



Bordentown Regional School District The Bordentown Bulletin

Volume 1 ~ Issue 5
May 2016

Visit us on the web at www.bordentown.k12.nj.us

Superintendent's Office

Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer III

Two of the items that I wrote about last month have occurred. First, the Board of Education approved the district budget. The schools and central office are now busy putting everything into place so that we will be ready for the next school year. We are also beginning some preliminary planning for the 2017-18 school budget and looking for areas where we can provide the best educational experience at a reasonable price. The other item that was approved was a modification of the district calendar. Since we only used one of our "snow days" this year, we will now extend the Memorial Day vacation so that there is no school on Monday, May 30th and Tuesday, May 31st.

At our May 18th Board of Education meeting, the Board also approved the district's *Strategic Plan*. Over one hundred residents, faculty, and students worked over seven months to formulate a plan for moving the district forward. If you would like to see a copy of the plan it can be accessed under the *Quick Links* section of our homepage at www.bordentown.k12.nj.us.

Summer is right around the corner. There will be many activities happening in all of our schools and in four weeks, our seniors will be graduating. If you are a parent, please regularly check your child's school website for the most updated information. There will be one more newsletter for this year around graduation time and then we will begin again in September.

May you and your families have a safe and relaxing Memorial Day break.

Administration

Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer III
Superintendent

Mr. Eloi Richardson, CPA
Business Administrator
Board Secretary

Mr. James Lympert
Director of
Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Vanessa Bekarciak
Director of Special Services

2015 ~ 2016 Board of Education

Mr. Mark Drew
President

Mr. William Mercantini
Vice President

Mr. Kevin Creegan

Mr. Joshua Fausti

Mr. Stephen Heberling

Mr. Mark Roselli

Mr. Salvatore Schiano

Mr. Edward Tyler

Ms. Kimberly Zablou

As I was in the process of putting together this specific page for the current *Bulletin* I found an article in *Education Week* in which the writer shared his childhood experiences in school:

I was a chubby kid with no confidence. I was bullied, called names, and beaten up. I barely spoke because of my stutter. Teachers would put me in a corner and tell me I was “special.” I was scared to death of everybody.

My saving grace was physical education.

The writer of the article is Hershel Walker, a collegiate Heisman Trophy winner who played professional football for twelve years. Although Walker became an acclaimed athlete, he did so after graduating as the valedictorian of his high school class, an accomplishment he attributes to the “focus, purpose, hope” he found through physical education classes. (Walker’s entire article can be accessed [here](#))

Although many of us equate schooling with books, academics, grades, etc., perhaps the most important role schools play in human development centers on the ideas of effort, teamwork, and resilience coupled with developing self-confidence and positive habits during the critical childhood years. A robust health and physical education program provides all of these in addition to the immediate benefits that come with daily exercise and physical activity.

In Bordentown Regional School District, our health and physical education teachers, from the elementary level through high school, focus on ensuring all students learn about the benefits of leading a healthy active lifestyle. Throughout their schooling, students are engaged in lessons that promote self-confidence and determination while participating in a number of team and individual sports and activities that can assist students in maintaining an active healthy lifestyle.

The quotes below, from various members of our health and physical education staff, encapsulate the goals and activities of our physical education program:

- *We are preaching that small improvements over a period of time equal a large change in the end. Students often reflect on previous scores to measure how much stronger they have become...*
- *We try to make physical activity and exercise fun, while informing students of the positive effects of both. Students learn various sport skills, while also learning how to plan and implement exercise programs in their everyday lives. Many students come to school and tell us that they have shared this information with their families and encouraged them to participate in physical activity every day.*
- *We teach that exercising from the time you are young and participating in healthy habits will help your body stay healthy... We teach the importance of exercise and nutrition as a life-long endeavor. Students who learn this at an early age, tend to grow up to be responsible and healthy adults who are well aware of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.*
- *Physical education goes much further than just playing games and being active. It is an environment that teaches the students social skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, and an active outlook on life.*
- *Disease prevention and causes will be addressed in the next unit. It is imperative individuals recognize how to keep their bodies healthy and use precautions to prevent the spread of disease and illness.*
- *Teen PEP took two of their workshops on the road this semester to BRMS. The first workshop ... included skits and small group activities to promote postponing sexual involvement to groups of 8th graders. The second workshop ... demonstrated a wide variety of birth control and contraceptive methods, emphasizing abstinence. Teen PEP did an outstanding job discussing these sensitive health topics and raising awareness to the importance of having strong morals and values.*

Healthy bodies and positive character themes are woven throughout our physical education programs. Physical education activities support the importance of fair play, cooperation, perseverance, conflict resolution, respect, manners, and compassion. Not all students will leave our schools and achieve an honor like the Heisman Trophy, but the physical education teachers at BRSD hope that kids will not only live active lifestyles, but also become respectful members of our school and town communities.

BRHS News & Notes – May 2016



Seniors Survive Disney

Nobody got burned, nobody got lost and all our seniors had a blast! The land of Mickey and Minnie entertained and provided a fun-filled and educational opportunity for our Seniors. From the light shows, to the water park and the trip to Clearwater Beach, our young men and women thoroughly enjoyed themselves and made memories that will last a lifetime.

Music in the Parks – BRHS Instrumental and Vocal Students Rock

Every BRHS group that participated (Concert Band, String Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Core Choir, Madrigal Honors) came in first place in the Group A division and vocal soloist Calvin Okulicz received the outstanding vocal soloist award and Joey Dupp received the outstanding jazz soloist award of the day.

Congratulations to our Staff Members

Mr. Michael Brennan and Ms. Stephanie Ashton were honored this week at RVRHS as the Governor's Educators of the Year for BHRS. It was a terrific event that showcased all the outstanding educators in Burlington County. Bordentown Regional High School is fortunate to have such dedicated professionals.



Another Athletic Championship – Girls Softball wins Patriot Division

The BRHS softball team finished undefeated in the Patriot Division at 8-0 to win the conference championship. Their overall 12-3 record is one of the best in the county and they are preparing for a long run in the state tournament. Holding the #2 seed, their first game is Monday, May 23rd against Holmdel. Come out and support our girls at 4:00 on the BRHS Turf.

Reminders & Upcoming Events

School Closed for students – May 27, 30, 31
Junior/Senior Prom – Friday, June 3rd – ½ day for all BRHS students
Final exams – ½ day for BRHS students – June 14 & 15
Class Night for BRHS Seniors – June 15 – 6:00 PM in BRHS PAC
Class of 2016 Graduation – June 16 – 6:00 PM in BRHS PAC

BRMS Band, Strings and Chorus members have an amazing day at the Music in the Parks

Friday, May 6, 2016 was an excellent day for the Bordentown Regional Middle School music department at the annual 2016 Music in the Parks competition. All middle school ensembles earned excellent ratings and represented the middle school very well all day long. The jazz ensemble and concert band finished in first place and the concert band earned the overall best concert band award out of all the groups for the day. The string orchestra placed second but still earned an excellent rating and the choir finished in first place and also earned the top overall choir award for the day among all the groups. Also, seventh grader Nick Demkowicz won the top jazz soloist award for his vibraphone solo making this the third year in a row a student from Bordentown won this award. Congratulations to the entire middle school band, string and chorus members for all their wonderful achievements and thank you to Mrs. Kirk, Mr. Vieira, and Mr. Montaldo for all their dedication, passion and hard work teaching our middle school students music.



Congratulations to Jasmine Hansford for being named Bordentown Regional Middle School Elks Student of the Year

During a Bordentown Elks awards dinner last month recognizing 2016-17 middle school Elks award winners, eighth grade student Jasmine Hansford was named the Bordentown Elks Student of the Year. Ms. Patterson, her guidance counselor, acknowledged, "Jasmine is a wonderful young woman and an outstanding role model for all! More than this though, she's a kind, warm-hearted respectful person who is always willing to help others out (whether it is a student who needs help or a teacher) and Jasmine is eager to learn and very determined to succeed in all that she does." Mrs. Hudik her science teacher said, "Jasmine is a quiet, self-composed, highly motivated and hardworking student. She can tune out distractions around her and focus on the task at hand. She works well with anyone she is partnered with and has the patience of a saint. She is always curious to learn more, and does not just ask questions so she can 'get a 100'....she truly wants to understand what she is asking about. She is wise beyond her years and her maturity and class is a welcome addition to any classroom!"



Mrs. Poole, Jasmine's language arts teacher said, "Jasmine is a hard-working, dedicated student/athlete. The effort she puts into her everyday assignments is impeccable. She spends a lot of time reviewing and editing her written work until she gets it just to her liking. What stands out most about Jasmine, though, is her politeness. Not only is she friendly and kind to her peers, but she goes out of her way to always "do the right thing" and "say the right thing" with staff members in the building. A thank you, excuse me, and can I help you with that...goes a long way in middle school...and Jasmine does all that and then some! This young woman treats everyone with kindness and is the type of student who is a pleasure to teach and have in the classroom. She demonstrates the character traits of Respect, Accountability, and Pride that we encourage in all our students through the R.A.P.S. program." Congratulations Jasmine for being awarded this year's BRMS Elks Student of the Year.

MIS NEWS



MacFarland Intermediate would like to congratulate our Teacher of the Year Mrs. Allison Payton and Educational Support Staff of the Year Mrs. Donna Esposito.



Allison Payton- 4th Grade MacFarland Intermediate School- Mrs. Payton radiates energy, enthusiasm and a love of teaching. She has a warm, approachable demeanor with her students. She is extremely considerate of her students and their various needs. Mrs. Payton will challenge her students while making learning fun. Her passion for educating students extends beyond the walls of the school as she follows her students' progress after they have moved on.

Donna Esposito- Media Specialist MacFarland Intermediate School- Mrs. Esposito is an asset to the MIS school. She offers exciting lessons that connect the outside world to the students' daily learning inside the walls of the school. Mrs. Esposito encounters over 400 students a week they are always eager to see what is next. She encourages the use of innovative technology to enhance their learning experiences in every lesson.

Once again congratulations and thank you for all you do!

Clara Barton Elementary School was pleased to attend the Burlington County Teacher and Educational Professional of the Year Banquet on May 17, 2016 where two of our outstanding staff members were honored for their accomplishments. We would like to share their stories with you.



This year's CBS Field Day will be June 7th, from 12:30-3:00, on the annex field behind the school. Our theme this year is, International Games. With this, students in grades Kindergarten through Third grade will participate in traditional games played by kids around the world. These traditional games originate from countries like Spain, Australia, China, India, Japan, Poland, Greece, Italy, Ireland, and the Philippines. We look forward to a great Field Day that all teachers, volunteers, and students will enjoy!



Dr. Pat Costigan – Clara Barton School Educational Professional of the Year 2016 - Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant - This year, the Clara Barton family wisely chose to acknowledge the contributions made by Dr. Pat Costigan as our Educational Specialist of the year. Dr. Pat is the kind of educator whose immeasurable impact is felt by students and teachers alike. She sees opportunities for creative instruction where others see only challenges, and her collaborative spirit assures that teachers from all backgrounds and grade levels have an equal voice at the table. While Dr. Pat is clearly an exceptionally skilled Learning Consultant, she constantly challenges herself to remain a lifelong learner both professionally and otherwise. Her dedication means she is constantly revising, refining, and improving her work in order to foster excellence in our students. And her judgement free ease has a way of inspiring peers to expect the best of themselves.

Dr. Pat is a true expert and a wonderfully kind human; we are very lucky to have her at CBS!

Mr. Bryan Mitchell – Clara Barton School Teacher of the Year 2016 – Second Grade Teacher - Mr. Mitchell has a wonderful ability to teach and inspire his students, and he makes a difference in the lives of these children as well as his colleagues. Bryan Mitchell's homeroom includes second graders with many different needs. He connects with each and every one of them throughout the school day and welcomes the challenge of helping each student to be successful. Mr. Mitchell takes every opportunity to extend the students' learning by teaching the class about different animals, places, communities, events, and concepts. The students can't help but feel positive about school and their classroom as they become more knowledgeable about the world. Mr. Mitchell holds his students to high expectations. He is always fair, calm, and respectful. Mr. Mitchell is very supportive to his colleagues. He also communicates well with parents and is an active member of the community. Mr. Bryan Mitchell is certainly well deserving of the honor "Educator of the Year" for Clara Barton Elementary School.



Olympic Field Day at P.M.E.S.



Peter Muschal Elementary School students recently, participated in their yearly Field Day activities. This year's theme was "The 2016 Summer Olympics." The events took place in the Month of May which is also National Physical Education Month. Students from Pre-K through Third grade participated in a fun filled day of relay themed activities to enhance and practice skills learned during physical education classes. **Olympic Field Day** taught the students about some of the very same events that they will see on television this summer in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. The events the students learned about included *Basketball, Fencing, Javelin, Hurdles, Discus, Sailing, Shot Put, and Volleyball*. The students engaged in modified activities that teach the general idea of each event. Each station also included a fun twist to make it more age appropriate and safe.

The students played a version of *Basketball Blitz* where teams worked together to accrue points by shooting at modified nets giving our PreK-3 population more opportunity at success. Fencing was done with pool noodles which taught the general concept while keeping safety in mind. Javelin, Discus, and Shot Put were done with oversized foam implements and water soaked sponges. Volleyball was played with an omni-kin ball teaching cooperative skills in a team setting. Sailing was done on mats placed on oversized scooters where students pushed each other and experienced the thrill of riding on the mats.

Field Day re-emphasized the importance of living an active lifestyle and being healthy which is a concept taught throughout the year in Health and Physical Education classes. It also allowed students to learn about a world event which takes place every four years. Did we mention, the students were jamming out to music the entire time? This was truly a fun filled, action packed, enjoyable school-wide event reinforcing educational concepts while building school morale and a sense of unity.



This Month

May 4 – Board of Education Meeting

May 18 – Board of Education Meeting

May 27 – Staff-In-Service ~ No school ALL students

May 30 – Memorial Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

May 31 – SCHOOL CLOSED – Unused snow day



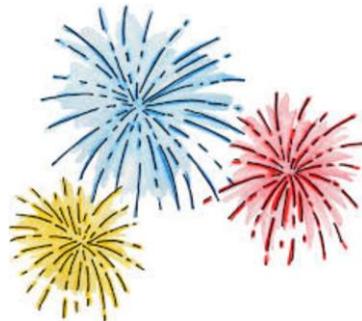
Next Month

June 8 – Board of Education Meeting

June 16 –BRHS Graduation

June 17 – 8th Grade Promotion

June 17 – Last day for students



“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today”

~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr. ~

Thank you for checking in with The Bordentown Bulletin!