



Bulldog

BULLETIN

May 2022

Superintendent Serves Lunch at J.V. Forrestal

Students at J.V. Forrestal Elementary were surprised to see a new food service worker at lunch who normally works a very different job in the district.

Superintendent Dr. Matt Landahl served up nachos, not the easiest meal to serve along with the other three daily meals offered, but did his job well and quickly. Food Service Director Karen Pagano scheduled the visit.



"Dr. Landahl was really great with our students and staff," J.V. Forrestal Kitchen Manager Debra Nairn said. "The students come in at a fast pace for lunch and he did a great job getting them through our service line."

After his shift, Landahl joined the students in the cafeteria to eat lunch. They were happy to see their superintendent hard at work.

"It was a surprise for the kids to see him on the service and it put a smile on their faces," Nairn said. "He is such a good sport."

Landahl's time in the cafeteria has inspired J.V. Forrestal's Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins and other principals in the district to follow suit in the near future.

1st Annual BSCD Film Festival



ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET! Students in the Beacon City School District have been hard at work creating phenomenal short films in anticipation of the first annual BCSD Student Film Festival.

Come see 37 stellar short films at a screening event on Saturday,

May 14th at 6:30 pm at the

Seeger Theater at Beacon High School. More than 75 students participated to make these films possible. The screening is open to the whole community.



Tickets are on sale now - don't miss out, get your tickets today at: foundationforbeaconschools.org/film-festival

Elijah Hughes Comes Home



NBA player Elijah Hughes, of the Portland Trail Blazers, recently came back to his hometown of Beacon to speak with students at Rombout Middle School.

Two separate assemblies were held where Hughes spoke to students about the importance working hard to achieve their dreams. Hughes attended Beacon High School for two years before transferring to Kennedy Catholic Preparatory School and later South Kent School, while his mother Penny is a former teacher's aide in the district.

Hughes, who previously played for Utah Jazz, later took pictures and signed autographs for students after school.

Art Club Fundraises For Ukraine



Rombout Middle School's Art Club recently ran a pop-up shop helping to raise money for the people of Ukraine devastated by the current war.

Students created custom artwork and sold their pieces raising \$118 for the United Nations Refugee Agency, which is dedicated to saving lives and protecting rights for refugees and other displaced people.

"The Art club had a group discussion about possible fundraisers," Art Club advisor Daniela Charter said. "Since there are so many talented students involved, the idea to sell handmade artwork came naturally."

Students from 6th, 7th and 8th grades, worked very hard to contribute their work, time and energy into the fundraiser, which was held during the school's lunch periods. Charter found that her students had a wonderful time volunteering and talking about the club's goal to their classmates.

"It's wonderful when students take initiative to take action and we are all so proud of their work," Charter said. "They were so eager to participate."



BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

IMPROV WORKSHOP CREATES MUSICAL HARMONY

Beacon High School students were able to express themselves through musical improvisation during a three-day workshop courtesy of a grant from The Foundation for Beacon Schools, Inc.



Beacon High School Band Director James Walton invited his college friend and fellow musician Adam Schatz to work with band

synthesizers," Walton said. "I wanted to give the kids a chance to cultivate some of these skills."

Improvising is an important skill in both music and everyday conversation. If a student is intimidated by improv, Walton reminds them they are already thinking on the fly when they send out texts.

"The more I teach music, the more I want kids to say something," Walton explained.

"With this age group, they're so conscious of their actions."

For Schatz, improv provides a communal atmosphere where musicians create something together that never existed before.

"You can navigate from tonal harmony to chaotic dissonance, sometimes over the course of five seconds and bring an audience along for the ride," Schatz explained. "It is a true antidote to boredom."

Schatz and Walton quickly developed a program where they introduced concepts to students such as improvising using their ears and how listening is the most crucial part of improv. Schatz hopes to return to work more with students.

"Improvising has to be an ego-less endeavor; otherwise the whole plan falls apart," Schatz said. "I'd love to focus more on teaching synthesis to those who were interested."



students on learning what improvisation is and then implementing it. Schatz used a series of guitar pedals and microphones to make sound and then process it into something new. "There was something for everybody; kids were drawn to the



Rombout Students Applaud Virtual Climate Summit

Students in Rombout Middle School's Environmental Club had a chance to participate in a virtual climate summit to get ideas for creating climate justice initiatives at school.

Assistant Principal Cathryn Biordi brought the idea of joining the summit to Marissa Benson, Rombout's science teacher and the club's advisor, who thought it would be perfect because it was youth orientated.

Students were inspired by the summit's main speaker, 20-year-old climate activist Xiye Bastida who encouraged students not to be afraid to join marches and speak out about climate change, where they can potentially have a say in the decision process.

"They were able to see that there are kids close to their age that are going higher up," Benson said. "It made it easier for them to connect."

Sixth grader Owen Youatt found Bastida's talk inspiring.

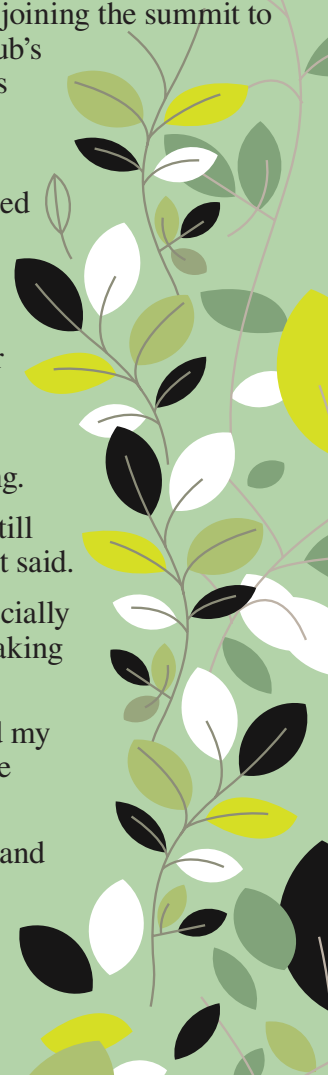
"I felt really inspired by her and learned that you can still accomplish big things even when you're young," Youatt said.

Eighth grader Khiana Nicholson enjoyed the talk, especially because Bastida is not much older than her, but still making a difference.

"It was nice to hear the perspective of someone around my age and how much of a difference she is making for the environment," Nicholson said.

Benson hopes to do more events like this in the future and commented that she too learned a lot from webinars designed specifically for educators offered by the summit organizers.

"We're looking forward to learning more," Benson said.



Lynch named K104.7 Teacher of the Month

Rombout Middle School Science Teacher Jeanette Lynch received a welcome surprise when she was named Teacher of the Month by local radio station K104.



Lynch was recommended for the honor by Rombout Middle School Assistant Principal Cathryn Biordi who interviewed current and former students about Lynch's performance as a teacher. K104 gave Lynch a plaque and interviewed her on the air.

"She always goes above and beyond to make lessons fun and engaging for her students," Biordi and Principal Brian Soltish said in a joint statement.

"She arrives at school early and leaves late every day;

POSTPONED WASHINGTON TRIP

Worth the Wait!

Former Rombout students were finally able to go on their eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. after patiently waiting for two years.



The three-day trip, originally planned for spring 2020, was postponed about eight times due to COVID before Principal Brian Soltish and a crew of teachers were able to take 45 students from March 9 to 11. The principal found that the students grew a lot since he last saw them.



"It was neat to reconnect with a lot of them after two years," Soltish said. "I promised I would take them when COVID ended."

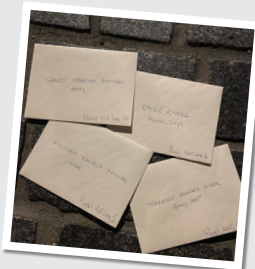
Students saw popular sites such as the Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery and the numerous memorials and monuments where they see the history they have learned up close.



"They were really happy everywhere we went," Soltish said. "They learned a lot in the museums and asked a lot of questions."

For Soltish, highlights of the trip included students leaving thank you cards for local Vietnam War veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and learning how steel figures at the Korean War Veterans Memorial were cast at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon.

"That was pretty neat for them to hear that was from Beacon," Soltish said in reference to the soldiers.



For many students, it is their first time away from home and a chance to be independent. "It's their first real time out and about," the principal said. "It's important for them to get that opportunity."

Teacher of the Month

Cont'd from pg 2...

always working hard to make sure none of her students fall through the cracks."



Lynch assumed the worst when her mother and husband came to visit her during class, but was thrilled once she learned that she received the honor. She remains humble though and said other teachers are equally deserving of the award.

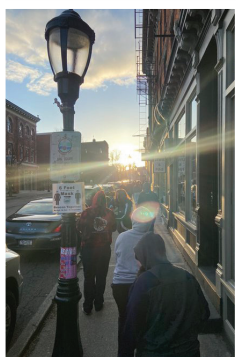
"It was a wonderful feeling," Lynch said. "It was really nice for the administration to take time out of their day and send in a letter recommending me."

"They felt it was well deserved and a long time coming," Lynch said of her students.

"I love working with the young people."



Beacon Softball Girls Beautify the Streets



Rather than sleep in on a Sunday morning, April 3, members of Beacon High School's Girls Softball team were up early at 7 am cleaning up the streets

and sidewalks of Beacon.

In three hours, the students picked up over five bags of garbage up and down Main Street, cleaning over two miles of city sidewalks and roads. Softball coaches Mike Carofano and Catie Oriani treated the students to breakfast as a reward for their hard work.



"We proceeded to make our way down to the other end of Main Street and back again to make sure we didn't miss anything the first time," Carofano explained. "The community was very appreciative of our efforts, as we received compliments along our way."

Carofano and Oriani decided to bring back this yearly tradition of performing community service as they have done in the past. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, students and coaches ran a fundraiser to purchase and distribute gift cards to

local medical workers.



They provided gift cards to 20 families, which in turn helped local businesses.

"It was a win-win," Carofano said.

The students had a great time working together, playing music and taking turns with the different tasks making both coaches proud.

"Coach Oriani and I are proud of our girls for their effort of helping to clean up our community and for giving back," Carofano said.

"We have a great group of young ladies."



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