



Bulldog

BULLETIN

April 2023

Message from the Superintendent

Thank you to those who attended the Superintendent/Community Conversations over the past few months. It was great to talk about what we are planning for the district.

Over the next month, we will be sharing information about the proposed 2023-2024 BCSD budget before the vote on May 16.

We will host a virtual information session about the budget in early May and get the word out by other means before the May 16 vote.

We are excited to be sharing news about a budget that supports all of our students in and out of the classroom!

-Matt Landahl

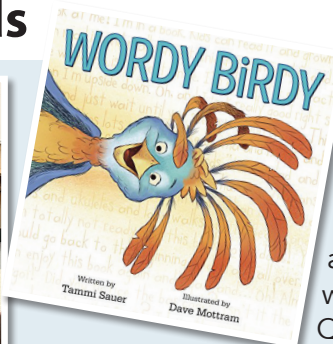
Deputy Superintendent Reads to Sargent kids



Students in Kaitlyn Perlongo's third grade class were surprised to see a member of Beacon's administration to take her turn as a mystery reader on March 13.

Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi stopped by to read Tammi Sauer's picture book Wordy Birdy about a chatty bird whose gift of gab gets her into hot water with a hungry bear.

Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi asked Quartironi if she would like to be a mystery reader, which she happily agreed to. She enjoyed being part of the students' world by reading to them. The students asked what her name was and where she works..



"When you work in the central office you don't always see the students as much as you would like," Quartironi said.

"I think that the students enjoyed having a surprise guest reading to them that works in the district and works in a building that is close to their school."

Perlongo thought having Quartironi visit the classroom would be a great opportunity for students to get to know more of the school community on a personal level. Students were excited to learn that she works and knows Brian Archer, Sargent's former principal, who is now Director of Evaluation and Student Services.

"That connection made it more personal to them," Perlongo said. "They enjoyed her read aloud so much, they asked for an encore."



This year's festival will take place in mid-May and the deadline for submissions is April 17.

[Click here for more information.](#)

ROMBOUT MS:

HEALTHY SNACKS FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

Members of Rombout's Environmental Club try to live green and sustainable lives and that includes the snacks they eat.

During an early March meeting, students blended up smoothies made of fruit, yogurt and milk.

For a healthy snack, they chopped up kale and turned the pieces into baked chips. Club Advisor and Science Teacher Marissa Benson was surprised to see that the chips was the snack students raved about.

"They devoured the kale chips," Benson said. "Some of them were even like, 'I'm going to put the kale in my smoothie.'"

Benson described the activity as an easy one for kids to do without their parents' help where it utilizes produce direct from the club's garden. Benson finds students are more willing to try dishes when they are made out of the produce they grow which often includes tomatoes, squash, watermelon and herbs.

"We try to hit all the different areas," Benson explained. "We can use all the health benefits of the garden."

For sixth grade students that cannot join sports yet, the club is a great place to

experiment with different concepts, which they can then try at home.

"Extending it into their personal lives something we try to promote," Benson said. "It should be really exciting."

However, this is not the only cooking going on at Rombout.

Students in Home & Careers Teacher Marie Conklin's class spent time back in late January making scrumptious blueberry muffins which they taste tested in class.

BHS Thrift collecting prom attire

Members of Beacon High School's Gender Equality Club helped



their classmates with the high costs of going to the prom, by offering dresses and other related attire through its school wide thrift store.

Junior Mia Nelson-Clyne first came up with the idea in January when she casually mentioned to her aunt about finding a way for students to be able to get nice clothes for prom without having to spend a fortune. Her aunt then offered to give her dresses to distribute.

"People always have things they want to give away," Nelson-Clyne explained. "Why not put those things directly into the school."

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NED Show excites South Avenue

NEED
never give up
encourage others
do your best

South Avenue's students learned important life lessons presented in an entertaining way during an assembly on March 24 featuring a loveable cartoon character, a yeti puppet and tons of yo-yo tricks.



Rocco Palmieri hosted the show with assistance from NED (short for never give up, encourage others and do your best) who has to overcome obstacles such as climbing Mount Everest, all while keeping a positive mindset.

"He said 'You know what, I can do more than I thought I could,'" Palmieri said of NED. "If NED gave up do you think he would have made it to the top of Mount Everest?"

The students responded with a roaring cry of "No!"

Another lesson Palmieri passed on was to keep learning, because every time students learn something new, their brains grow stronger.

"For you to do your best, you have to let go of the words 'I know,' so you can learn and grow," Palmieri said. "The moment you say 'I know,' learning stops."



Students roared with applause and laughter at NED's many antics, including first grader Camille who was most impressed by Palmieri's superb yo-yo tricks. "There were lots of cool tricks," she said. The show incorporates yo-yo tricks to show

that while the activity is fun, it is not always easy.

First grader Simon appreciated the show's message best. "My favorite part is when the yeti said, 'Don't give up,'" he said.



SWIM NIGHT PROMISES TO MAKE WAVES

Beacon's fifth graders will have two chances this May to take a swim and be social with their classmates and friends at the Beacon High School pool.

Sargent and Glenham students will attend on May 5, while Forrestal and South Avenue students go on May 12.

Assistant Varsity Swim Coach Michelle Green has been trying to come up with fun ways for students to utilize the pool more often and this event, which is the first time it has been offered, seemed like a good fit. In addition to swimming, this will also serve as an opportunity for 5th graders to socialize with students their age as they will be together at Rombout next year.

"It's a great community resource and I thought this could be a fun way for students to get together with friends," Green said. "I hope this event is successful so I can continue to organize it every year."

All students need to bring is a bathing suit, towel, clothes for after swimming, a water bottle and a plastic or tote bag for wet clothes. And no need to worry about dinner - each school's Parent Teacher Organization will provide pizzas.

All students need to do is see their physical education teacher for a permission slip. We hope to see you there!

Green Teen Program connects kids with their community

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Green Teen program is back in action giving Beacon's youth valuable work experience, while empowering them to be effective agents of change in the community.

The program, offered in the spring, summer and fall months, employs eight students, ages 14 to 18, to work in Cornell's organic vegetable garden where they harvest the produce, operate a free farm stand in the summer and put the garden to bed in the fall. They also participate in workshops, classes and trainings in topics such as first aid, financial literacy and NARCAN.



BHS Thrift collecting prom attire

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Nelson-Clyne advertised about the store through fliers and radio advertisements on WBPM and sought out suits, dress shirts, dress shoes, heels and accessories for prom. In the future, she hopes to expand the store to have more varieties of clothes.

"I want to make sure that I have a collection that's suitable for all kinds of students to wear," she said.



As well as saving money, Nelson-Clyne noted that getting previously worn clothes from a thrift store is a more environmentally friendly option.

"You're creating a more sustainable wardrobe while you're helping the community," Nelson-Clyne said. "Everybody's very excited about it."

Anyone interested in donating clothes that are suitable to wear can send an email to:

bhs.thrifts@gmail.com

with photos of the items they are donating.

While the prom attire drive ended April 8, the club is continuing to take donations of school appropriate clothes, non-perishable food items and toiletries until June 1.

Other options to get prom dresses

Sullivan & Main, a hair salon on Main Street, is also offering BHS students a chance to get free prom dresses. Owner Ryan Sullivan started offering them as a way to give back to the community.

Any BHS students interested in getting a dress can reach out to Sullivan at:

springpoppy425@yahoo.com

to set up a time to visit. Alterations will also be available if needed.

Green Teen Program connects kids with their community

Cont'd from pg 2...



"Our goal is to teach young people about nutrition, the environment, the food system, our community and themselves while also providing a part time job experience," 4-H Program Educator Emily Murnane said. "They benefit from the outdoor activities and healthy eating workshops."

Murnane and Program Manager Samantha Brittain find there are many benefits for students including learning lifelong practical skills and building community with other students countywide.



"Emotionally, they grow in responsibility, compassion and respect for our planet, each other and themselves," Murnane said.

Participants meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Beacon Recreation Center. Cornell collaborated with Beacon Recreation to build and maintain pollinator patches at three sites in town. A middle school program, which meets on Fridays, is offered for students to participate in their garden and learning opportunities.

Students who participated in Green Teen last fall gave it high marks, including 14-year-old student proclaimed that it's more than just a job.

"It's a place to learn, a community of people where everyone belongs," she said. "Green Teen taught me how to respect others' opinions and how to have a fair, open-minded conversation."



Students Hit

ALL the Right Notes at Festival

Students from all four of Beacon's elementary schools participated in the 2023 All-County Elementary Festival organized by the Dutchess County Music Educators Association at Van Wyck Junior High School in Wappingers Falls.

This year marked the first time students attended since before COVID in 2019. Jennifer Matus, music & band teacher for Glenham and Forrestal, had multiple fifth graders audition to be a part of the experience and two of them were chosen to be in Elementary All County Band, which is made up of fifth and sixth graders from across the county.



"In the past, very few students were able to audition and be chosen to participate since they were a year behind most of the other districts," Matus explained. "It was great to see these students' proud smiles as they participated in rehearsals and in the concert."

The All County is an amazing opportunity for more of the schools' instrumental students to enjoy thanks

to the district's Fourth Grade Band Program. Good job to all of our students who attended, we're so proud of you!



Chuck E. Cheese pops into Glenham ES



The kids at Glenham had a real cheesy visit on March 9 from the friendliest and most fun mouse around.

Chuck E. Cheese, dressed in his purple shirt and blue jeans, met with Glenham students and endlessly posed for pictures with them.

"Our students at Glenham loved their visit from Chuck," Parent Teacher Organization President Jo Ann Brandstrom said.

As part of a joint fundraiser with the restaurant/arcade chain, the PTO was able to raise about \$325 that will go toward future field trips for students.

Thank you PTO and Chuck E. Cheese for your efforts!

Restorative Circles brings school community together

Students and staff at Beacon High School lead busy lives, but they have a chance every Wednesday to connect with others and discuss their thoughts in a quiet setting.

School Counselor Michele Polhamus facilitates Restorative Circle time, which serves as a chance for students and staff to talk about everything from stress management to music. Circle typically begins with participants introducing themselves and sharing where they are at before Polhamus asks them questions regarding the topic du jour.

"My goal is just to get students used to communicating face to face in this fashion," Polhamus said. "It gives everyone that equal playing field when it comes to communicating."

While not a therapy session, Polhamus hopes students can learn from one another's differences of opinion shared in Circle and still coexist, especially with the rise of social media, which she feels has divided people.

"It fulfills the human need to feel heard," Polhamus said. "It's to show students that there are other ways, we don't have to be divisive."



If students are interested in attending Circle, simply show up between Periods 5 and 8 (10:34 am to 1:26 pm) in the LGI for 40-minute sessions per period. Polhamus looks forward to seeing you and usually there are snacks.



Thanks for reading our



If you have a submission idea, email: desiree.gagnon@dcbores.org