GRENVILLE BAKER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

PILOT BE CONNECTED

February 2026

SPARKING CREATIVITY THROUGH STEM: WINTER IMAGINATION STATION

Imagination Station, our STEM-based enrichment program, is in full swing with the Winter Imagination Program for 3rd–5th graders. Held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and led by Jordan, each session is packed with hands-on learning, creativity, and teamwork.

Participants collaborate on engaging projects, many of which are generously donated to our K–2 groups. In one recent activity, students used recycled materials such as cardboard, aluminum foil, string, and markers to design and build their own bowling games. These creations were then shared with our younger members, who enjoy playing with them after completing their assignments.

Through innovation and collaboration, Imagination Station continues to inspire problem-solving skills while fostering a strong sense of community within the Club.

TEENS DIVE BACK INTO THE KELP PROJECT

After a successful experience last year, our teens are excited to continue the kelp project in partnership with Kids in Nature.

During the first week of the new year, the group visited the docks in Oyster Bay to check on the growing kelp. Three returning participants eagerly joined the trip, curious to see the progress since last season. They were greeted by Dave, who shared the exciting news that the kelp had grown significantly. When measured, it had reached seven inches from the line.

Despite the chilly weather, the teens were fully engaged and enthusiastic. On the ride back to the Club, they reflected on last year's project and shared their excitement for the months ahead, noting how meaningful it feels to take part in an activity that supports the environment. One participant even provided an update at the Keystone meeting to encourage more teens to get involved.

Stay connected about upcoming events at the Club– Visit www.gbbgc.org for the latest updates or follow us on social @grenvillebaker.

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INSPIRING EMPATHY: A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION ABOUT BULLYING

On January 9th, our K–5 program members had the valuable opportunity to welcome Joseph A. Salamone, Founder and Executive Director of the Long Island Coalition Against Bullying, to the Club. He led an engaging and thought-provoking presentation focused on bullying in all its forms.

The cafeteria was arranged to encourage active participation, creating an interactive environment where members felt comfortable sharing their thoughts. Through guided questions and real-life scenarios, Mr. Salamone encouraged students to reflect on their own behaviors and consider how their words and actions may impact others. He also challenged them to think about how the same action can be perceived differently depending on the person and situation.

To ensure the discussion was age-appropriate and meaningful for everyone, two sessions were held—one for students in grades 3–5 and another for our kindergarten through 2nd grade members. Both groups were given the opportunity to listen, ask questions, and participate in thoughtful conversations tailored to their developmental level.

It was a productive and impactful afternoon that reinforced the importance of kindness, empathy, and understanding. We are hopeful that the lessons shared will continue to inspire our members to treat one another with greater compassion each day.

KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR AT MADAME TUSSAUDS

The new year began with excitement as City Club took ten kids on a memorable night at Madame Tussauds in New York City. The group explored the museum, snapping photos with lifelike wax figures of their favorite celebrities and enjoying laughter-filled moments from room to room.

Afterward, the teens enjoyed a meal from Shake Shack and took a stroll to nearby Times Square. Many were thrilled to see the New Year's Ball for the first time and were amazed by its size and sparkle.

It was a fun-filled evening that brought smiles, laughter, and an unforgettable start to the new year for everyone at City Club.

CELEBRATING HEART HEALTH MONTH WITH GLEN COVE HOSPITAL

On February 10, more than 25 parents and community members attended a Glen Cove Hospital–sponsored discussion on the health and cardiac risks facing young athletes. The program featured Dr. Brittney Grella, MD, and Dr. Sophie Golden, DO, with Dr. Danielle Turner Cosci, Director of Health, P.E. & Athletics at Locust Valley CSD, highlighting school protocols and how staff training recently helped save a student's life during a medical emergency. We are excited to partner with Glen Cove Hospital for additional Community Cares Conversations throughout 2026.

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BUILDING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE ON THE COURT

We kicked off our instructional basketball program for grades K–2, welcoming more than 100 young athletes. This six-week program focuses on teaching the fundamentals of the game through fun, active drills and games.

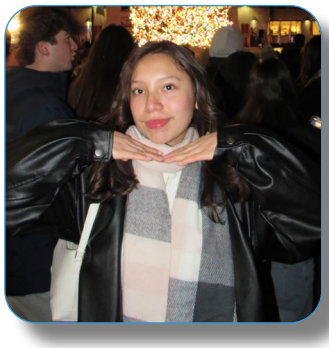
Each session begins with a dynamic warm-up, followed by interactive games like Red Light, Green Light and Pac-Man Tag to build dribbling skills and keep energy high. Players then rotate through stations to practice key skills such as shooting, lay-ups, passing, rebounding, and one-on-one play.

Classes wrap up with scrimmages and favorite group games, giving everyone something to look forward to. It's been a great start, with participants growing in confidence, teamwork, and love for the game.

If you have a child looking to get involved in athletics, contact our Director of Sports and Fitness, Will Cohn at 516-676-1460 ext. 224.

JANUARY MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Tween: Giulinani
Giulinani showed great growth in January. He is active in Torch Club and Passport to Manhood, always helpful and inclusive with his peers. He stood out in the art room for his creativity and encouragement of others, and even started his own drawing/Minecraft club, creating a fun, welcoming space for everyone.



Teen: Rose
Rose began coming to the Club last year and was very shy at first, but this year she has truly stepped out of her comfort zone and built friendships in Keystone. She participates in every event with a big smile and always takes the time to say thank you for the opportunity, sharing how excited she is for the next one. Rose is respectful, hardworking, and a joy to speak with.

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MICHAEL FREY OF 528 COLLECTIBLES

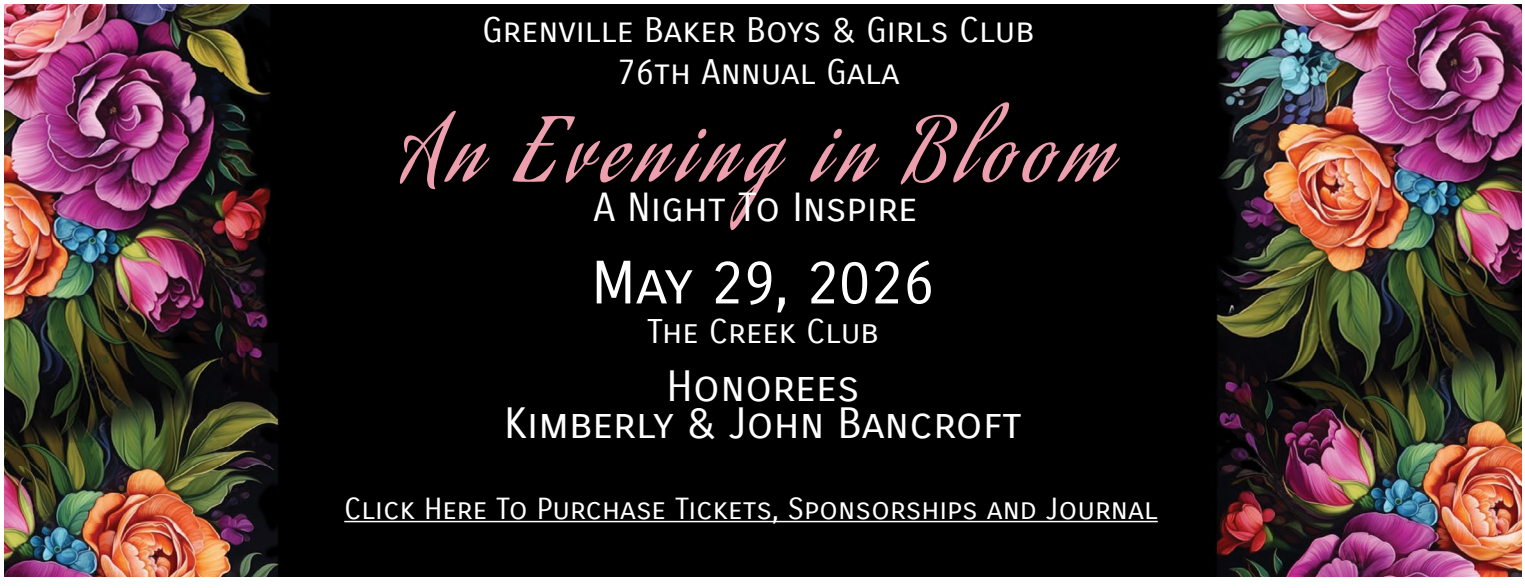
Michael Frey

Michael Frey is more than a valued member of our esteemed Aviator Circle — he is an alum whose generosity and leadership continue to make a meaningful impact.

As a proud Boys & Girls Club alum, Michael credits the Club with playing a pivotal role in his childhood. It provided a safe place to go after school, mentors who guided and encouraged him, and friendships that lasted well beyond his early years. The foundation he built there continues to influence both his personal and professional life.

Today, Michael and his wife, Adrienne, are raising their four children in the same community that helped shape him. Now second-generation Club kids, his children are experiencing many of the same opportunities, relationships, and lifelong memories he once did. Watching them grow through the Club has made his commitment to supporting it even more personal and meaningful.

Michael is also the co-owner of 528 Collectibles LLC, a sports card and memorabilia company built around live online sales and authentic collector engagement. Since launching, the business has expanded into a full-scale operation serving collectors nationwide — all while maintaining the welcoming, community-centered feel of a neighborhood card shop. That sense of connection and belonging is something Michael intentionally cultivates, both in business and in service.

"Supporting the Boys & Girls Club isn't just about giving back — it's about helping ensure kids have a safe place, strong role models, and opportunities to grow," Michael shares. "Being involved as both a parent and an alum makes that mission especially personal."

Aviator Circle Spotlight: Each month, we're proud to highlight members of our Aviator Circle—a distinguished group of donors whose generosity fuels our mission year-round. These dedicated supporters sponsor three or more events or programs annually, including the Gala, Golf Outing, Basketball Program, and Day for Kids. Their ongoing support makes a lasting impact on the lives of the young people we serve. Interested in joining? Contact Tara Butler-Sahai at (516) 759-5437 ext. 214 or tara.butler-sahai@gbbgc.org.