BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO STRICT N

FALL EDITION - DECEMBER 2016



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Christopher M. Tully, EdS, Superintendent of Schools



It's hard to believe that we have completed the first three months of the 2016-17 school year. Parents and students alike are probably anxious to review report cards to assess the progression of learning. It's a perfect time for our parents to sit down with their children to discuss their achievements thus far and to set goals together for the remainder of the school year. However, it's also an important time to reflect upon the fact that many concepts we teach and learn cannot be easily measured—specifically character.

You see, this time of the year allows us to stop and think about that for which we are thankful in our lives. For me, that means ap-

preciating the caliber of the young men and women we are shaping for the future. With all of the chaos in the media, it's easy for young adults to get lost. However, Mahatma Gandhi once wrote, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I'm grateful that, in our district, students are finding themselves through community service.

For example, there's no greater service to others than being willing to sacrifice life itself for our nation's freedom. As I reflect on the last few months, I am most proud of how the children of Bergenfield honored our veterans at Bergenfield High School's Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. Our American heroes were presented with essays written by our students, which focused on what the Pledge of Allegiance means to them. One student from each grade level, grades 3–5, was chosen to present his/her interpretation to our veterans during a ceremony that also featured an outstanding performance by our world famous marching band.

Throughout the year, our staff ensures that there are many other opportunities for students to serve our community to learn valuable lessons beyond textbooks or technology. Students have been collecting non-perishable food and warm clothing for those in need over the last few months. They have also volunteered to serve food to the hungry at a local soup kitchen. Events and acts of kindness, such as these, demonstrate why Bergenfield is a special place. It also confirms what an outstanding job our parents are doing raising their children. Keep up the excellent work!

Of course, I need not look too far to find others who give way beyond 100% to create a better future for the children of Bergenfield. Our parents lose themselves every day in the hustle and bustle of making ends meet and modeling life's most important lessons. Many of you sacrifice much daily while striving to attain your personal and family goals. Yet, you remain active in education and diligently serve our schools. You encourage our children to continue growing and willingly cooperate as team members, working with our staff to continue our success. As you gather with family and friends this holiday season, it's my hope that YOU find yourself the recipient of much gratitude—you've certainly earned it. On behalf of the Board of Education, please accept our sincere wishes that your family enjoys a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.















IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Holiday Recess

Schools will close at 12:30pm on Friday, December 23rd and will re-open on Monday, January 2nd.

Martin Luther King Day

There will be no school for students on January 16th, as we will be holding professional development for the faculty and staff.

Inclement Weather

If schools must close, delay opening, or dismiss early due to inclement weather, we will continue to utilize our website, social media, and our Reverse 911 phone notification system to notify the community. Alternatively, you may tune in to FiOS1 News, News 12, FOX, and ABC on the television, or 1010 WINS (AM) and WCBS 101.1 (FM) on the radio. Please be sure your contact information is up-to-date by signing in to Blackboard Connect or by contacting your child's school.

Parent Conferences

Elementary

Marking Period 2
February 1st (5:30pm-7:30pm)
February 2nd (1:30pm-3:30pm)

Middle School

Marking Period 2
January 12th (4:00pm–6:00pm)

High School

*Marking Period 2*January 3rd (7:00pm–9:00pm)

DISTRICT NEWS

Families Turn Out for K-5 Math Night



Parents and students access new Everyday Math tools on laptops at Family Math Night.

Over 120 adults and children attended the Family Math Nights on November 29th and 30th. During the event, K-5 parents and students were introduced to the new interactive technology components of the Everyday Math program. The computer-based interface now allows students to play math games online, access information, and review skills covered in class with their parents at home. Families had time to play against each other while practicing math on the computers. Feedback from a follow-up survey showed that parents felt more comfortable working on math concepts with their children after attending.

Helping Those in Need



Volunteers prepare plates to serve those in need.

On November 20th, BHS students, staff, families, and friends volunteered alongside the Hospitality Ministry Team at Emmanuel Christian Church in Hackensack to serve a Thanksgiving meal to those less fortunate. Volunteers showed up in droves to provide donations of food, winter clothing, and blankets in addition to smiles and hospitality. Approximately 50 high school students participated, and over 350 meals were served!

High School Earns Bronze



The Superintendent and Board President accept the award.

This fall, Sustainable Jersey announced that Bergenfield High School achieved bronze certification for its sustainability efforts, making it the first school in Bergen County to be certified by the nonprofit organization. This year, the BHS Green Team enhanced existing conservation efforts, such as its recycling and Breakfast Before-the-Bell, and looks forward to implementing a food waste compost program and other environmental initiatives.

What Would You Do?



Students performing a skit on stage in front of the classroom.

This fall, the fifth grade students at Franklin School offered a program entitled, "What Would You Do?" The presentation featured a series of skits centered around overcoming harassment, intimidation, and bullying. These skits were presented to the various grade levels in the building, and included participation from the audience members. It was truly a learning experience for all involved.

A Thanksgiving Feast



Students sit down for a Thanksgiving-themed lunch.

On November 22nd, students at RWB participated in the Annual Thanksgiving Feast during lunch periods. Turkey and all the trimmings were available in addition to the regular lunch menu. The Multicultural Club, along with advisors Senora Churn and Madame Bacha, decorated the lunch areas for the festive day.



The cafeteria was decorated, and traditional foods were offered

DISTRICT NEWS

District and Special Guests Honor Local Veterans at Annual Appreciation Ceremony



United States Senator Bob Menendez speaks to the audience about the sacrifices of American Veterans.

On November 9th, the district held its annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony at Bergenfield High School. An audience of elementary students filled the bleachers of the gymnasium, as the powerful lesson of the afternoon focused on the many sacrifices that American servicemen and women had to make in order to secure our nation's freedom.

School administrators, board members, and local and state legislators were on hand to give thanks to the veterans of Bergenfield. In addition, winners of a district-wide essay contest in grades 3–5 read their winning works to the entire crowd. The students spoke eloquently and with confidence while sharing their compelling words. Throughout the ceremony, the BHS Marching Band performed patriotic songs, including the "Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." The event was capped off with a wonderful, impromptu speech by United States Senator Bob Menendez.

Riding In Style



Principal Mitchel, Julia, Rihanna, and Firefighter Brown.

On October 25th, two Lincoln School students had the honor of being driven to school on a fire truck! Kindergartner Julia Calingasan and fifth grader Rihanna Hernandez were district-wide Fire Prevention Poster Contest winners. In addition, the students received gift certificates from the Bergenfield Fire Department.

Raising Funds & Awareness



Mayor Schmelz, Mrs. Merlo, and students during the event.

On October 13th, the RWB Physical Education Department and Parents Association partnered to sponsor their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. All middle school students participated in the full-day event during their respective Phys Ed classes. Over \$350 was raised and donated to the American Cancer Society.





Jonathan Podwin playing "Taps" during the wreath lay



Samuel Baoas, Hoover School 3rd grader, reads his essay.

Artwork Selected for Exhibit



Jeremiah, with Principal Fleming, showing off his artwork.

Jeremiah Magnaye, fifth grade student at Hoover School, was one of thirty K-12 students in the state to have his artwork selected for display at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Winter Art Exhibition. The exhibition is a highly competitive, juried art competition, and will take place in Newark this month.

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