

Bulldog

December 2022

BULLETIN



• BREAK • DEC 22nd - 30th •

Message from the Superintendent

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Bulldog Bulletin.

This issue covers some amazing accomplishments of our students and staff! After winter break, I will be hosting community conversations at each school and host a virtual session where I will talk about our strategic planning process and what is coming with the capital project and answer questions people have about the district. The schedule will be coming out in the coming days and I hope to see many of you attend.

Have a great holiday season!

Matt Landahl

Thanksgiving Luncheon Comes Back



Sargent students and staff were happy to welcome 75 senior citizens from the community to attend a Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 10.

All the students had a hand in making this celebration a success – the fifth graders

served the Thanksgiving lunch and primary students made all of the decorations.

Additionally, the senior citizens were treated to a mini concert by the first graders and chorus students.



“We were so excited to bring this long standing Sargent tradition back after the pandemic pause,” Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi said.



Sports in Beacon are sailing along nicely and included below are some neat highlights from across the district.

BHS BOYS SOCCER COMPLETES HISTORIC SEASON



While they came one win short of winning a New York State public high school championship in the state Class A final on November 13 against Amityville in Suffolk County, the BHS Boys Soccer team finished their season at 14-4-2.

The team started the season with losses to Arlington and Newburgh Free Academy before finishing the amazing season at the top.

The Bulldogs defeated Vestal 1-0 in a state regional semifinal and Yorktown 2-0 in a state regional final thus reaching the state semifinal. Andre Alzate had the goal against Vestal and Jack Philipbar scored early giving the Bulldogs an early lead over Yorktown.

Over time, the Bulldogs advanced to the state final with a 3-2 state semifinal win over the Christian Brothers

Academy on Nov. 12 where Alzate scored two goals and Liam Murphy added one goal.

BHS RUNNERS COMPETE AT THE STATE LEVEL

BHS juniors Rachel Thorne and Henry Reinke proudly represented their school district at the Cross Country State Championship on November 12.



This year marked the second time Thorne represented Beacon at the state level and she previously took the final qualifying spot at the Section IX, Class B state qualifier on

November 2 at Bear Mountain. Reinke finished seventh at the same competition.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

GIRLS TENNIS TEAM SHOWS THE LOVE



The BHS Girls Tennis team held a small get together on October 7 prior to their last home game of the season at the tennis courts to show appreciation to

teachers they've had over the course of their high school career that helped them get to where they are.

Eleven of the girls are seniors, so for them, it was their last home tennis game ever, leaving big shoes to fill.

"All of you are here right now because



Pennacchio celebrates 40 years at BCSD

Rombout Custodian and BHS graduate Mike Pennacchio recently celebrated his 40th year working at BCSD and does not plan on retiring anytime soon.

"If you retire, what are you going to do, sit around?" Pennacchio said. "I like to keep busy."

Before Pennacchio graduated from Beacon High School in 1982, he inquired about job openings and was initially told he could be given part-time work, which would eventually lead to a full-time role.

While he briefly worked at BHS last year, Pennacchio feels most at home at Rombout, where he's worked for the bulk of his career.

"I told them, 'Don't move me, because I'm coming back anyway'," Pennacchio said. "I think the principal wanted me to come back down here because I knew everything that's going on in the gym."

Pennacchio's responsibilities include taking out garbage, cleaning up the building and to set up the gym for basketball games and other special

you've made some sort of impact on all of our lives," Team Captain Ari Carmona said. "You have shaped us into the people that we are now."

In return, JV Forrestal Teacher and Pickleball Club advisor Theresa Losito expressed her appreciation for the girls allowing her club to practice the sport on their courts and not rushing them off when it's time for tennis practice.

"You guys are always so generous," Losito said. "I really do appreciate your guys' patience."

SARGENT RUNS CLUB IS A HIT

Sargent Runs – JV Forrestal Art teacher Cathy Pezzo and Sargent teacher Vanessa Black have advised the Girls on the Run program in the past but have been looking to expand it to include all grade levels and genders.

The Sargent Runs club meets once a month for a two hour period and is open to any student from 1st to 5th grade. Due to the large number of students interested in participating, Pezzo and Black recruited BHS Honor Society students to assist with the club. The students will earn community service hours.

"Other district elementary schools were given the opportunity of forming running clubs at each specific school," Pezzo said. "We thought it would be a wonderful way to include all students."



events. His work ethic has been noticed by some teachers who specifically request Pennacchio to clean their classrooms.

"I help everybody out, as much as I can," Pennacchio said. "Teachers appreciate what I do."

The most prominent change Pennacchio has seen over the years is different employees shuffling in and out and has watched students grow before his eyes, some still remember him years after they graduated.

"They see me on the streets sometimes," Pennacchio explained. "I've seen many changes in and out."

The custodian said the kindness from district staff and administrators is what keeps him working in the district. "They're all wonderful in this building," he said. "Everybody's grateful I'm here."

VETERAN PE TEACHER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Congratulations are in order for BHS Physical Education teacher Cynthia Pomarico. During the I Am Beacon 10 year anniversary gala on October 6, she was given the Pioneer Award.



Pomarico, who's taught in the district for 36 years, said she was humbled by receiving the award. However, the real prize for her is giving back to the district where she was once a student.

"Beacon has always been a community of selfless people doing whatever they can for their community," Pomarico said. "To be at the gala in a room filled with so many inspirational and empowering people was quite overwhelming."

The teacher considers herself fortunate to have grown up in Beacon where she had community members be her mentors, leaders and coaches.

"As they say, 'it takes a village' and I am very fortunate and proud to be part of the Beacon village with so many others," Pomarico said. "I was given the opportunity to do my part along with many other runners in the community."

BCSD Superintendent Matt Landahl congratulated Pomarico on Twitter proclaiming he's proud to work with her.

Turkey Trot was a gobbling good time



Sargent Elementary School's yearly run right before Thanksgiving was anything but a turkey.

Held on November 19, the Turkey Trot saw over 70 adults participate in the 5K portion and over 60 students do the Kids Fun Run. A group of student cheerleaders were on hand to motivate the runners as they sprinted.



A little over \$1,000 was raised for the school's student council to help fund building wide initiatives.

South Ave Library is a

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Students at South Ave. Elementary School are doing more than reading at their school

library – they're engaged in numerous educational and fun science projects that keep them busy and happy.

Library Media Specialist Aaron Burke has students work on **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)** projects such as aquaponics, a blending of fish and plant production with hydroponics, growing plants without soil. Second grade students have planted lettuce and basil and added nutrients to the produce for their survival.



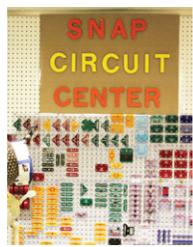
"The aquaponics, we're going to see if they can function without us," Burke said. "They're trying to use the nutrients from the fish."



On top of this, students study land-forms with the use of stream tables, produce a morning news show and use



Snap Circuits kits, which teach basic engineering, electronics and circuitry concepts using building components.



"We have new ones that have rovers, so you have to build a circuit to make the rover work," Burke explained. "Students like coming to the library generally."

While completing science projects in the library may sound unusual, Burke said students are already using library computers for STEM related initiatives like 3D printing, so doing these projects was an easy decision.

"Moving into the other STEM areas seems like a natural fit," Burke said. "It feels like a place where you can make a difference."

Turkey Trot was a gobbling good time

Additionally, Sargent Teaching Assistant Tracy Gida was able to give three large boxes of food to people in need thanks to donations.

While the Turkey Trot existed as an after school event for Sargent students previously, it was decided to make it a



community wide event inviting students and parents from all of Beacon's schools.

Sargent Physical Education Teacher Ryan Koval noted

how the event was full of positive energy where the students had a blast in the Kids Fun Run. He also thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

"We could not have asked for a better event," Koval said. "I cannot express enough gratitude to all of the volunteers and the PTO for providing snacks for the runners after the event."



Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi credited the many volunteers from Sargent's PTO and student groups, the Rombout National Junior Honor Society, as well as Beacon High School's National Honor Society and student council for making the event a success.

BCSD ♥'s Pickleball

Pickleball, a fun sport combining elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, has become BCSD's new favorite sport.



Elementary students can practice their skill in this sport Wednesday mornings before school begins, while high school students practice in the afternoon on Beacon High School's tennis courts after school is out.

After four practices, JV Forrester Teacher Theresa Losito, who brought the game to BCSD, received rave reviews from her fifth grade students. In October, the district gave permission to extend morning sessions making everyone happy.

"Our first practice was great – smiles and excitement all around," Losito said. "It's so much fun."

Fifth grader Ethan See was grateful to be able to play this sport, which will stick with him for years.

"Pickleball is very fun, I liked it so much," See

said. "I will probably be doing it in middle school."

Fifth grader Amaziah Buffin finds the game to be enjoyable commenting how it's like tennis and ping-pong put together.

"It's fun to have so much fun with friends before school starts," Buffin said.

For fifth grader Charlie Jelliffe he enjoys pickleball for a very particular reason.

"It is fun because I get to play with my friends," he said.



"It was really great seeing students from every level come together and volunteer at the same event," Biordi said. "The entire event went really smoothly thanks to all the volunteers."

BHS Junior Olivia Del Castillo has enjoyed competing against her classmates and even some of her teachers in pickleball games.



"It's just fun to play after school," Del

Castillo said, continuing, "New people come every day."



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