



# Bulldog

BULLETIN

Summer 2022

## Message from the Superintendent

Thank you so much for checking out our late summer edition of the Bulldog Bulletin. We have been engaging with hundreds of our students from all grade levels this summer in learning experiences and field trips.

We have also been preparing for the upcoming school year with hiring for many different positions. We have featured some of our administrative hires in this edition and we will share more next month. We are very excited to see everyone soon in school and during the many different activities that we have for our students and families.

I hope you can enjoy the last few days of summer and we will see you soon!

Matt Landahl

## Summer F<sup>UN</sup> Program promotes engaging activities



The second year of the Beacon Elementary Summer Academy was a smash hit with 210 students in two, two-week sessions, taking their core classes, but also having tons of fun.

The first session ran from July 11 to 21, while the second ran from August 1 to 11 at Beacon High School. It was open to any student from Beacon's four elementary schools either looking to enhance or brush up on their education.

The academic courses centered on English language arts and math, while the extra-curricular activities ran the gamut from yoga to a field trip to The Culinary Institute of America.

"Our goal is to make it fun and engaging," Program Coordinator Cassandra Orser said. "There's a lot of hands-on learning."

While it was nerve wracking for some students to come to BHS at first, they acclimated into their surroundings quickly.

"We have a couple of students that say they're in high school now," Orser said. "We did bring furniture over from some of the elementary schools to make sure we had a welcoming and warm environment."

Orser praised the teachers for creating a fun environment for students who gave the program two thumbs up.

"I think it's a testament when they come in every day and they're excited to be here," Orser said.

Out of all the offerings, soon to be 5th grader Edduar Duarte liked the physical education activities best, particularly dodgeball.

"We do many fun things," Duarte said.

Gennaro Antonucci, who will start 5th grade in the fall, counted making tie dye shirts and swimming as his favorite activities.

"I really like all of them, but I like art," Antonucci said.



## BCSD Welcomes New Administrators

### Christina Bartley, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Bartley has over 10 years of education experience with her most recent role serving as assistant principal at Kingston High School for three years.



For Bartley, her goals include collaborating with other BCSD community

members to create and maintain an equitable, safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Additionally, she wants to promote independence, self-advocacy and life-long learning for students with disabilities.

Bartley holds an MS in Adolescent Education from SUNY Albany and a Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY New Paltz.

In her free time, Bartley loves traveling, home remodeling projects and spending time with family and friends.

### Dr. Heather Chadwell Dennis, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services

Chadwell Dennis joined Beacon after spending 11 years in the Hyde Park Central School District as director of special education and she was previously a speech language pathologist in the Arlington Central School District.



During the year, Chadwell Dennis plans to implement her experiences of fostering environments where students are intellectually and academically supported into creating programs and expanding practices that serve students best.

Chadwell Dennis holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education Policy and Leadership from SUNY Albany and a Master's of Science from the College of St. Rose.

Outside of school hours, Chadwell Dennis loves hiking, reading and listening to Ted Talks.

### Dr. Candyce Edwards-Allen, Beacon High School Assistant Principal

Edwards-Allen joins Beacon with 12 years of experience behind her, most recently teaching special education English at Monroe-Woodbury High School, where she also was a special education coordinator.



Developing new and innovative ways to engage students in positive behavior and working with faculty, staff, families, and the community to ensure great outcomes for all students are Edwards-Allen's goals.

Edwards-Allen holds an Ed.D in Education Leadership, Management, and Policy from Seton Hall University, as well as a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from New Mexico State University.

Outside of work, Edwards-Allen loves cooking, writing and reading comic books.

# Welcome New Administrators

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## Jesse Morrill, Director of Facilities

Prior to joining Beacon, Morrill was the director of facilities at Sullivan County BOCES where he managed operations and directed the Health & Safety Program for all of the county school districts.



For Morrill, his goal is to help create a safe and healthy educational environment for students and staff.

Morrill holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Marist College and is New York State Certified Code Official as a licensed asbestos inspector, management planner and mold assessor.

In his free time, Morrill enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, Taylor and Ava.

## ESY Program keeps kids learning

About 30 BCSD elementary students participated in the Extended Year summer program where they had fun, but also kept up with their academics. It ran five days a week from July 12 to August 12.



The program, hosted at Beacon High School, is provided to those students whose eligibility

is determined through their Individualized Education Programs and at a meeting of the Committee on Special Education which decides if a student requires the services to prevent substantial regression, sometimes referred to as "summer slide."

Students worked on numerous assignments and activities including swimming on Fridays and Fishing for Vocabulary, where they used poles to "fish" for cards with magnets on the back which have a word they are learning printed on it.

"The students have enjoyed the program and opportunity to connect with peers over the summer," Program Coordinator Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins said. "They have been big fans of going to the pool."

There were plenty of hands-on learning opportunities and chances to connect with fellow students and teachers. The program ran four days a week and was open to any student entering 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



"We wanted to make it the opposite of what school was like in 2020 and 2021," Program Coordinator Cathryn Biordi said. "We really just wanted to see them have fun, relax

# ENL Program highlights Language and Culture

Beacon's English as a New Language summer program has not only taught 15 students a new language, but also had them explore their native culture through beautiful art projects.



The program, which ran from July 12 to August 18 twice a week, provides students additional support in academic language and literacy while making connections to and through the arts. The district partnered with Dia Beacon to bring in artist educator Nicole Latucca on Tuesdays for the second year in a row.

Dia's Senior Manager of Learning and Engagement Alex Vargo previously worked with the district for a family multicultural night and Black History Month programming at JV Forrestal.

"The goal is to support language acquisition and build on areas of language and literacy through art and culture," program coordinator Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins said. "The relationship we had already established from working together on other programming and projects allowed for us to really hit the ground running."

Students have enjoyed the program and are engaged in the artwork they have created.

"It's been a joy to see how they have responded to and worked so well with the artist educator," Sessoms-Wiggins said. "After year two, we really hope to have more sessions in the future."



Dia's relationship with BCSD goes back to 2001 with the introduction of the Arts Education Program where 2nd graders, from BCSD's four elementary schools, have their artwork displayed in the museum in early June.



"The Arts Education Program is one of our core educational programs," Vargo said.

"We have really long standing partnerships with the teachers, students and administrators."

Vargo described the partnership with the ENL class as a harmonious one where students are encouraged to bring their own experiences into Michelle Stuart's artwork. She enjoyed reading poems they've written about their homelands.

"The collection is something to engage in directly," Vargo explained. "The students have figured out their own relationship to her work."

During an event showcasing the students' work on August 18, they had a chance to see Stuart's art up close after reading about her.

"It's exciting for them," she said. "The more we can keep building on this partnership, we're thrilled to do that."

## Rombout MS Summer Program

Three hundred and twenty Rombout Middle School students enriched their education this summer by participating in a free program dedicated to learning with some fun activities sprinkled in. The program, which was broken up into two sessions from July 11 to August 11, was created to fill in any academic gaps students may have had due to two years of the COVID pandemic.



and build deeper connections with one another." Each of the 180 spots in both sessions were filled with students participating in math, physical education, Spanish and English Language Arts classes. They also took field trips, as long as they attended their classes, to Splashdown Beach and Broadway to see the play "Come from Away," which for some was a new experience.

"It was a total city experience," Biordi said of the Broadway trip. "It's a place for them to make up for lost time when it comes to experiences."

Maeve Haley, who's entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year,

most enjoyed seeing her friends and favorite teachers, as well as the field trips to New York City.

"It was my first time going there," Haley said of the NYC trips. "All of the good teachers are here."

Soon to be 7<sup>th</sup> grader Glory Morris enjoyed her math classes, but also going to The Castle Fun Center in Chester for one particular reason. "I liked going on the rides," Morris said.



Désirée Gagnon, Designer; Daniel Zuckerman, Public Information Officer