



Bulldog

BULLETIN

February 2023

Message from the Superintendent

I am halfway through the community conversations and they have been a blast! I want to thank the people who have attended and encourage anyone else who wants to attend to check the schedule on our website. I have been discussing our strategic planning process, the capital project, and the budget process for next year.

Along with the remaining virtual sessions, **I will be hosting a virtual session on March 7th at 7:00.**

I hope to see you!

-Matt Landahl

Film Festival Returns for Round 2



After a successful first run, The Film Festival is back! The Foundation for Beacon Schools Film Festival is open to all BCSD students to show off their creativity.

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Commendation Ceremony Celebrates Accomplishments

Beacon held its first ever Commendation and staff, from across the district, amazing accomplishments and contributions to the community.

The January ceremony marked the first of periodic ceremonies that District Leadership and the Board of Education desire to hold where students, staff and faculty will be recognized for extraordinary achievements.



The students on Girls Varsity Tennis Coach Catherine

Niebuhr-Oriani's team were recognized for sending three doubles teams to this year's sectional tournament.

"We had a very strong season this year and the girls deserved all the recognition," Niebuhr-Oriani said.

Niebuhr-Oriani, who also teaches math at Rombout, was also recognized for positive interactions with her students.



She described the ceremony as a moving one where many of the district's unsung heroes are recognized, including Theresa Lucarini, the BHS math teacher who inspired Niebuhr-Oriani to take up the profession.

"She was recognized for her amazing accomplishments supporting her seniors," Niebuhr-Oriani said of Lucarini. "It was amazing to see teachers who I had as a student, the custodial department, and classroom aides as well as my own players and students be recognized for their many accomplishments that may normally go unnoticed."



BHS Students Make Their Voices Heard

A group Beacon High School students in Erin Haddeland's Participation and Government class brought issues of concern to the attention of the Beacon City Council on December 19 with a promise from the elected officials to commit \$10,000 to some of their causes.

BHS Social Studies Teacher Erin Haddeland had her students work independently from each other on their ideas and worked with them to create presentations with pictures. She introduced her students on the night of the meeting to the council who Haddeland said were welcoming and encouraging.

"Overall it was a pretty fun experience and we look forward to doing it again next year," Haddeland said.



Senior Jaeden Drysdale, a member of the Black Student Union, proposed to help clean up the historic Union Burial Ground in and raise money towards it. Drysdale was pleased to learn that the city will assist with the effort and he wants to get his fellow classmates involved from National Honor Society to help too.

"It was pretty nice," Drysdale said of his experience. "You can be involved but you have to put the time and energy into it."

Replacing basketball hoops at Memorial Park was the focus of Senior Dylan Howard's proposal.

He said having up to date equipment will encourage more kids to go outside and play in the summer.

"This is going to be a good opportunity for people growing up," Howard said. "That makes me feel good because I'm helping younger people."

Howard enjoyed talking with the council and appreciated them listening to his proposal, which will be worked on in the future.



"It was a pretty good experience to talk with people with significant power in the community," Howard said. "I'd be willing to do more things like this in the future."

Film Festival Returns for Round 2

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The inspiration for Beacon's festival is came from the PS187 Film Festival in New York City where students from all grades submit short films. **This year's festival will take place in mid-May and the deadline for submissions is April 17.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

Last year's festival featured 37 short films including documentaries, animation and dramatic works that were well received by the crowd of 300 people, including students who cheered on their peers.

"We were pleased to see how students supported each other," foundation Chair Anna Sullivan said. "The films were incredible."

Sullivan and the foundation team are hoping to have more submissions so they can host two separate screenings and are working with the district and community organizations to help students find their film ideas. Additionally, various workshops on filmmaking starting in late January at the Beacon Rec and Dia are being offered.

"We are trying to appeal to all ages," Sullivan said. "There will be other opportunities outside of school for kids to get involved."

The films can easily be made on camera phones, as students are incredibly tech savvy and Sullivan noted that the festival gives students a chance to make a film on anything they may be interested in.

"It really gives kids a special outlet for expressing themselves," Sullivan said. "You don't have to be a drama club kid."



SARGENT RINGS IN LUNAR NEW YEAR



Students at Sargent Elementary School celebrated Lunar New Year with fun and educational activities honoring Chinese cultural traditions.

Lunar New Year celebrates the arrival of spring and the beginning of a New Year on the lunisolar calendar; in the Chinese zodiac, 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. It is a 15-day celebration in China involves many traditions such as families decorating their windows with red paper cuttings with a lantern festival closing out the festivities.

In Cathy Pezzo's art classes, students learned about the many traditions surrounding this holiday including a celebration of lights and made paper lanterns and decorated them with origami paper.

"We focused on how the lunisolar calendar differs from ours," Pezzo explained.

With the Year of the Rabbit theme in mind, Pezzo had students across the grades make crafts centered on the furry critters.



Pre-K students made rabbit puppets and 3rd graders drew a rabbit and designed the background with lettering and origami, while the 4th and 5th graders worked on a project honoring the moon.

"They cut out multiple rabbits and arranged them in a unique pattern with difference phases of a moon with writing," Pezzo said.



In her music classes, Maureen Stickney taught students about the ribbon and fan dances, two popular Chinese dances inspired by the Lunar New Year.

"The ribbon dance is performed mainly for its beauty and for entertainment," Stickney said. "The fan dance is also appreciated for its beauty, but it also is used to tell about folklore or a historical event."



Educator and National Guard Vet joins Rombout MS

Amanda Pucino, an educator with 15 years of experience is relishing her new role as Rombout Middle School's new assistant principal where she is most keen to help students succeed. She works with students with last names M to Z.

After six years in the National Air Guard as a Senior Airman, Pucino went back to her first love of education and most recently served as an English Language Arts instructional coach at Gidney Avenue Memorial School in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District before coming to Rombout.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," Pucino said. "It seems to be where my heart is." Pucino's main goal is to increase student success and help them grow and she also works with teachers on lesson plans, among other duties.

"They're our future," she said of the students. "My goal is to work with students to make sure they're comfortable and safe." One of the reasons Pucino chose to work in Beacon is because it is a great community that continues to expand and evolve. "It's the place to be," Pucino said.

Pucino holds a Masters in Literacy and a certificate in Administration and District Leadership, both from SUNY New Paltz.

During her free time, Pucino loves spending time with her family, gardening and reading.

Upcoming event to satisfy the soul

In the spirit of Valentine's Day join the Beacon Players for a Love Song Coffee House on February 17 starting at 7 pm in the BHS lobby.

Snuggle up with a cup of hot chocolate while the players perform love songs, a breakup song or two and a sneak peek of their upcoming production of "Les Miserables."

Donations will be appreciated.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wrestling –

Brody Timm, Alex Khalil and Jayden Calloway all took first place in their respective weight classes for the BHS wrestling team at the Beacon Bulldog Invitational on Jan. 21.



Avery Davis and Jaire Newton placed second, and Jude Betancourt and Mike Varian finished third for the Bulldogs.

Indoor Track and Field – Henry Reinke and Damani DeLoatch

each won two individual events to lead the Bulldogs at the OCIAA Divisional Championships at West Point on Jan. 21.



Reinke, a junior, took first place in the boys 300-meter dash in 37.22 seconds and boys 1,000-meter run in 2

minutes, 45.99 seconds. DeLoatch, a junior, leaped to wins in the boys long jump, 20 feet, 7 inches; and boys triple jump, 41-7.



Girls Varsity Basketball

– Reilly Landisi scored 19 points to lead the Bulldogs in a 49-32 victory over Goshen on Jan. 24. Lila Burke had 10 points, and Daveya Rodriguez and Devyn Kelly contributed seven points apiece for the Bulldogs (10-4 overall).

Earlier in the month, Beacon recorded wins over Port Jervis, 58-27; Cornwall, 44-37; Monticello, 44-19; Washingtonville, 44-25; Minisink Valley, 34-23; and Port Jervis, 46-19.

Boys Varsity Basketball –

Joe Battle scored 22 points as Beacon defeated visiting Cornwall, 60-47, to improve its record to 10-3.



Dylan Howard and Daniel Mercado added nine and eight points, respectively, for the Bulldogs.

On Jan. 18, Beacon defeated host Cornwall, 61-53.

Darien Gillins scored 21 points, Battle finished with 14 points, and Adrian Beato added 10 points.

Previously in January, the Bulldogs also beat Monticello, Chester, James I. O'Neill and Minisink Valley.

Boys JV Basketball – The Bulldogs improved to 10-0 on the season with a 63-44 victory over visiting Cornwall on Jan. 24. Ryan Landisi led the way with 17 points.

On Jan. 18, Beacon won at Cornwall with Devin Webb scoring 30 points.

Softball – Open gyms have begun for the Bulldogs, who also used the school's turf field for training. Interested players in grades seven through 12 should contact assistant varsity softball coach Catie Oriani about participating in the open gyms.



Dahl Scores 200th Basketball Win

Nineteen years and countless hours of coaching have paid off for Beacon High School Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach Christina Dahl – she recently won her 200th game.

Despite receiving congratulations from current and former students in a video, Dahl gives equal credit to the players and her fellow coaches for

helping her achieve this milestone. “You don’t really think about it until someone asks you,” Dahl said regarding scoring points. “It’s a great accomplishment, but I owe it to my players and my coaching staff.”

What keeps Dahl coming back every year are the student athletes, many of whom she does not have in her social studies classes at BHS, connecting with them on a different level. She cheers them on when they win games and helps them through the struggle when they lose. “They’re great to coach,” Dahl said of the athletes. “When you see how they’ve grown and learned from you it’s inspiring.”

Basketball has stuck with Dahl throughout her life and almost as soon as she started teaching at BHS, she was offered the chance to coach the team – she has not looked back since. “It’s been a great ride,” she said. “I’ve always loved basketball.” Dahl however does not rest on her laurels and always looks for ways to improve. She finds parallels between teaching social studies and coaching, as she always learns from mistakes.

“That’s my responsibility as a coach to reevaluate,” Dahl said. “I’ve been able to experience both the highs and lows of coaching by being so consistent with it.”



Produced by Dutches BOCES Desiree Gagnon, Graphic Designer and Daniel Zuckerman, Public Information Officer



Thanks for reading our



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