BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

WINTER EDITION - DECEMBER 2017



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Christopher M. Tully, EdD, Superintendent of Schools



The beginning of a new year is a great time to reflect and focus on what is truly important to us. To review our progress, we might focus on data, such as test scores and report cards. These measures are certainly important; however, I recently read a quote by Robert Baden-Powell that states, "The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others."

As parents, we may not realize it; but, when I speak to my own children—or to yours, as students—I learn that what brings them the most happiness is spending time with us... their parents. I know it certainly doesn't feel that way at times, but it's true.

In fact, the success of our schools is made possible because of the hard work of parents who "go beyond" to help shape our students. You are the first and most important teachers in their lives. I look to you for inspiration because it could be very easy to become distracted by our schedules, work, and the ever-present technologies that we all have in our lives. Yet, you always find the time to contribute, in so many ways, to our schools.

As you savor the joy of sitting at the table together this holiday season, my wish for the new year is that we all make a pledge to continue to have many distraction-free family dinners together in 2018. The simple act of enjoying stories of how our days unfolded leads to many of life's most important lessons being passed down from generation to generation.

You may not realize it, but from you so generously giving your time, our students have developed an outstanding sense of citizenship and character. Throughout the school year, they have participated in many projects designed to bring joy into the lives of others. 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. These acts of kindness highlight that Bergenfield is a great place to raise a family. It also reflects the tremendous job our parents are doing raising their children, because you personify the lifelong lesson of putting happiness into the lives of others.

Our students have also demonstrated that they are grateful to those who serve in our armed forces to keep our nation safe. In November, we honored our veterans at our annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. This year, our students presented essays which focused on what patriotism 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.

It's been an outstanding school year to date. As I reflect on the first quarter, I must say that I am very content. I rest well at night knowing that the future will be bright for Bergenfield graduates. Our students, staff, parents, and community are striving daily to truly deliver happiness to those in need. Nothing feels better than knowing that we are doing worthwhile work together. On behalf of the Board, 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 12:30 p.m. on Friday, December 22nd and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Martin Luther King Day

There will be no school for students on January 15th, as we will be holding professional development for the faculty and staff.

Inclement Weather

If we must close schools, 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 Parentlink.

Parent Conferences Elementary

2nd Trimester
January 31st (5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.)
February 1st (1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.)

Middle School

Marking Period 2
January 11th (4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.)

High School

Marking Period 2
January 3rd (7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.)

DISTRICT NEWS

Hoover School Artists Thrive in NJ Poster Contest



Valentina, Angelina, Luna, Rachael, and Kyle display their posters with their art teacher, Ms. Anolik.

Year after year, Hoover School students continue to have their artwork recognized in state and local competitions. This time, five 4th graders were named finalists in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's Annual Fourth Grade Poster Contest. Thirty-two students' posters from across that state were selected out of 4000+ entries. Hoover School had more finalists named this year than any other school district in NJ.

Congratulations to Rachael Hurtarte, Kyle Choonoo, Luna Palau, Valentina Vargas Felix, and Angelina Villatoro for their impressive artwork. Their work will be displayed on this year's Drug-Free NJ poster, which is distributed to all schools across the state.

Students Feed Those in Need



BHS senior Anthony Bencosme serving up a hot meal.

On November 19th, over 40 BHS students joined high school staff members to provide smiles and hospitality to the less fortunate at the Emmanuel Christian Church in Hackensack. Volunteers served Thanksgiving dinner those in need, and joined together to provide donations of winter clothing and blankets. The day prior, the BHS Action Team and RISE Club members decorated the church for the festivities.

Alumni Share College Stories



Over forty alumni shared their experiences at Alumni Day.

On November 22nd, dozens of graduates returned to BHS for Alumni Day. The panel of former students volunteered to share their college experiences with all students, grades 9–12, at the annual event. Alumni Day included a question and answer session that allowed high schoolers to get authentic feedback from current college students. Thank you to all the alumni who took time out of their busy schedules to make this day possible.

Reader Recognition Luncheon



A group of students pose with their principal, Mr. Mitchel

Lincoln School honored 100 of its students with gold medals and a luncheon. The ceremony rewarded those who showed tremendous reading scores and/or the most growth in Accelerated Reader for the first part of the school year. Accelerated Reader is a program designed to encourage and promote successful reading while tracking reading comprehension and measuring improvement.

Student for a Day



Mr. Biggins learns how to drum from a band student

On December 19th, RWB Principal, Mr. Biggins shadowed seventh grader Zhoie Quito—who won a writing contest earlier in the month—for the entire school day. The purpose was for Mr. Biggins to experience a typical day as a middle schooler while understanding the learning environment from a student's perspective.



Mr. Biggins joins Zhoie and friends for lunch.

DISTRICT NEWS

Local Vets Honored at District's Annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony



Veterans representing all branches of the military graced the audience with their presence.

On November 8th, the district hosted its annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony on the athletic field at Bergenfield High School. All staff and community members who served in the military were invited to attend the event as honorees.

The bleachers were filled with elementary students, grades 3-5, who took in the powerful lesson of the day. Many state, county, and local legislators and dignitaries were present to help pay tribute to our veterans. In addition, elementary students Christian Fabian, Rhayana Sales, and Valentina Martinez read their heartfelt, grade-level-winning letters to the veterans.

The keynote speaker for the event was Gold Star Dad John Wroblewski. Wroblewski spoke of the sacrifices many families, like his, have endured in order to protect our rights, freedom, and this great nation.

Jefferson & Franklin Students Score Big in WordMasters



Rhayana and Jullian proudly display their perfect scores.

Out of the 313 teams across the country participating in the Grade 5 Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge, the fifth graders from Jefferson School tied for 7th with a score of 180. In addition, two students—Rhayana Sales and Jullian Ecal-were two of only 25 fifth graders with perfect scores in the entire nation.



Franklin's perfect scorers—Sophia, Merinrose, and Melanie.

Meanwhile, at Franklin School, three students attained perfect scores. Melanie Flores was one of 86 fourth graders in the U.S. to achieve this level. Sophia Pages and Merinrose Jojy joined the Jefferson scholars in being listed among the limited group of 25 fifth grade students in the country to reach this accomplishment.



Gold Star Dad John Wroblewski gives an emotional spo





The BHS Marching Band performed several patriotic songs.

Family Math Night



December 20th, Hoover School students and their families were invited to attend Family Math Night. Together, they explored fun and innovative ways to reinforce math skills and concepts at home. During the event families solved problems and practiced critical thinking on various math concepts.

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