



## Supplies For Kids in Jamaica

Beacon Family Hosts  
Fundraiser and You  
Can Contribute

By Mikaela Sanchez

Beacon, N.Y., is home to many families from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Beacon High School reflects that diversity, embracing a wide range of traditions and customs unique to each student. Today, we're highlighting Clive Stewart, a junior at BHS, who helps run a Back-to-School Supplies Fundraiser with his family to support students in Jamaica.

Clive's mother, Trissan Green, founded the organization in tribute to her own mother, Enid Leard. In Grange Hill, Westmoreland, Jamaica, Leard sold school supplies to children, making it possible for them to attend school. The income Leard earned from this work helped fund Green's ed-

*Continued on page 2*

## Blades of Brilliance

Beacon High School  
Alumnus Competes  
in the Winter Special  
Olympics

By Annabelle Notarthomas

Beacon High School alumnus Ryan Chin achieved a remarkable victory, winning the silver medal in figure skating at the Special Olympics

World Games last March 2025. His journey from Beacon to the Olympics exemplifies perseverance and determination, with the support of a dedicated coach, Deirdre Bonanno, who, coincidentally, works in the Beacon City School District office.

Chin has been skating for 12 years, pushing the boundaries of his abilities,

(Ryan Chin pictured on far left)

leading him to greatness this past Olympic season. His journey towards Olympic-level competing started at McCann Ice Arena of Poughkeepsie, where Ryan participated in a Sunday therapeutic class. He was introduced to Bonanno, a coach at the facility who has an immense background in figure skating, starting at the age

*Continued on page 4*

## Help a Beacon Family Rebuild After Tragedy

A Beacon family is facing unimaginable loss after a tragic house fire took place on April 15. Eugene Murphy, a great-grandfather to Beacon

High School student Markus Louis, passed away in the fire. Louis himself suffered severe burns and is hospitalized. The family was unable to salvage

their belongings as their home and car were lost in the flames. A GoFundMe has been created with the family's approval to help them rebuild their lives. Please consider donating or sharing through the following QR code. Your support can make a meaningful difference during this difficult time.



# It's Okay Not to Know

The Future May Be Daunting, but It Doesn't Have To Be

By Madison Abrahamson

The 2024-25 school year has flown by, leaving many of us scrambling to catch up with this new chapter. As exciting as summer may be, our beloved Class of 2025 is about to become full-fledged adults, stepping into the world amidst uncertain times.

That may sound terrifying to some and exhilarating to others. Either way, they're about to leave the nest and start choosing their own

paths. Many seniors—and even some juniors—are alarmed by how quickly time is moving and unsure of what comes next. Here's the truth: It's OK not to know.

Many of you will head off to college without a clear plan, and that's completely normal. According to the University of Florida, an estimated 20% to 50% of students enter college undecided, and up to 75% report changing their major at least once.

College is a flexible environment where you can reshape your goals and explore new interests. So if it feels like everyone around you

already knows exactly what they'll be doing five years from now—trust me, they don't.

After graduation, plans will change. Friends will part ways. Responsibilities will pile up. You might not always know how to navigate it all—and that's OK. This uncertainty is a rite of passage and will help shape you into the person you're meant to become.

So instead of stressing about the unknown, remind yourself that the next step isn't the final one. You're young, and there's so much time to chase your goals and discover what truly excites you. Don't limit yourself in the name of stability. Give yourself the freedom to grow.

# Did You KNOW?

By Nadeen Ahmed

- Mr. Glynn wants to open a pizzeria after he retires from teaching.
- Ms. Groat writes horror stories and romanticised poetry. She has been published twice in literary magazines and won third place in a college literary competition.



# Ms. Malin the Retiree

Retiring After 35 Years of Teaching in Rombout Middle School

By Zoöy Dedring

The sky over the Beacon City School District will dim just a little at the end of this school year, as another star prepares to leave. Ms. Malin, a longtime science teacher at Rombout Middle School, will retire after 35 years of teaching.

Her career has spanned a juvenile detention center, middle school classrooms, and—her personal fa-

vorite—preschools, where she introduced young children to exotic animals. Now, she says it's finally time to kick back and relax.

Where to? When asked about her retirement plans, Ms. Malin shared dreams of traveling to the Galápagos Islands or setting off on a cruise to Antarctica. Eventually, she hopes to settle on a goat and crop farm.

Ms. Malin recalled a time working as a researcher in a lab—before quickly realizing it wasn't for her. "I couldn't stand being inside all day long," she said. It was her

mother who encouraged her to pursue teaching, despite her initial hesitations. That nudge changed everything. "I ended up absolutely adoring the profession," she said.

As she reminisced and prepared to say goodbye, Ms. Malin shared, "I will miss being a part of a large group doing something fun." She has been a beacon of understanding, guided by the philosophy: "Kids will make mistakes—that's how they grow."

Her presence will be deeply missed, but her legacy lives on in every student she inspired. We wish Ms. Malin the best of luck on her next endeavors.

- Dr. Edwards ran Division I Track and Field at New Mexico State University. She ran for the 2008 Olympic Relay coach Orin Richburg (Yes, the year both US teams dropped the baton). Because of this, she was able to meet track legends Maurice Greene and Michael Johnson.



# Supplies

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ucation.

Recognizing the critical role her mother played in her academic journey, Green is now committed to giving back. In the first of the three years the fundraiser has been held, she helped approximately 200

children gain access to schooling.

While Green's contributions have made a meaningful and lasting impact, she hopes to expand the program even more. Green believes that her community in Beacon can extend its generosity to support the children of Jamaica.

Scan the following QR to donate and give the gift

of education.



# The Clubhouse Conundrum

Why Is There a Decline in Membership and How Do We Reverse It?

By Marisah George

Adventure Club. Chess Club. Fashion Club. Beacon High School offers a wide variety of clubs for students of all interests. Whether you enjoy going on field trips, writing or coding, there's a club waiting for you.

However, many clubs across the school have noticed low attendance. Theoretically, these clubs should be filled with students. So why aren't they?

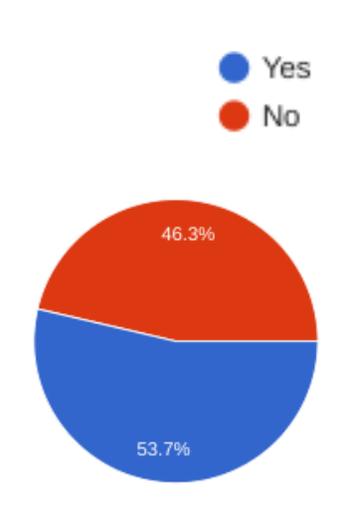
Could students be too busy with sports, jobs or schoolwork? Perhaps. Is there a general decline in interest? Possibly. But the main reason may be a simple one: lack of awareness. Many clubs struggle with membership because students don't know they exist.

In a recent survey of 41 BHS students, results showed that club awareness is not as widespread as one might expect. Some clubs, such as Adventure Club and the school newspaper, are well known by 95.1% and 82.9% of respondents, respectively—likely due to the newspaper's school-wide presence and the Adventure Club's field trips.

Other clubs, however, such as Fashion Club and Art Club, are unfamiliar to 46.3% and 43.9% of students, respectively. The first step toward increasing membership is getting the word out.

It's not just about knowing a club exists—it's also about understanding what it offers. One Art Club member described the club as "a great experience for everyone." They noted field trips to the Garrison Art Center and Roll Out in the Yard, an event where

Did you know we have a fashion club, and what it does? Results from BHS students:



"various artists gather with their own linoleum or wood carvings, and a steamroller is used to make ink prints on paper."

The student also commented on a noticeable drop in participation: "A month into the year, the number of members is cut in half." They attributed the decline to both scheduling conflicts and lack of promotion. So how can this be addressed?

Students surveyed offered several suggestions: more school wide announcements, distributing posters, and having teachers and guidance counselors help spread the word. One student suggested clubs set up booths before or after school to showcase what they offer. Booths, they believe, can spark interest and increase visibility.

If you're interested in seeing the full list of clubs, visit [beaconk12.org](http://beaconk12.org), go to the Beacon High School page, and click on "Clubs and Student Organizations" under Services. Go out and get involved—our clubs need you!

# Movie Review: Iron Man (2008)

By Prince Langford-Jones

Jon Favreau's Iron Man, released in 2008, is a milestone superhero film that launched the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and introduced audiences to the charismatic playboy Tony Stark, portrayed by Robert Downey Jr. The film impressed not only with its thrilling action scenes and visual effects but also with its deep character development, humor, and strong performances.

The story follows Tony Stark, a wealthy, brilliant weapons manufacturer who is kidnapped by terrorists and ordered to build a deadly missile. Instead, he constructs a suit of armor that allows him to escape captivity. Upon returning to the United States, Stark begins to reevaluate his role in the world and vows to atone for his past by using his genius for the greater good. However, he faces obstacles from both corporate adversaries and his personal demons.

Downey's performance is the heart of Iron Man. He portrays Stark with effortless charm, sharp wit, and palpable flaws, bringing a fresh, relatable edge to the

character. His humor and vulnerability make Stark one of the most compelling characters in modern superhero cinema. Co-stars Gwyneth Paltrow and Jeff Bridges provide strong support, adding depth to a story that primarily focuses on Tony Stark's transformation.

The special effects, particularly the design of the Iron Man suit, are groundbreaking for their time. The film's action sequences are hard-hitting and engaging, yet they never overshadow the character-driven narrative. Favreau strikes a perfect balance between spectacle and substance, making the movie accessible to both comic book fans and casual audiences.

Ultimately, Iron Man is a wildly successful blend of superhero spectacle and character-driven drama. It marked a turning point in comic book cinema, laying the foundation for the MCU, which continues to captivate audiences worldwide more than 15 years later. Through its ups and downs, Iron Man surpassed all expectations, paving the way for an iconic franchise and solidifying its place as a cinematic achievement.



# Review: All Things Must Pass by George Harrison

By Liliana Rybak

In the midst of the chaos of the 1960s and '70s, George Harrison's album *All Things Must Pass* was a breath of fresh air. It was the first solo work to come from a former Beatle after the band broke up just months earlier.

GEORGE HARRISON  
ALL THINGS MUST PASS



"I'd Have You Anytime," the opening track on the album, was co-written with Bob Dylan, one of the most influential artists of the time. The song was written about Harrison's budding friendship with Dylan. Harrison's wife, Olivia, wrote in her book *Living*

in the *Material World* that the lyric, "Let me in here, I know I've been here, let me into your heart," was written specifically for Dylan. At the time, the two musicians were just beginning to connect, and Dylan was going through a difficult period in his life. He came across as quiet and reserved in their performances together. The song was Harrison's way of encouraging him to open up.

In an interview about the album, Olivia Harrison said: "You know, they say in this life, you have to perfect one human relationship in order to really love God. You practice loving God by loving another human, and by giving unconditional love. George's most important relationships were really conducted through their music and their lyrics."

Before I truly listened to the lyrics, I was first drawn to the chord progression in "The Ballad of Sir Frankie

Crisp." It has a beautiful melody that evokes a sense of nostalgia, with guitar reverb that gives the song a magical quality.

What's heartwarming about this track is that it was written for Sir Frank Crisp, the original owner of Friar Park, the estate Harrison purchased in 1970. Olivia Harrison told *The Sun* on June 12, 2009: "I love that song. George was a young man—aged 27—when he bought it. The garden was derelict and overgrown. It would take a rare person to look at that and say, 'This is great.' But he just set about restoring it. It's really a beautiful, beautiful place and it was just about doing it for the love of it."

Many people don't know that Harrison had a deep passion for gardening and restoring the house. His wife recalled that he would spend hours outside and felt closest to God when he was in nature. "Anything that gave him the opportunity to transcend mundane life was where he wanted to be," she said.

## Blades of Brilliance

(from page 1)

of 4. In training for the games, Ryan worked with several coaches, adapting to different coaching styles while picking up a little of everyone's strengths and techniques. Chin steadily bonded with Bonanno, who accompanied him to Turin, Italy, where he competed.

Needless to say, Bonanno is over-the-moon proud to be coaching the Olympic champion. "He met Olympian Nancy Kerrigan, coming home to tell us that he was taking lessons with Olym-

pian Paul Wylie in Lake Placid", she recalls with undoubted pride, "but I guess the most memorable moment was when we got the call". The call that Chin was selected for the winter games was surreal for the athlete and coach pair, as they had been working together long before the possibility was ever considered.

Not only can Chin check off the dream of being an Olympic athlete, but he can also proudly say he has indulged in true Italian cuisine, as his lesser-known interest is cooking. His journey is an inspiration to any

athlete who dreams of reaching new heights, regardless of the obstacles they face. And now, thanks to his dedication, and Bonanno's coaching, he's standing proudly on the world stage, a silver medalist at the Special Olympics World Games.



# Dr. BHS

Dear Dr. BHS,

I genuinely don't know if I'm going to be able to make it through the rest of the year. I'm so tired of the work and it's like I just don't even care anymore about my academics, yet I do at the same time. Many of my friends are feeling the same way and are calling this feeling "burnout" or something? I really don't know but do you have any advice on how to keep up with my assignments? Thanks.

From,

Jaq98

Dear Jaq98,

The year is about to come to an end so it's not surprising that you may feel burnt out, however it is important to understand that all your actions have consequences; for example, the colleges that you're aiming for might only accept students with a certain GPA. If you allow your grades to plummet, you might not be seen as an acceptable student for the school which would deter your application. It feels bad now, but it's important to avoid letting temporary feelings affect your long-term future. Setting goals while creating a time frame to complete your assignments each day may help you accomplish more throughout the day. Before completely locking in, it's good to take some time to yourself in order to give your brain a break. If absolutely necessary, it may be fitting to take a planned mental health day; no more than once a quarter. Talking to supportive people you trust or hanging out with friends can also boost your motivation. Good luck and finish strong!

From,

Dr. BHS

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~ We are always looking for new members. Join today!

## Club Highlight: Art Club

Whether you are interested in working on an individual project or a larger group collaboration, Art Club is for you. Meetings are held with Mr. Perez on Wednesdays after school in room D155.



## The Great Gatsby

Broadway Musical Leaves Students in Awe

By Piper Bruno

The chorus, band and drama club attended a Broadway production of *The Great Gatsby* on March 20th. The show received high praise from students for its stunning sets and beautiful costumes, which captured the essence of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel. Junior Khiana Nicholson shared her thoughts on the experience during a recent interview.

**Q- What was your favorite part of this trip?**

A- My favorite part of the trip was going to Raising Cane's. We were free to go anywhere to eat during lunch time, and my group decided to go to the Raising Cane's in Times Square. It was kind of overrated, but I had a lot of fun because I'd never been there before. I also enjoyed the show

so much; it was so cool. The singing and acting was phenomenal, and the set was like nothing I had ever seen before.

**Q- Do you think this musical captured the essence of the novel?**

A- I think it did, though they

did miss a few key details of the book. They did an amazing job, and the ending was well done.

**Q- What was your favorite part of the show?**

A- The sets were incredible!



## Inspired to Teach

Ms. Veltri's Journey to Teaching

By Madison Flager

One day, you think you know exactly how you feel: math is hard, school is boring. But one person can change your perspective. For Ms. Veltri, one of Beacon's math teachers, that person was her middle school math teacher, Mrs. Gillis.

Ms. Veltri always loved numbers, but Mrs. Gillis helped her fall in love with the idea of becoming a math teacher. Veltri recalls, "She was super high-energy and fun." Unlike other teachers, it seemed like Mrs. Gillis truely

cared, wanted to be there, and genuinely wanted to help her students. She made class engaging by incorporating games and group activities. Now, Veltri strives to bring that same teaching style into her own math classes.

Although math had always been a passion for Veltri, her path to becoming a teacher wasn't straightforward. During her senior year of high school, she discovered an interest in physical therapy through an internship. However, she eventually decided not to pursue that career. She then enrolled at Westchester Community College for a year as an accounting major.

At SUNY New Pal-

tz, Veltri joined the accounting club but soon realized it wasn't the right fit. That's when she decided to pursue math education instead.

Today, at just 28 years old, Ms. Veltri is one of Beacon's finest math teachers. It's inspiring to think that, without her middle school teacher's influence, she might never have found her true calling.



# A Digital AP Future

AP Tests Are Now Digital—Is This Change Welcomed?

By: Zenia Haris

This May, standard paper testing for AP exams is being replaced with a fully digital experience through the Bluebook testing application.

According to a College Board spokesperson, 2024 has seen a noticeable increase in security threats, including a rise in students purchasing stolen exam materials. The move to digital is intended to better protect the integrity of the exams—but how are students responding to the change?

While the shift may seem as simple as using a keyboard instead of a pen, for many students, it completely

changes the testing experience.

## Anonymous Student Input Q&As:

**Student 1:**

**Q: Would you rather take a physical or digital AP exam?**

A: I would rather take a physical exam. Taking a three hour long test on a screen makes my mind slowly shut off, whereas when I take it on paper I feel more focused. Also, issues like misclicking could arise on digital exams which are never fun.

**Q: What are your thoughts on AP exams becoming digital?**

A: Mostly against it. I see how it's believed to be easier with grading and such but physical exams are far superior.

**Q: Why do you like/dislike that AP exams are digital now?**

A: I dislike it, mostly because I find answering questions and

annotating to be much easier on physical exams rather than digital exams.

**Student 2:**

**Q: Would you rather take a physical or digital AP exam?**

A: I would prefer a physical exam, as it allows me to annotate directly on the passages and take notes more easily.

**Q: What are your thoughts on AP exams becoming digital?**

A: I am generally opposed to AP exams transitioning to a digital format. While typing is faster and may make it easier to complete essays, I personally believe that I do better when writing on paper. Overall, I prefer taking physical tests.

**Q: Why do you like/dislike that AP exams are digital now?**

A: I don't like the setup; not having all of my materials right in front of me. I also think it's more difficult to annotate online versus just being able to write anywhere on my paper. It

also adds a lot more pressure and anxiety, especially with the clock counting down.

Even though these mentioned features are available in digital form, many students find it easier to highlight, take notes, and overall absorb information if it's in front of them physically instead of through a screen. Only time will tell how a fully digital experience impacts the grades of students in the future, however. Despite many grievances, it is undeniable that academic integrity is paramount.

## May Birthdays:

- Ashly Hala - May 2nd
- Charles Barone - May 4th
- MaryAnn Hamilton - May 15th
- Laura Harriott - May 21st
- Angelina Mason - May 24th

# Puzzles

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E U Z E I S S R R G  
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 S G N I N N I G E B

Word Bank:

- 1. Exams
- 2. Regents
- 3. Spring
- 4. Sunshine
- 5. Semester
- 6. Flowers
- 7. Greenery
- 8. Beginnings
- 9. Hope
- 10. Memorial

# Regents Review Schedule

## English:

- 6:35-7:20 AM with Mrs. Hamburger in room B111 on 5/21, 5/22, 6/3, 6/4, 6/5, 6/12, 6/13, 6/16
- 2:20-3:30 with Mr. Glassman in room B134 on 4/23, 4/24, 4/29, 5/1, 5/6, 5/8, 5/13, 5/15, 5/20

## Foreign Language

- Checkpoint B-Italian at 2:20-3:20 with Ms. Calaf in room C146 on 4/1, 4/8, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13,
- Checkpoint B-Spanish at 2:20-3:20 with Ms. Calaf in room C146 on 4/2, 4/9, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14

## Math

- Geometry at 2:20-3:20 with Ms. Veltri in room C230 on 4/1, 4/8, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/21, 5/27, 5/28, 6/3, 6/4
- Algebra at 2:20-3:30 with Ms. Delayo in room C232 on 4/2, 4/9, 4/10, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/8, 5/12, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4
- Algebra at 2:20-3:20 with

Mr. Henry in room C232 on 4/3, 4/8, 4/24, 4/29, 5/1, 5/6, 5/13, 5/15, 5/20, 5/22, 5/29, 6/3

- Algebra 2 at 2:20-3:20 with Mr. Matus in room C234 on 4/9, 4/22, 4/30, 5/6, 5/14, 5/20, 5/21, 5/27, 5/28, 6/3, 6/4

## Science

- Chemistry at 2:20-3:20 with Ms. Alfonso and Mr. Baker in room C239 on 4/8, 4/28, 4/29, 5/12, 5/13, 5/14, 5/19, 5/21, 5/27, 5/28, 6/4, 6/9
- Earth Science at 2:20-3:20 with Mr. Sansone in room C135 and Mr. Levy in room C237 on 4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/29, 4/30, 5/1, 5/6, 5/7, 5/8, 5/13, 5/14, 5/15
- Living Environment at 2:20-3:20 with Mr. Barone in room C229 on 4/2, 4/9, 4/23, 4/28, 4/30, 5/7, 5/12, 5/14, 5/19
- LER at 2:15-2:45 with Ms. Finton in room C125 on 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/27, 6/3,

6/9

- Physics at 2:30-3:30 with Ms. Hawks in room C231 on 4/8, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/21, 5/27, 6/3

## Social Studies

- Global History and Geography at 2:20-3:20 with Mr. Steltz in room B221

and Mr. Kotchie in room B217 on 4/2, 4/10, 4/23, 5/1, 5/7, 5/15, 5/21, 5/28, 5/29, 6/4, 6/5, 6/12

- US History at 2:15-3:15 with Mr. Schetter and Ms. Rowland in room B214 on 4/233, 4/30, 5/6, 5/7, 5/12, 5/14, 5/19, 5/27, 5/28

# AP Exam Review Sessions

- AP Biology with Ms. Thomas at 2:20-3:20 in room C141 on 4/3,4/8, 4/10,4/22, 4/24 ,4/29
- AP Music Theory with Mrs. Ryan at 2:15-3:30 in the band room on 5/1, 5/5, 5/7
- AP Drawing with Mr. Lyon at 2:20-3:50 in room D149 on 4/9, 5/1, 5/5, 5/7
- AP English Language and Composition with Mr. Dickinson at 2:15-3:15 in room B115 on 4/2, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/12
- AP English Literature and Composition with Mr. Arbor in room B126 on 4/8, 4/24, 4/29,
- AP Computer Science with Ms. Vakirtzis at 2:20-3:20 in room B216 on 4/1, 4/8, 4/22, 4/29,
- AP Environmental Science with Ms. Hala at 2:15-3:15 in room C231 on 3/27
- AP African American Studies with Ms. Hammitt at 2:20-3:20 in room B215 on 4/7, 4/23, 4/30
- AP United States History with Ms. Clemens at 2:20-3:00 in B222 on 4/3, 4/9, 4/10, 4/23, 4/24, 4/30, 5/1, 5/7
- AP Human Geography with Mr. Burns at 2:20-3:20 in room B220 on 4/2, 4/9, 4/22, 4/24, 4/29, 5/1

