

Bulldog

BULLETIN

November 2022

Message from the Superintendent

I hope you have time to take a look at the latest issue of the Bulldog Bulletin. I cannot say enough about how proud I am of our students.

This issue shows our students giving back to their school, the district, and the larger community and making connections with people outside of their own classroom or group of friends. Creating more and more opportunities for students to give voice to issues and also support others only helps us become a stronger school district and community.

Enjoy the issue and I hope you are as proud of our students as I am!

Matt Landahl

BOE Welcomes New Student Advisors



Four BHS students, with a passion for making their school a better place, will now have a larger platform to express their views.

Seniors Ari Carmona and Demitra Sela and juniors Alejandra Calderon and Harsh Gupta were recently named as the BCSD Board of Education's student advisors. They will bring issues and ideas addressed at school to the board's attention, which BHS Principal Corey Dwyer said could have an impact on the district's future.

"That will be beneficial to the board as they determine the direction of the district and their priorities," Dwyer said. "I know the students are excited and I know the board is really excited as well."

The four students were chosen due to their commitment to school and lifting up students' voices to bring about change.

"I think they're connected and plugged into the student body," Dwyer said. "They'll be good people to get the perspective of all students."

Carmona always wanted to push herself out of her comfort zone and being an advisor fits that goal. She plans to address maintenance issues in the school restrooms and the sports budget.

"Overall, I just want to listen to other students' ideas and try to create equal opportunity for the students as a whole," Carmona said. "I feel extremely grateful."

For Sela, creating greater school spirit in the form of districtwide events and bringing more opportunities to under-represented classmates are her top priorities. She would encourage anyone following in her footsteps to take the position.

"Take the opportunity, talk to as many people as you can," Sela said. "It's a great thing to be able to speak up about what you see and what you hear."

Calderon has a passion for helping other students and one issue she plans to bring to the district's attention is mental health services available to students. She encourages her classmates to speak up if they see issues.

"A lot of people don't really know that they have that chance to get help if they need it," Calderon said regarding the mental health services. "If you have a problem, you should definitely speak up."

One suggestion Gupta has heard from both students and parents is to offer Advanced Placement classes in 9th and 10th grades, to spread out the workload over the course of a student's high school career to avoid stress later on. Gupta is thankful to be chosen for this position and encourages others to try it out.



When it comes to connecting with kids from other states, letters are the way to go for Sargent Elementary fourth graders.

Fourth grade teachers Gessica Stufano and Nicole Winchell are teaching their students about the long forgotten art of letter writing during the Great American Mail Race project as they form pen pals with fellow students in 49 states.

Students asked their pen pals about their state's geography and major cities, while they shared information about Beacon and New York and what makes them special.

"We learn about our state and the geography," Stufano said. "Nicole and I just thought it would be interesting to find out if other fourth graders around our country are learning about their state."

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Project Comes to Beacon



It's a fundraiser that's been two years in the making! BHS' Multicultural Club spent part of early October selling beautiful handwoven bracelets made in Central America in partnership with the nonprofit organization The Pulsara Project.

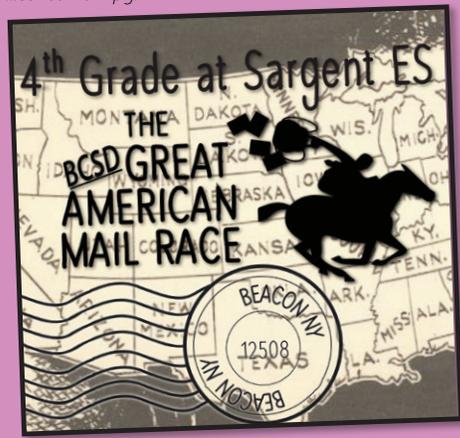
The organization's mission is to brighten American schools with art and cultural education while employing Guatemalan and Nicaraguan artisans and investing proceeds into their communities that create lasting change.

"It was a great opportunity to help the Nicaraguan community," Multicultural Club Advisor and Foreign Language teacher Maria Calaf said. "The pulsaras are very nice and they're very well made."

Calaf first learned of the project while attending a professional development conference for language teachers during the 2019-2020 school year and thought it would be an intriguing project to be involved in. However, a wrench was thrown into the plans.

"We wanted to do, but we got COVID that year," Calaf explained. "Last year, we were overwhelmed, so this year I decided to do it."

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This project serves as a nice break from Zoom sessions as students are working on their writing skills.

As they receive letters from each state, the students will color in that respective state on a bulletin board outside the classroom.

Winchell noted how this project serves as a great opportunity for students to learn about reading, geography, writing and researching, all crucial skills.

"It's one project that focuses on a lot of components of learning," Winchell said.

Students are excited to hear back from their pen pals and Stufano hopes to continue the project for years to come.

"They are already asking how long it takes for them to come back," Stufano said. "I hope to make it a yearly tradition."

For Audrey Fisher, her favorite part of the project was finding out which states she would be writing to, which included Massachusetts and Tennessee.

"This was my favorite part because it was very exciting to see who I would be communicating with," Fisher said.

PULSERA

The organization sent the bracelets, as well as handmade purses to the school with pictures and a mini biography of the people who made them. Calaf noted that at \$7 apiece, the pulsaras are a steal.

"Knowing that that money goes back to them, I think it justifies the \$7," Calaf said.

Money earned goes to the people who made the pulsaras, as well as to safe houses for women and other causes. Any products that are not sold are sent back to the organization.

"This gives them income, even if they already have a job," Calaf said.

"Some of them are people in the community who need help."

Calaf wasn't sure at first how the fundraiser would be received, but after the warm reception from both students and staff, she hopes to do it again in the future.



"It's had a very positive impact, so I'm happy," she said. "I would do this again."

STEM Project is Smooth Sailing for Some



BHS students in Sheryl Hawks' STEM class were tasked with a fun, but challenging project that saw them sailing in a rather strange boat.

Students had to paddle across the full length of the BHS pool in a boat constructed out of only cardboard

packing tape that had to be able to hold a student as they paddled. "They had so much fun," Hawks said.

Two groups of students successfully made it across the pool without sinking, while one boat sunk shortly after starting its journey. "This boat was constructed well, but it had some weak points and sank quickly," Hawks said.

After the test, the students followed up with presentations where they explained what worked and didn't work with their boat designs and how they can improve it for next time. "This is a STEM class, I give them a challenge and they have to figure it out," Hawks explained. "They get a lot out of it."



Saturday Basketball Clinic is a Slam Dunk



Beacon students, ranging from kindergarteners to 6th graders, had a chance to shoot hoops with kids from Beacon High School during a Free Youth Basketball Clinic held every Saturday in October.

It was organized by 10 members of the BHS Boys basketball program with help from varsity basketball coach Patrick Schetter and assistant coaches. This year marks the first basketball clinic at BHS. This gave younger students a chance to be active and play basketball, as students typically playing on modified sports teams in 7th grade.

"We decided it was a great thing to do in the community," Schetter said. "It gives another opportunity for kids to get some activity." Schetter was not sure what turnout would be like, but was happy to see 45 students attend the first clinic on October 1. "We got 45, which is more than I expected," Schetter said. "We were really happy with it."

What Schetter appreciated most was seeing older and younger students interacting while playing basketball. "We have some incredible young men in our program," Schetter said. "They are incredible with the younger kids."



Senior Gavin LaDue was tasked with doing a warm-up routine. He volunteered his time because he was once in the younger students' shoes looking up to the varsity players. "Now being that older player I get to give back, I just love that," LaDue said. "Whenever I'm free, I always like to go and help out."



Senior Jack Philipbar enjoyed working with the kids on how to dribble and pass, especially after so many events were cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic. He planned to attend the other clinics.



"It was good to see the kids having something to do," Philipbar said. "This is a good team we got."

Schetter and his fellow coaches are looking to do the clinic again and similar kinds of events depending on players' and coaches' schedules. "We're talking about how to continue it," Schetter said. "We plan on doing it once or twice a month."





College panel presents plentiful options to students



BHS students learned about colleges, campus life and the admissions process during a panel discussion on October 6 in the LGI.

Junior Evan Lombardo, who is interested in studying computer science or video game design, found the panel engaging and helpful in navigating the application process.

"It's nice to see a lot of very smart people who know how the process works," Lombardo said. "A lot of the representatives really bounced ideas off of each other."

Representatives from six colleges, including SUNY New Paltz and Marist, were asked questions by BHS School



Counselor Dominic Sceccitano about everything from admission deadlines to what topics to include on a college essay.

Danielle Zalamea, from Iona University, likes to hear how students are engaged in extracurricular activities. She recommends juniors and seniors schedule an interview with a counselor at a college they want to attend.

"This allows us to get to know you a little bit better and help us advocate for you when you go through that application process," Zalamea said. "Visit a campus at one point, even as soon as freshman year."

Alec A. Pandaleon III, from the U.S. Naval Academy, recommends seeking out the numerous and unique scholarships available in The Ultimate Scholarship Book.

"My kids got scholarships for being the grandchildren of Greek immigrants," Pandaleon said. "If you start early, you can graduate without debt."

Steven Posada, from Dutchess Community College, spoke about a full-tuition scholarship to DCC exclusively for Beacon students.

"We're begging students to fill out the application," Posada said. "I know from working with the guidance counselors here, they will provide the students with a long list of scholarships."

OCTOBER SNAPS SHOTS



October was filled with fantastic fall fun including many activities that took advantage of the beautiful autumn weather!

Beacon's buildings were bursting with school pride!

Go Bulldogs!