the unique twists put on everyday snacks. Concoctions like "Raindrop Cakes" and "Takumi Tacos" can be found at Smorgasburg. For more information about the vendors, go to: [www.smorgasburg.com](http://www.smorgasburg.com).



# BSGE Travels to China!

MOSHAN GUO '17



During spring break in April, a group of BSGE students and teachers embarked on a trip to China, which was our school's first trip to a country in Asia. This year, the school decided to give an opportunity to students interested in Chinese culture and language to experience the country firsthand. The group consisted of 23 students and 4 teachers—Ms. Mihalache, Ms. Silva, Mr. Giraldo, and Ms. Xia. During their 10-day stay in China, they visited a total of three cities: Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai.

Much of the trip was spent sightseeing and exploring China's many tourist attractions. The trip began in Beijing after a 13-hour ride on Air China. During their time in Beijing, the group visited famous locations such as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Jingshan Mountain, Summer Palace, the National Stadium (Bird's Nest), the

Great Wall, and the National Aquatic Center. Besides visiting famous places, the group also spent some time in local areas, including hutongs, which are narrow streets or alleys common in Beijing. Some students claim that the hutong visit was their favorite part of Beijing because they were able to communicate with the locals living there. They also had the chance to try Peking duck, a famous dish in Beijing with duck meat, scallions and cucumbers rolled into a thin layer of pancake dipped in sweet-bean sauce.

On Day 5, the group traveled to Xi'an in an overnight train, where the students squeezed into bunk beds for the 13 hour journey. In Xi'an, they visited the Terracotta Warriors Museum and walked around the city to experience local life. The next day, everyone flew to Shanghai, the last destination

in China. On the first day there, they traveled on a high-speed Shanghai Maglev train and visited local families in residential quarters. The next day, they watched an acrobatic show, visited the Yuyuan Garden, the Jade Buddha Temple, and several other locations. And finally,

change about the trip to make it better, junior Elizabeth Levkovich answered, "Nothing." She believes that it was the entire trip, including the parts that she both liked and disliked, that contributed to her changed impression of China. "I heard a lot of things about China before



after ten days in China, the group flew back to New York City from Shanghai.

Although the trip was very packed in terms of schedule, the students and teachers were able to experience a variety of different cultural differences. For example, one of the challenges that they faced was getting used to the squat toilets so prevalent in China. However, when asked what she would

that I was skeptical about, but I think as with any new place or culture, everything is going to feel different than expected," she said.

Overall, many students agree that visiting China allowed them to come in contact with a culture other than the one they are so accustomed to. BSGE is excited to continue exploring new countries on future trips abroad!





# Final Senior College Destinations!

KHALID ALI  
Binghamton University

SUMAIYA ALI  
Hunter College

ANDHY ALVAREZ  
Queens College

MANUEL ALVAREZ  
SUNY Buffalo

SARA ASPRILLA  
Wheaton College (POSSE scholar)

ANOWARULL BASHAR  
Hunter College

NATALIA BELCHIKOV  
Bryn Mawr College

ANGELICA BENARES  
Lehigh University

BEATRIZ BENARES  
Skidmore College

ALVARO BERMEJO  
Baruch College

ONGKONA BISWAS  
New York University

MAHAUT BROOKS  
Bard College

ERIC CAMPBELL  
City College of New York

SILVIA CAMPOS  
City College of New York

JAMIE CARROLL  
Binghamton University

BRIANNA CARTY  
East Stroudsburg University

HANNAH CHO  
Stony Brook University

SUDIPTA CHOWDHURY  
City College of New York

LUCA COGNATA  
Syracuse University

MARIKA CYGERT  
Marist College

MATTEO D'ALESSANDRO  
Penn State Altoona

DEBRAJ DAS  
City College of New York

NINA DON  
Dickinson College

CHINA FOX  
York College

DIEGO GARCIA  
Middlebury College (POSSE scholar)

ANISH GOSALA  
University of California, Los Angeles

SARAH HAMED  
Hunter College

LISA HATAZAKI  
Binghamton University

PEYTON HERON  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

SUMIN HOQUE  
SUNY Buffalo

ABIR HOSSAIN  
Stony Brook University

RAKIA ISLAM  
Brown University

MAYA JUMAN  
Yale University

CHAITANYA KAPOOR  
SUNY Brockport

SANDEEP KAUR  
Colby College

BRIANNA KENNEDY  
University of California, Santa Barbara

RENE KOKOSZKA  
City College of New York

SOCRATES KOUTSOULIDAKIS  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

SYEDA LAMISA  
City College of New York



# Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

KAYLA LANG

Macaulay Honors at Queens College

KARA LAROCHELLE

Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education

ISABELLE LEE

Fordham University

JEFFREY LIN

SUNY Albany

ERICA LLIGUICHUZHCA

SUNY Albany

MUHTASIM MARUF

SUNY Buffalo

BEATRICE MCAVINEY

City College of New York (Gap Year)

ANTHONY MENDIETA

St. Lawrence University

ALISA MIZUKAMI

Macaulay Honors at City College

HANAKO MONTGOMERY

Binghamton University

AARON MORROW

Syracuse University

BASSAM MORSY

Stony Brook University

JUSTIN MOY

Rochester Institute of Technology

JANICE NG

Binghamton University

STEPHANIE PICHARDO

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

FAIZAH RAFAT

Fordham University

AKIB RAHMAN

University of Rochester

EMANUEL RAMNIHORE

City College of New York

CHAIMAA RIAD

Smith College

KENNETH ROBLEDO

SUNY Buffalo

ANDRES ROSERO

Syracuse University

ALEJANDRA RUIZ

Hunter College

AMIN SADEGHI

Stony Brook University

ELBERT SAVINON

Lafayette College (POSSE scholar)

MAX SHARPE

Skidmore College

LUIS SILVA

Binghamton University

INARRA SORATHIYA

Binghamton University

GABRIEL STEINBERG

Binghamton University

CHRISTIAN TROTTI

Georgetown University

NAJMA TUBSSUM

Hunter College

HANNAH VAN BERGEN

University of Connecticut

ASHLEY WANG

Wellesley College

CAROLYN WANG

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

TENZIN WANGYAL

Stony Brook University

NICHOLAS WONG

City College of New York

ERGISA XHUVELI

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

VIVIAN YAN

Stony Brook University

JOLY ZAKARIA

Stony Brook University

KHADIJA ZULFIQAR

Hunter College



# Cafeteria Mural Repainted for CAS Project

MAYA JUMAN '16

The vast majority of BSGE students eat lunch in the cafeteria, and many spend time there after school for various extra-curricular activities. Thus, for a group of five determined seniors, repainting the cafeteria mural seemed like the obvious choice for a CAS group project that would impact the entire school community.

Isabelle Lee '16, Alvaro Bermejo '16, Joly Zakaria '16, Akib Rahman '16, and Sara Asprilla '16 wanted to replace the long-standing mural with a brighter, fresher design. With the supervision and input of the art teachers, Peter Wilson, and Vanessa Rabines, the group put in 20 hours of after-school work over the course of 2 months, sanding and repainting the original mural and creating the new design on the wall.

For graduating senior Isabelle, working on the mural was a way of contributing something to the school she has attended for six years. "I felt like it was my way of leaving a mark on the BSGE community," she said. She also shared the thinking behind the new design, which includes

eyes with globes inside of them in front of a New York City skyline. "I tried to incorporate elements of the IB curriculum. We included the ten IB learner profiles, and blended them with the bee mascot and eyes to symbolize our global perspective here at BSGE."

Isabelle also stressed how important it was that the project was so accessible to the entire school population. Many students and teachers jumped in to help even if they were not officially signed on to the project. "Being able to participate in something so interactive, and public, was gratifying," she said. "So many people were involved in this process, sharing their input and discussing designs with us." Working on the mural was a rewarding process for all the group members, including Alvaro. "For me, the project is a visual representation of what we are all capable of, and how much I've enjoyed my time at this school," he explained. "I've embraced BSGE over the past six years and I thought giving back with this mural would be great."



# Second Floor Gym Room Gets a Makeover

ANAB KHAN '20



The second floor fitness room is used by most BSGE students who have gym for their physical education class. Some students even like to go to the fitness room after school and work out then as well. The room has recently been renovated, with the addition of a mirror and the rearrangement of equipment. However, there are still more changes to come.

Margaret Pasach, the parent coordinator, explained the process of renovating the room. "The PTA worked on getting money from the councilman, because the machines were in disrepair. And he came through. They'd been working on it for 2 years. They were able to bring in enough money to redo the fitness room." The floors were repainted a bright blue, and mirrors now line the wall behind the weight racks. Some machines, however, were removed, like the equipment for lateral pulldown, and a dysfunctional machine that is supposed to work out the legs but now only serves as a rest station. Over the summer, new machines will be added, like new bicycles, since many of the current bicycles are not entirely functional.

Students naturally are excited about the changes, which greatly improve the gym's aesthetic. Sharupa Azmal '20 thinks the room is now "super stylish and actually looks like a real gym now." The last addition to the gym room was a treadmill several months ago. But now, with an entirely new and decked-out fitness room, BSGE's physical education program appears much more serious than it has in the past. Students were quick to take notice of all the renovations. Reid Papafloratos '21 "prefers it over the older version" because of "the mirrors and the color of the floor, and the extra room for all the equipment." "We all like it," added another 7th grader, Meril Mousoom '21.