



## COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

Nine of our amazing seniors gathered in the Tween Room for our annual College Signing Day — and the energy was electric! Before revealing their college decisions, the event kicked off with a special guest speaker: Sabrina, one of our alumni who just completed her sophomore year at the University of Hartford.

Sabrina reflected on how quickly time has flown since her own Signing Day and shared heartfelt advice with the seniors, encouraging them to get involved on campus and make the most of their college experience. Her update was both inspiring and relatable.

Then came the moment everyone was waiting for — our seniors took center stage to announce where they're headed this fall and what they plan to major in. This year's graduates are off to an impressive list

of schools, including the University of Hartford, Penn State, St. John's, UCONN, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Cortland, and Howard University.

The celebration continued with a fun Q&A session where the seniors shared insights about their college prep journey and answered some lighthearted questions like, "Can you do your own laundry?" and "Who's most likely to cry on move-in day?" Laughter filled the room, reminding everyone of the tight bond these students share.

This is a truly special group of young people, and while we're sad to see them go, we're incredibly proud of all they've accomplished. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 — you will be missed!







**GRENVILLE BAKER  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

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## NORTHWELL HEALTH VS. GBBGC BASKETBALL GAME

On May 15, we hosted a fun and spirited basketball game against our amazing partners at Northwell Health. It was a close and competitive match from start to finish—but in the final moments, Northwell pulled ahead to take the win!

While the game brought plenty of excitement, the most meaningful part of the evening came during a special presentation: one of our Club seniors, Abraham Diaz Gomez, was recognized and awarded a scholarship check from Northwell Health. It was a powerful reminder of how partnerships can create life-changing opportunities for our youth.

We are incredibly grateful for our ongoing collaboration with Northwell Health and the lasting impact it continues to have on our community.







## CELEBRATING OUR YOY: VALENTINA CANALES SHINES AT THE NYS COMPETITION

Grenville Baker's Youth of the Year, Valentina Canales, was selected as a Finalist at the New York State Youth of the Year Competition!

Valentina stood out from a talented group of 14 candidates representing Boys & Girls Clubs across New York State. She impressed the judges through two rounds of interviews and delivered a powerful, memorized 3+ minute speech—demonstrating poise, passion, and leadership.

She advanced to the Final Four, alongside youth from Rochester, Kips Bay, and the Capital Area, and was ultimately named one of the Top Three Finalists in the entire state.

During the Dinner Celebration Event, Valentina graciously volunteered to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and followed it with a moving rendition of the National Anthem. Later, she joined fellow finalists—Melachi from Rochester and Kiara from Kips Bay—in sharing heartfelt speeches about what the Boys & Girls Club means to them.

Though the state title went to Melachi, who plans to attend Howard University to study Sports Medicine (congratulations, Melachi!), Valentina remains



a true champion in every sense of the word. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to support her college education in Fall 2026.

This experience was about much more than a title. Valentina gained confidence and public speaking experience, built connections with inspiring peers and professionals, spoke eloquently

with the Market President and Publisher of the Albany Business Review, discovering their shared love of music, enjoyed meaningful conversations about leadership and mentorship with Club staff, and most importantly committed herself to paying it forward for the next generation of girls and young women.

Youth of the Year isn't just a title—it's a call to Lead. Succeed. Inspire. And Valentina has done exactly that.

We are so proud of you, Valentina!





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## THE WELLNESS CENTER IS BACK!

We're excited to welcome Melissa Mancuso to our team to run the Wellness Center! With many years of teaching experience, she has hit the ground running—bringing energy, empathy, and structure to our K–5 and teen programming.

Melissa has been a huge support to staff, stepping in to lead K–5 members once homework is completed. She's introduced programs like yoga, helping younger members develop focus and self-regulation skills in a fun and accessible way. She has also taken the lead on the SMART Moves program, delivering dynamic lessons that keep kids engaged.

One of the key challenges our team has faced is helping members build peer relationships. Melissa has made this a core part of her approach, weaving social development into her programming to ensure kids get to know one another and build stronger bonds.



She hasn't stopped there. Melissa has made a strong effort to engage with our teens as well. Each day starts with open hours where they can drop in, connect, and decompress. Every Friday, she leads mindfulness sessions, something our teens have responded to with enthusiasm. They couldn't wait to sign up!

Our Wellness Center/SMART Moves programming is made possible in part thanks to funding from the Project THRIVE grant through the New York State Alliance.

## SPEAKER SERIES: HOW TO AVOID SENIOR CITIZEN SCAMS

On Wednesday, May 7, as part of our Community Hub Initiative, we proudly hosted Nassau County Assistant District Attorney Maureen McCormack, Bureau Chief of Major Financial Frauds, for the launch of our Speaker Series.

ADA McCormack delivered a compelling PowerPoint presentation packed with practical and timely advice on how to recognize and protect against scams—particularly those targeting older adults. The event welcomed over 25 senior citizens, a group often targeted by increasingly sophisticated online and phone fraud schemes.

As financial scams continue to evolve, the insights and resources shared by the Nassau County District Attorney's Office are an essential tool in empowering our residents and enhancing community safety.

We thank ADA McCormack for sharing her expertise and helping us take an important step forward in supporting and protecting our senior community members.







## CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY AT THE CLUB!

Mother's Day is a cherished occasion to honor the incredible women who nurture, support, and inspire us. This year, the Club made sure the day didn't go unnoticed, hosting a heartwarming Mother's Day Celebration for the moms of our Club kids.

The gym was transformed into a festive and welcoming space where families could create lasting memories together. Moms and their children enjoyed making bracelets and other crafts at beautifully decorated tables. Keystone members played a big part in the event by preparing bracelet supply bags for those who couldn't attend, ensuring everyone felt included.

Adding to the excitement, a special guest joined us with an array of self-care products and even hosted raffles for lucky winners. A photo booth was available for families to capture the joy of the day, creating keepsakes they can treasure.

One of the most memorable moments was a lively performance by some of our talented members. Their energy lit up the room and inspired the moms to get up and dance too, turning the celebration into a fun-filled afternoon of smiles and laughter.

We were thrilled to welcome 30 moms to this special event, and we're already looking forward to the Father's Day celebration. Here's to honoring all the amazing caregivers in our Club community!



Stay connected about upcoming events at the Club—like our Old Fashioned Clam Bake August 23! Visit [www.gbbgc.org](http://www.gbbgc.org) for the latest updates or follow us on social @grenvillebaker.



**GRENVILLE BAKER  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**



# Old Fashioned Clam Bake

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BAILEY ARBORETUM!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025  
4:00P.M.-8:00P.M.**



**Bailey  
Arboretum**

194 Bayville Rd, Locust Valley, NY 11560

**\$150 per person**

**Menu:** Lobster, Clams, Oysters, Corn, Potatoes,  
Sausage & Peppers, Salad, Dessert, Wine, Beer, Good Friends,  
a Beautiful Sunset and so much more!

**Reserve Your Spot Today!  
Limited Number of Tickets Sold.**

Adults Only. Tickets not available at the door.

Visit [www.GBBGC.org](http://www.GBBGC.org) to purchase tickets  
or call Stephanie Moran at 516-759-5437 x219

Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club  
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