



SUPERINTENDENT DR. KRINER CASH'S WEEKLY BRIEF



November 19, 2021

STUDENT SUPPORT

The BPS Multi-Tiered System of Support Wellness Team Leaders from 36 schools are participating in district-wide trainings to support the Health and Wellness of our schools. There are three training dates available for the remaining schools. The trainings support team leaders and administrators in the utilization of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports to ensure the needs of all students are met at the Tier 1, 2, and 3 levels. Team leaders also created action plans grounded in data from YRBS, School Health Index, and Tier 1 Fidelity Tool. The Team leaders enjoyed the training and were able to discuss best practices they can use to turnkey in their schools.



CLRI

On November 18, the Office of CLRI facilitated a powerful Disproportionality Culturally Responsive Education Training Session centered on the theme *of Hope and Healing for Humanity*. Throughout their reflections, participants recognized the gifts, bravery, and brilliance of our African American brothers and sisters that were brought to the forefront as a result of the Great Migration. Continuing with the theme of *Hope and Healing for Humanity*, the Scholars for Social Justice had the opportunity to attend their own training session with Dr. Angel Acosta (below), which focused on teaching them how to lead their own healing-centered mindfulness sessions. As a reminder, the next set of Disproportionality Culturally Education Training Sessions will be held on December 15th and 16th, featuring guest speaker, Anthony Ray Hinton.



MORE CLRI – BORN ON THE WATER – GRADE 4

Clianda Yorda, Grade 4 teacher at Community School #53 wrote to Associate Superintendent of CLRI, Dr. Fatima Morrell, "I wanted to thank you for all that you do. The impact goes far beyond what you think." With that Ms. Yorda sent a photo of what a student wrote after a lesson on the Nikole-Hannah Jones book "[Born on the Water](#)". With the proper knowledge, our children are going to "be okay."

Dear Mrs. Yorda thank you so much for what you did to me, you are my favorite teacher ever and I don't say that alot. yesterday when you came to comfort me I knew you were my favorite you really didn't have to hug me and say it will be okay. And because of you I made the book. Because of you I really know about black people before I only knew that we were slaves I never knew that they whet though that. So Dear Mrs. Yorda thank you.

PARENT CENTER PROGRAMMING

As a continuation of BPS Parent Centers programming, on Saturday, November 6th, Purchase Department representatives Jennifer LoTimpio and Susan Faulise co-facilitated the first of four "Potential BPS Vendor Chat and Chew" events. These sessions are designed to answer questions regarding the Buffalo Public Schools vendor application process. Participants also received step-by-step instructions for how to register for the mailing lists and submit MWBE certifications. Thank you, Central District Board Member Paulette Woods, for your support and attendance.



HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Twenty students from Buffalo Culinary and 3 students from the Occupational Training Center were each awarded the **HEAT** award: **H**ave respect, **E**ager to learn, **A**lways be safe, and **T**ake responsibility. The students earned a certificate and delicious take-home items from the school's bakery. Congratulations for exemplifying outstanding values and behaviors, HEAT scholars!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACADEMICS

At Highgate Heights School 80, students in Mrs. Dolan's 4th grade class conducted a science experiment on How Does Heat Move? Using different kinds of cups made up of different materials, the 4th grade scientists worked in small groups in an effort to test their hypothesis with hands on observations. Students created a chart that identified the temperature of each cup before and after submersion in an ice bath. When students

were finished, they were able to determine that some objects are conductors of heat and others are not.



Also at Highgate Heights, using a number line and an analog clock, Ms. Barone's 3rd grade class explored time as a continuous measurement. Students were excited to use a variety of tools to build measurement skills.



DA HOSTS ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY AT WEST HERTEL

On Wednesday, November 10th, grades 6-8 at West Hertel School 94 held an assembly as part of their anti-bullying campaign. Danielle D'Abate, a prosecutor from the Erie County district attorney's office, engaged with the students discussing not only examples of what bullying looks like (in school, online, etc), but also discussed the serious nature of the consequences for their actions. She used real-life scenarios, including stories of real-life consequences, to drive the point home that bullying in any form is unacceptable and needs to stop.



WELCOMING AFGHAN STUDENTS

Lafayette International Community High School has been serving Afghan refugees, among more than thirty other languages/cultures. This body of students represent multilingual learners comprised of immigrant, refugee and Latino communities within Buffalo. For them, we have implemented Community School wrap-around family/student support, coupled with the academic support model as a fully vetted by the Internationals Network for Public Schools [INPS] since 2016. Lafayette International Principal John Starkey stands with his Afghan students (below), some of whom arrived directly from Afghanistan in recent weeks. Principal Starkey told the students, "We know that you have faced a lot, and our prayers and positive energy is with your families back home. We also want you to feel supported and show our warm welcome to you and your families to America and Buffalo, NY. We hope you feel this is your 2nd home; we are happy you made it here!" Agreed, Principal Starkey!



SCHOOL PRIDE AT EAST

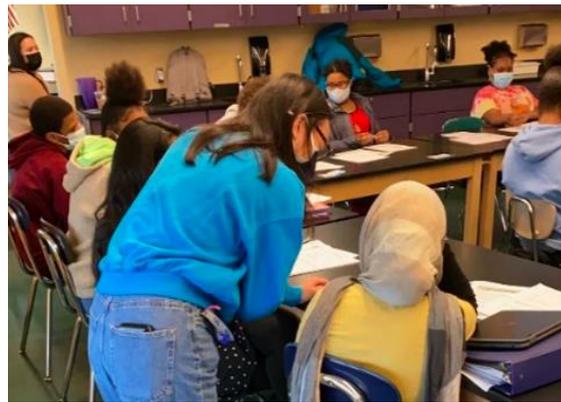
Recently, East Community students and staff engaged in a "Panther Day" named for the school mascot. Panther Day was created to reward academic excellence while simultaneously offering support to students in need. The result isn't just a push in academic standing. It also is a catalyst to open communication through organized

activities that allow all participants to see each other's "fun" side outside of the academic classroom, creating a stronger community. Learning is fun!



SUNY @ BUFFALO SCIENCE AMBASSADORS

Burgard High School and Dr. Charles R. Drew Science Magnet School Science Departments recently welcomed SUNY @ Buffalo Science Ambassadors to their classrooms. The SUNY at Buffalo Science Ambassadors, led by Dr. Sandra Small, participate in Explorations in Teaching Science course and are funded by the Cullen Foundation, and coordinated by BPS Director of Science Tatiana Merrick. The SUNY @ Buffalo Science Ambassadors are a tremendous asset to their respective science classroom assignments. Not only does this collaboration provide assistance to the classroom teacher and increased opportunities for BPS science students, BPS students connect with individuals attending SUNY @ Buffalo and have the opportunity to inquire about university life and expectations. Read more about this fabulous collaboration under news at buffaloschools.org.



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS – WHAT I DID LAST SATURDAY!

I had fun at last week's 6th day of school – Saturday Academy – at Stanley Makowski #99 and Southside Elementary. I met Makowski librarian, Mrs. Riggio, with her daughter and 2 friends from the Iroquois School District who were assisting with a book fair. Mrs. Yan Li, our #99 Mandarin Chinese teacher was teaching 2nd grade student Maqenzie Davis about Chinese culture through mindfulness practice and the art of tea preparation, while dad, Maqeis Davis looked on. Maqenzie also showed me that she could count to 20 in Mandarin Chinese. Teacher assistant, Didria Coleman, who is becoming a teacher through our Buffalo State partnership program witnessed the entire lesson. Thank you to Say Yes and North East & East Zone Leader, Jerrica DeLaney, for

helping to curate this valuable and varied array of enriching Community School Saturday Academy offerings!



At Southside Elementary School, I met many of the staff who make the building run like a top six days per week! Seen below are: Custodial Team: Jeanne Dunbar, Mike Trautman, Dan Borczynski; AP - Marcus Andersen; "Bella" the therapy dog and her teacher/owner Angela Pal, an ESL teacher at Southside. Bella is her personal dog and is now a certified therapy dog! Also meet the precious Cafeteria Team: Sandy Stachowiak, Stephanie Lavin, Melissa Epollito, Eleanora Mecrio. I am gratified to know our children are surrounded by these lovely, caring adults.





OUR STORY PROJECT/MBK

Last Saturday, Our Story Project, consisting of scholars from six different BPS high schools came together at McKinley High School. The morning began with a book study of selected readings from 400 Souls and the 1619 Project to ensure scholars know of the legacy of enslavement and how it impacts everyone's lives today. In the afternoon, scholars were provided a presentation by volunteers from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. on the importance of staying healthy and being vaccinated against Covid-19. Scholars also participated in a monitored debate on the Travis Scott Astroworld concert tragedy with tightly reasoned arguments both for and against Travis Scott. Finally, the day ended with energy release by playing badminton and basketball and swimming instruction. Burgard High School had a terrific turnout with 30 swimming scholars! It was great to be back in person with our scholars! Attendance was up by 20 on this snowy Saturday, proving that students want to research and tell their story, in their voice.





FOOTBALL NEWS

As a result of their Section VI Class AA football win over Lancaster last week at High Mark Stadium, Our Lewis J. Bennett Tigers will take on the McQuaid Knights tomorrow, Sat. 11/20, 6:30pm at Williamsville South High School. Tickets will be sold presale for \$7.00 with the below link or \$10.00 (cash only) at the gate. Go, Tigers!

<https://gofan.co/app/school/NYSHSAVI>

Per Wednesday Night's Board of Education meeting, the game is dedicated to former BPS Superintendent Dr. James A. Williams, who championed our entry into Section VI sports, along with so many other important achievements during his time in Buffalo.



DR. JAMES A. WILLIAMS

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr. James A. Williams, who I knew as a revered colleague, a lifelong learner and educator, and a good friend and mentor to many of my existing staff. I know that he has been, and will be, greatly missed. May God receive and rest your soul, James.



DR. JAMES A. WILLIAMS in MEMORIAM

Look at the FULL roster of Community School events below and enjoy your weekend!



Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent

School	Theme	Time
#37	Give Thanks	10am-1pm
#301	Mindfulness Matters	10am-1pm
#74	Turkey Drive	10am-1pm
#92	Thankful Event	10am-1pm
#80	We are Thankful	9am-12pm
#97	Harvest Happenings	9am-12pm
#309	Thanksgiving Giveaway	10am-1pm
#30	Friendsgiving Celebration	10am-1pm
#198	Full Steam Ahead	9am-12pm
#76	Happy Thansgiving Feliz día de acción de gracias	10am-1pm
#207	Happy Thansgiving Feliz día de acción de gracias	10am-1pm
#3	Thanksgiving	9:30am-12:30pm
#89	Family Heritage Celebration	10am-1pm
Bennett	Give Thanks For Thanksgiving	9am-12pm
#43	We Give Thanks	9am-12pm
#206	Fall Harvest Celebrations	9am-12pm

COVID-19 vaccine clinic/WOW event TOMORROW, Saturday October 2nd, from 9am-12pm, at International Prep High School, 110 14th St. Sponsored by Community Health Worker Network of Buffalo, Erie County Department of Health and Buffalo Public Schools AND many community groups. For all eligible age groups!

Open for Everyone! Here for You!