



Bulldog

BULLETIN

May 2023

Message from the Superintendent

I want to remind the community about our 2023-2024 budget vote on Tuesday, May 16 from 6 am-9 pm at Beacon High School for City of Beacon residents and Glenham Elementary for Town of Fishkill residents. Our budget provides additional support for mental health and academic interventions in the district and helps us build a varied offering of classes and extracurricular activities for our students. The budget vote gives us the opportunity to expand our bus fleet, purchase an electric bus if we receive grant funding to offset the cost and expand our transportation offerings for our students. Please let us know if you have any questions!

-Matt Landahl



Beacon High School's Multicultural Week, held from April 17th to 21st, offered special themed days to students to appreciate their own culture as well as others.



This year marked the first time a Multicultural Fair was held which featured stations for countries such as Albania, Ireland, India, Japan, Norway, Poland and Puerto Rico. Multi-cultural Club advisors Jennifer Ferraguzzi and Maria Calaf manned the Poland and Puerto Rico stations respectively, which align with their own cultural backgrounds, and received help from other staff and Multicultural Club President Emma Joyce, with the other stations.

"The fair, although small, was a success and a great start to what we hope will be a yearly event," Ferraguzzi said. "Students and staff who visited the fair during their lunch periods seemed to really enjoy it."

Ferraguzzi hopes that by students and staff seeing the fair it will inspire them to volunteer next year and help create stations representing more heritages and cultures. She was happy to see more student participation on the other themed days, including an Earth Day celebration where they planted and grew wild flowers.



"As with all new things, they improve as time goes on," Ferraguzzi said. "We saw many more students and staff participating in the daily themes than last year."

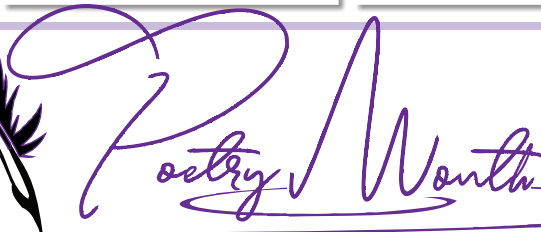


The 2nd annual BCSD Student Film Festival is taking place **Saturday, May 13th** at the Beacon High School theater. The film festival is growing and this year, there will be:

• 2:30 pm screening for elementary student films

• 6:30 pm screening for middle and high school student films

J.V. Forrestal Celebrates



April was National Poetry Month at J.V. Forrestal Elementary School and Librarian Sarah Coleman

engaged her students in numerous fun activities celebrating this unique form of literature.

Coleman has been celebrating this month since she started working in the district 15 years ago. Students recited poems aloud and participated in a unique activity called "Blackout Poetry" where they took a prewritten text and selected words from it to create a new poem.

While some students were intimidated by the idea of tackling poetry, many enjoyed learning about it. "Sometimes it's intimidating, but really it's just meant to be read out loud and enjoyed," Coleman said. "We work through it together."

For Coleman, her goal was to get students to create their own poems and realize that they have a lot of freedom in how they compose it. "A lot of kids will assume it has to rhyme, but then we talk about different structures," Coleman explained. "We talk about the different rules of poetry and then how rules were made to be broken."

While copies of Shel Silverstein's books flew off the library's shelves, Coleman counts Emily Dickinson and Jack Prelutsky as some of her favorite poets, especially the latter for his variety of works. "He has so many different collections," Coleman said of Prelutsky. "You can find a poem of his for everybody."

Sargent Teachers Take Soon-to-be Educators Under their Wings



Teachers at Sargent Elementary have received some assistance in their classroom from three SUNY New Paltz students studying to be educators.

Katherine Cappello, Haley Meyer and Mya Millan started working in Sargent in late March.

Cappello, who graduates this month, is working in Nicole Winchell's fourth grade class where she has enjoyed Sargent's welcoming atmosphere and considers Winchell a great mentor. She also has loved connecting with the students.

"They are helping me become the teacher I want to become," Cappello said of the students. "I am doing things I never would have thought I could because of Ms. Winchell."



Winchell appreciates Cappello's drive and enthusiasm and said she takes the time to reflect on every lesson she gives. The students love Cappello too and enjoy seeing her every day in class.

"It is so great to see a future teacher have such a passion for this field and I know she is going to be a phenomenal teacher one day," Winchell said of Cappello. "Being able to guide Katherine and help her along this path has been so rewarding."



Unified Sports Gets Big Cheers



Beacon High School began offering Unified Sports teams this year and they have proven to be a hit with everyone.

Headed up by Coaches Patrick Schetter, Mike Mullins and Christina Dahl the team is open to students both with and without disabilities, giving those with disabilities their first chance to bowl or play basketball.

"The premise is to provide an authentic athletic environment for students that weren't able to compete before," BCSD Athletic Director John Giametta said. "It's an actual competition."

The students, including seniors Jared Alston, Anastasia DeCarlo, Cody Wansor and sophomore Cody Wansor, as well as their coaches have enjoyed participating in the Unified team. Giametta can confirm that the cheers from the audience at their games are just as loud as those at varsity and junior varsity basketball games.

"It's been an extremely positive process," Giametta said. "They love cheering for both teams."

Unified Sports is intended to return next year with a third sport being considered by coaches.



"The goal is to be able to add this opportunity for each of the three seasons," Giametta said.

Alston, DeCarlo and Wansor will share one last hoorah during a game for Senior Day on May 15 at the BHS gym at 4:15 pm. Giametta encourages everyone to come out and cheer on these students.

"We're looking for as much support as possible," he said. "Be ready to have some fun."



The Beacon Players brought the bravado and heart to three sold out performances of the world's longest running musical "Les Misérables," held between April 21 and 23 at the Seeger Theater at Beacon High School.

Based on Victor Hugo's novel, the story revolves around Jean Valjean (played by senior & Beacon Players President Jonah Mensch), a former prisoner struggling for redemption in 19th century France.

The actors' performances, as well as the crew's talents in lighting and costume design impressed both the audience and Beacon Players' Director Anthony J. Scarrone who described them as a great group of young people.

"Reaction from the audiences was outstanding, and most did not believe these were high school students,"

Scarrone said. "It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with these truly gifted students, both on stage and backstage." Audience members were also treated to a dessert reception before Saturday night's performance and before the first show, Scarrone presented a talk at the Howland Public Library titled "Demystifying Hugo's Les Misérables" on April 13.



BHS Sophomore Makes All-State Team List

Reilly Landisi, a sophomore at Beacon High School was recently placed in the honorable mentions category of the New York State Sportswriters Association's 2023 list of All-State Girls Basketball team for large schools.

For Landisi, being on the list is a great honor but said it would not be possible without her team supporting her, many of whom she has been playing basketball with for years.

"I do have confidence when I play on the court, but having my team behind me makes it a lot easier,"

Landisi said. "We work hard and practice every single day and it doesn't go to waste."

While the basketball season is over for now, Landisi will travel to Kentucky this summer to play basketball as part of the Amateur Athletic Union, a travel sports program. She has been playing since she was five and plans to play basketball in college.

"I can't think of a time where I didn't want to play," she said. "Playing the sport I love is nice."



On top of basketball, Landisi also plays soccer and spends study periods during the school day completing her homework. It can be tough to balance it all, but Landisi does what she can to accomplish everything.

"A real athlete isn't just on the court, it's off the court as well," Landisi said. "It's not for the weak."

Landisi advised any student interested in playing basketball to never give up and keep a positive attitude.

"It might seem like sometimes things may not be going your way, I've definitely felt that way," Landisi said. "At some point, everything will pay off."

Beacon Educators Become Lifeguards

Five educators across the Beacon City School District are ready to dive into the Beacon High School pool if someone needs saving as they are now certified lifeguards.

Kelley Bender, Jane Cervone, Becky Shuk, Alex Callaway, and Daniele Reilly were the educators who took the training in the which included knowing when to perform different rescues.

Glenham Elementary School Physical Education teacher Michelle Green has been a lifeguard instructor since 2008 and was initially approached by two teachers who wanted to become certified lifeguards.

Having more people, especially staff members, know emergency water procedures is beneficial and Green hopes more teachers will be interested in getting certified next school year.

"I figured with the national lifeguard shortage, it'd be a great way to recruit staff for the Beacon High School pool," Green said. "When these teachers' classes swim, we will now have extra eyes on and in the water which makes for a safer environment."



Conference Educates about Unhealthy Relationships

Representatives from the Grace Smith House came to Beacon High School on April 24 to discuss the signs of both healthy and abusive romantic relationships during the **"Love Shouldn't Hurt"** conference.



The conference, hosted by Grace Smith outreach Advocate Amanda Greenfield and the Students Against Destructive Decisions club, was held in the school's LGI room during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

"Victims of dating abuse can be victims of crime," Greenfield said. "Those issues can happen to anyone, across any identity." Students watched a 45-minute film centered on a woman's relationship with a man that becomes abusive over time, ending with a slideshow of real women who were killed by abusive partners. They were then asked to write down and share their reflections about it.

"This is going to really help us understand, recognize and talk about the early warning signs of relationship abuse and how to help a friend," Greenfield said. "We all deserve to be in healthy relationships." Some of the red flags students and other Grace Smith representatives pointed out from the film included a relationship moving too quickly, constantly wanting to know where the other person is and stalking them outside of their class. Greenfield noted that abuse in a relationship typically escalates later on.

"Abuse in abusive relationships doesn't happen right away," Greenfield said. "Some of these behaviors that we saw, they can happen so often in a relationship that we think they're normal." Senior Kaylee Broas thought the conference was important to have and noted that many of the red flags discussed are similar in both romantic and family relationships. "When you're being treated badly by somebody, you're not necessarily going to realize it right away," Broas said. "It's an important thing to focus on."

