



# Bulldog

BULLETIN

October 2022

## Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to this new edition of the Bulldog Bulletin!

We have had a great start to the school year and I wanted to take a moment to thank all of our stakeholders for helping to make that happen. In this edition of the Bulletin, you can learn about a little Beacon history.

We have important introductions to three new administrators in the district and some updates about our high school students.

I hope you enjoy it!

Matt Landahl



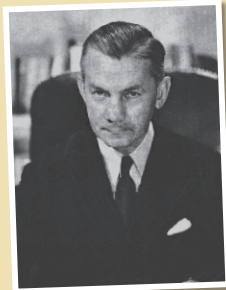
## Principal Visits JV Forrestal ES Namesake's Home

*JV Forrestal Elementary School Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins was one of many guests invited to a ceremonial unveiling of a plaque in honor of the first US Secretary of Defense and the elementary school's namesake James V. Forrestal at his New York City home on September 23.*

Sessoms-Wiggins attended the ceremony along with notable guests such as Francesca C. Forrestal, the Forrestals' sole grandchild and Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, as Forrestal's original home, at 17 Beekman Place, is now owned by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Songwriter Irving Berlin also lived at the residence.

When Sessoms-Wiggins first received the invitation she thought it was a spam message but once she returned the message, she found that Consulate General Executive Assistant Laurence Pierron was thrilled to have her attend. "This was something that came as a surprise to me," the principal said. "I told them I would be honored to attend."

It was very exciting for Sessoms-Wiggins to attend this ceremony and represent the school, especially since this year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Forrestal's appointment as Secretary



of Defense and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his move to 17 Beekman Place. "It's a significant milestone," Sessoms-Wiggins said.

At the ceremony, Sessoms-Wiggins planned to return the favor of being invited and asked Francesca Forrestal and others to visit JV Forrestal ES sometime in the future.

For the inauguration of Forrestal's plaque, Pierron wanted to alert individuals or organizations who could clearly relate to him. She ended up finding an article from Hudson Valley Magazine detailing Forrestal's life and association with Beacon.

"I was flabbergasted when reading this article, learning new facts about his life before 17 Beekman Place," Pierron said. "Consequently, I made it my goal to reach out to the James V. Forrestal Elementary School."

Forrestal was born February 15, 1892 in Matteawan, NY, which is now part of the city of Beacon. After graduating from high school in 1908, he spent three years working for three local area newspapers: the *Matteawan Evening Journal*, the *Mount Vernon Argus* and the *Poughkeepsie News Press*.

He also worked as a publicist in Dutchess County, helping area politicians' campaign for local and state elections. One of the individuals aided by his work was a neighbor in Hyde Park, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## CHECK IT OUT

2 Milwaukee Buck Stops Here  
BHS Nat'l Honor Society  
BCSD Sports Roundup

3 New & Returning Administrators  
BCSD Joins in Spirit of Beacon Day

## BHS Open House welcomes families back to school



After two years of virtual events, Beacon High School's fall open house was back, live and in-person on September 20.

"We are excited that the event is back to being-in person," BHS Principal Corey Dwyer said.

The event's purpose is to invite parents, guardians

and caregivers to BHS where they can meet with their students' teachers and experience what their children do on a daily basis. Parents learned more about what to expect for the 2022-2023 school year.

"Parents and guardians followed their student's nine-period schedule and had the opportunity to hear briefly from each teacher," Dwyer said. "We hope this event will allow our parents and guardians to connect with their students' teachers."

As a new principal for BHS, one of Dwyer's main goals is to connect families and the Beacon community to the great things happening at school. These include students' academic, artistic and athletic accomplishments, their commitment to giving back and faculty and staff's incredible work.

"As we emerge from the pandemic and return to 'normal,' we are also committed to expanding opportunities for all of our students," Dwyer said.

Dwyer is well equipped for the task – he served as BHS' Assistant Principal last year and is himself a BHS graduate. "I attended Beacon schools all my life," he said.



# On his way to Milwaukee, the Buck stops here!



Basketball superstar Elijah Hughes, who is now playing for the Milwaukee Bucks, recently paid a visit to his home school district to talk with students about basketball and his life.

The Beacon native visited Sargent on September 8 and JV Forrestal on September 12 where he shot hoops with students, took their questions and even read books to the district's youngest students.

Sargent's Principal Cathryn Biordi heard from Hughes who desired to connect with younger students before he left for Milwaukee after hosting an assembly with Rombout students last school year. Biordi found his talk relatable especially when he noted

that he gets anxious when adjusting to new situations.

"His message aligned really well to the emotions a lot of our students feel at the beginning of a new school year," Biordi said. "The students were definitely surprised to find out that even an NBA star is nervous at times."

During an assembly with third to fifth graders, Hughes shared about his start in basketball, his stints with both Utah Jazz and the Portland Trail Blazers and his love for his hometown.

"I'm looking to buy a house here, this



is where my heart is at," Hughes said. "I'm happy to be here."

Hughes enjoyed interacting with students and said his purpose is to be an inspiration to as many people as possible.



"That's always been a dream of mine," Hughes said. "It's been awesome, the kids are asking great questions."

JV Forrestal Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins noted how Hughes' message of never giving up is relatable to students.

"At one point in our life we're going to experience something that may be difficult," Sessoms-Wiggins said. "You should keep trying, never give up."

Fifth grader Ian Ramkalawon had a chance to shoot hoops with Hughes and loved every minute of the assembly.

"I'm a really big basketball fan," Ramkalawon said. "I loved talking to him and seeing him."



**Honor Society is Full Steam Ahead**

You can read all about upcoming events planned for Beacon High School's National Honor Society, or NHS, during September on a new bulletin board in the hallway.

The board was designed by the organization's Historian Crystal Chen to showcase service opportunities and fun events to bring the community together with the hope of reaching more students.



"National Honor Society has a lot planned for the 2022-2023 school year," NHS Co-President Labibah Hassan said. "We expect to do it all while upholding our four pillars of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character."

NHS gives high achieving students a place where they can hone their leadership skills and take advantage of resources that will help them with their goals in the organization and long-term, according to the NHS website.

## BCSD SPORTS ROUND UP

Sports at Beacon City School District are back up and running for another busy year with more students than ever before.

While numbers are still being calculated, enrollment in fall sports increased for the 2022-2023 school year, something Athletic Director John Giametta is happy to see.

"That's been one of our goals," Giametta said. "We have more student participation in fall sports."

COVID restrictions during the past two years made playing sports tricky, including potentially not doing statewide tournaments. This year however marks a clean slate with no restrictions whatsoever and a full schedule of games.

"It's nice to start things out normal," Giametta said. "Fall sports are going well right now."

Giametta and the coaches are gearing up for High School **Homecoming Week from October 17 to 21** which will feature numerous games and special events scheduled throughout the week.

**Exact times and days will be announced at a later date.** The scheduled games include:

- October 17
  - Varsity Girls Soccer at 4:30 p.m.
  - Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Goshen at 6 pm
- October 18
  - Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Cornwall at 4:15 pm
  - JV Boys Soccer vs. Cornwall at 6:15 pm
- October 19
  - JV Volleyball vs. Goshen at 4:30 pm
  - Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Goshen at 6 pm
- October 21
  - Varsity Football vs. OLL at 7 pm





# Welcome

## New & Returning Administrators to BCSD



**Michael Carofano,**  
*Rombout Middle School  
Assistant Principal*

Before coming to Rombout, Carofano spent eight years in various roles districtwide including, most recently as a physical education teacher.

Carofano's goals include promoting what's happening at

Rombout through social media and a weekly newsletter and bringing awareness to making healthy choices. He considers himself a team player who wants to bounce ideas off of his fellow administrators.

Carofano holds a Master's in athletic administration and coaching from Concordia University at Irvine and a Bachelor's in physical education, health education and Adaptive physical education from SUNY Cortland.

Outside of work, Carofano loves golfing, fishing and spending time with his family.



**Alexis McKoy-Yakle,**  
*Assistant Director of  
Pupil Personnel Services*

McKoy-Yakle has more than 15 years of educational experience with her most recent role being a Chairperson for Newburgh City School District's Committees on Preschool Special Education and Special Education for six years.

This year, McKoy-Yakle hopes to make the district's vision of a "Culture of Care" a reality for the students and parents she works with by providing equitable education.

McKoy-Yakle holds a Master's in special and general education and a Bachelor's in history from Mt. Saint Mary College.

When she's not working, McKoy-Yakle loves painting, knitting and spending time at beaches and lakes with her three sons.



**Scott Welsh,** *Director of Technology*

Welsh joins BCSD after working for two years as a District Technology Coordinator at Mount Pleasant Cottage School.

For Welsh, his main goal is to help the district use technology in the best ways possible. He will be meeting with the curriculum team to see what their needs are. He will also help facilitate the district's technology vision for the next three years.

Welsh holds two Master's degrees in instructional design from Manhattan College and educational leadership from Pace University.

In his free time, Welsh enjoys going to the park with his two sons for soccer games and practices.



# BCSD REPRESENTS

# BEACON DAY SPIRIT OF THE

