



Bulldog

BULLETIN

March 2025

Message from the Superintendent

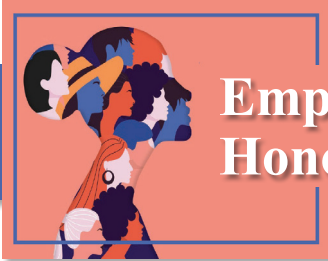
I hope you enjoy reading this special Women's History Month edition of the Bulldog Bulletin. This edition makes me think about my mom, who greatly impacted my life.

She was a career fourth and fifth-grade teacher. I saw firsthand how hard teachers work daily for their students. For the first few years of my teaching career, I taught fourth grade, and so did she, albeit in different states.

I will always remember the weekly phone calls when she would share her wisdom and lesson plan ideas with me. Years later, some of her former students reached out to me to tell me about the positive impact she had on their lives.

Check out this Bulldog Bulletin for some more inspirational stories.

—Matt Landahl



Employee Spotlight Honoring Women's History

The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." In this edition we're taking time to honor three of our women staff members who help keep our district running smoothly.

Marinaccio keeps humble being NYS Master Teacher



While BHS science teacher Alexa Marinaccio was named a New York State Master Teacher this school year, she does not plan to rest on her laurels. A requirement of this four-year fellowship program is for teachers to take a minimum of 50 hours of professional development to broaden their knowledge in their respective subject. Marinaccio planned to take a vertebrate biology lesson that she will incorporate into her classroom.

"I'm looking to deepen my content knowledge and make that palpable to bring it back to the classroom and make it engaging," Marinaccio said. "A big part of teaching is that you have to constantly be learning something new."

Marinaccio's colleagues and students congratulated her on her achievement, but no one was happier than she was as she applied for this fellowship twice before. She encourages future applicants to set aside plenty of time to apply and she will help guide them through the process if they want.

"Don't feel discouraged if you don't get in because you can apply as many times as you want," Marinaccio said. "I've been totally humbled by the experience."

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2025
**BCSD STUDENT
FILM FEST**
PRESENTED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR BEACON SCHOOLS

Beacon is home to many creative types and your children can be some of them! Students can submit a short film of two minutes or less for the 2025 Student Film Fest, sponsored by the Foundation for Beacon Schools.

The submissions can be a comedy, drama, music video, documentary or whatever kind of film students are interested in that can easily be shot on camera phones.

Submissions are due by April 15 and three screenings of the films will be held in Mid-May at Beacon High School's Seeger Theater.

Click Here

or scan QR CODE for all the info!



Glenham Educational Experiences Made Fun and Memorable

Themed Days to Celebrate Milestones

Glenham students always seem to be doing something different, especially on special themed days. To help celebrate the 100th day of school, students and staff were encouraged to dress as if they were 100 years old. And they delivered, donning gray wigs, glasses, pretend mustaches, suspenders and hair curlers, as well as walking with canes.

The following day marked 101 days of school and it appeared that Glenham had gone to the dogs, well - to the Dalmatians to be precise.

Students dressed in white shirts with black spots, red dog collars and dog ears to resemble 101 Dalmatians, while Principal Cassandra Orser dressed as the villainous Cruella de Vil. Of course, no puppies were harmed in the making of this special day!



February 25th marked the celebration of a day that may have given some visitors the impression that Glenham students were heading off on vacation. It was "Anything But a Backpack Day" where students brought their belongings in



different methods such as suitcases, baskets, a pizza box and perhaps most uniquely a fertilizer spreader.

In early March, second grade students and teachers celebrated the end of Dr. Seuss Week by dressing as some of his most memorable characters, including "The Cat in The Hat" and characters from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"



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Glenham Educational Experiences

Made Fun and Memorable

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Super Bowl-Themed Lessons Stick with Students

While sports fanatics currently have March Madness on their minds, special education teacher Diana Selber was thinking about another big game in early February.

Selber, along with her co-teacher Justine Atty, taught their students a number of lessons themed around the 2025

Super Bowl. They engaged in the Reading Bowl where students had to read for 10 minutes and color in one football on a sheet given to them to see how many "touchdowns" they could make.

Additionally, Selber and Atty taught math centered on the big game and students made their predictions about which team would win.

Half of the class went for the Kansas City Chiefs, while the other half favored the Philadelphia Eagles.

"We were split down the middle this year," Atty said of the students' predictions. "They really enjoy football ... They come in chanting in the morning about who they want to win."



Second grader Terran Oberle, a dedicated football fan, rooted for the Chiefs because the Philadelphia Eagles are the main rivals of the New York Giants, his favorite team. He enjoyed the many football-themed lessons Selber and Atty gave. "Usually we would do the activities in social studies and science sometimes and it's actually fun," Oberle said.



Offbeat Assembly Wows Sargent Students

Mad Science of Westchester & Manhattan's Radical Rob Diaz showed off some cool and educational science experiences all in his own eccentric way during an assembly with Sargent students in late February.

Diaz energized the students in the beginning of the assembly by leading them in a movement break, but also told them about an important aspect of science. "Science is all about making observations," Diaz said. "An observation is anything that we learn using any of our five senses."

Some students had a chance to participate in Diaz's experiments which included blowing through bendy straws and ping pong balls, keeping them up in the air with their breath. They later used a hairdryer to achieve the same thing while Diaz explained that this was achievable by creating a spiral of air called a vortex.

"A vortex, or a vortices, can happen in air or in liquid," Diaz said. "If it happens in nature, a giant vortex like that, you know what we call it? A tornado."

Other experiments centered on sound and air pressure and Diaz closed out the show by squirting "dino snot," or streamers, from a pump into the audience causing students to try and catch the streamers.

MAD SCIENCE



BHS' BASKETBALL GIRLS MENTOR YOUNGER GIRLS



Former Forrestral Falcons, now on Beacon High School's girls basketball team, are giving back to their old school by participating in the "Big Sister, Little Sister" mentoring program.



The idea for this program sprang from Forrestral Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins and fourth grade teacher Julie Duffy trying to think of ways for girls in their school to have a strong role model in their lives and it was the principal who suggested bringing in members of the girls basketball team. "We thought it would be a great way to share some of their day to day with somebody who's not a parent or teacher," Duffy said of her students. "They want to share everything with them."

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Employee Spotlight Honoring Women's History

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Dabashi Juggles Two Schools with Ease



Rhan Dabashi had engaging teachers when she was a student in the district, which inspired her to pursue an

education career. She has since returned to Beacon as an integrated co-teacher for special education students at Forrestal and Glenham.

"When I was younger, I moved to Beacon and I think that really inspired my love for education," Dabashi recalled. "I had awesome teachers that loved education and understood the value of it."

While it can sometimes be challenging to run between two schools, Dabashi enjoys working with two different grade levels and appreciates having another teacher to bounce ideas off of.

The classroom Dabashi works in at Forrestal is the same one she studied in during fourth grade. She finds it neat, but when she first told her students, they were confused.

"I think they're just like, 'Oh what do you mean you were a student here?'" they think that I'm so old sometimes," Dabashi said with a laugh. "I'm like, 'Guys, I'm not much older than you.'"

Klemann Takes On Nurse Manager Role



After eight years of serving as Rombout's school nurse, Amber Klemann is now the district's Nurse Manager.

Klemann's first task has been hiring nurses districtwide to treat students' medical needs as well as for field trips and extra-curricular activities. Some of Klemann's goals include streamlining every nurse's office so a substitute can work anywhere seamlessly, organizing health fairs and having more collaboration among administrators, guidance counselors and school psychologists to better assess student needs.

"The more communication, the better because treating the child holistically in all aspects is going to help with not only their education, but their mental and physical health," Klemann said.

When Klemann first moved to Beacon from her hometown of Richmond, Indiana in 1999, she immediately fell in love with the landscape and the community. In addition to her new role, she continues to be a modified cross country coach.

"I love walking down Main Street and seeing students and them yelling, 'Nurse Amber!'" Klemann said. "Beacon's just so great, there's a sense of community here and it's changing every day."

BHS' BASKETBALL GIRLS MENTOR YOUNGER GIRLS



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The program has proven to be a hit as Duffy's students often ask when the older girls will visit again. Additionally, there's potential to expand the program with older girls coming for the fourth graders' classroom times and to perform together at pep rallies.

Senior Lila Burke recalls working with the fourth grade girls on a craft project that inspired them to set goals for the future which she enjoyed participating in. "It's important to instill confidence in them and help them see they can achieve anything they want," Burke said.



Fourth grader Gemma Persico loves spending time with the older girls as they better understand what she goes through and they inspire her to never give up.

"They've been through some things so you can make a connection with them," Persico said of the older girls. "You get to express your feelings to them."

Forrestal Students Honor Woman Innovator with Bread

Students in Christina Reinoehl's class at Forrestal worked on a special project honoring Judy Reed, inventor of the dough kneader and roller.

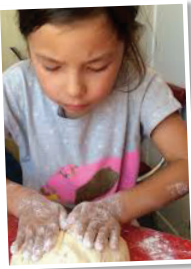
Instead of doing a book report or poster on the life of the first African American female on record to receive a United States patent in 1884, they made their own bread and butter from scratch. The students also had the opportunity to serve the finished products at Forrestal's annual Black History Month Gallery Walk

"They learned how to knead the dough and how to work a machine to get the butter churned," Reinoehl explained.

"They're more equipped to want to try the foods that they make."

Reinoehl's students are nonverbal and she often works with them on life skills and hands-on projects, making this bread baking project a perfect fit.

"It's a lot more of a hands-on environment," Reinoehl said.



Rombout's Student Council Organizes Snowflake Dance

Students had a chance to dress up, bust a move on the dancefloor and enjoy some pizza at the annual Snowflake Dance, perfectly named for a cold February. It is one of many fun events Student Council has organized, and Student Council adviser Andonia Karnavezos said it also served two very unique purposes.

"It's a way to get all three grades together which they don't often get to do," Karnavezos said. "It's for everyone; it's not like you have to be an athlete or artsy."



While Karnavezos and Kimberly Gonzalez oversee everything, it is a largely student driven initiative. Student leaders decide what decorations to purchase and put up and which DJ to hire, among other responsibilities.

"They really plan the whole thing and we're the adult orchestrators," Karnavezos said.