

Bulldog

BULLETIN

WELCOME BACK 2024

Message from the Superintendent

We have had a great start to the 2024-2025 school year! Our summer capital project work refurbished classrooms and hallways around the district. Thanks to the community for supporting this work. Our staff did an amazing job getting things ready for our students. This edition of the Bulldog Bulletin once again highlights all of the powerful ways our staff works to provide innovative programming and experiences for our young people.

Please follow our Instagram and Facebook sites for more information about what we do day in and day out for our students.

—Matt Landahl



New Teachers Learn the Beacon Way



Eleven new educators to the Beacon City School District learned all the tips and tricks of the trade during the new teacher orientation on Aug. 28.

Throughout the day, the educators learned about

everything from setting up inclusive classrooms free of biases to the wonders of Google Classroom. “We had a great time welcoming our new staff,” said new Teacher Mentor Coordinator John Giametta. “This is an energetic and enthusiastic group of educators that is ready to work with our students.” Congratulations to everyone on your new roles and we hope you have a successful first school year.



Elementary Principals Welcome Pre-K Families

This summer was hot, so it was only natural that Beacon’s elementary principals offered refreshing popsicles to children starting



pre-kindergarten and their families during an Aug. 28 event fittingly called “Pre-K Popsicles on the Playground.”

The meet and greet event, held at Memorial Park, gave families a chance to meet the principals and some teachers from J.V. Forrestal, Glenham, Sargent and South Avenue and learn about many topics including transitioning into pre-kindergarten and important first day of school tips. Meanwhile, the kids enjoyed their ice pops and played on the park’s playground.



Joe Leroy, whose son is attending Glenham, found the event beneficial as he met teachers and fellow parents, while his son met other kids.

“It eases my mind a lot more,” Leroy said. “We’re a team, all our kids go together and we’ve got to communicate somehow.”

Tiffany Nelson

found the event important as this year is her son’s first school experience and she was able to meet fellow parents in the same situation.

“It’s refreshing that other people are in the same boat,” Nelson said. “It was nice that they do this.”



Historical Society

Welcomes BHS Student Volunteers

These Beacon High School students know their history and they want to share it with everyone. Senior Lani Lopez and sophomore



Ash Marcus were the youngest volunteers serving at the Beacon Historical Society

Cont'd on pg 2...

Senior Represents Beacon at State Level Sports Event



Instead of relaxing by the pool this summer, Beacon High School senior Jazziah Whitted spent the weekend of July 26 representing the district as an alternate at the Basketball Coaches Association of New York’s annual Summer Hoops Festival.

The event welcomes teams representing every section of New York where they have the opportunity to compete alongside the best players in the state, represent their section, participate in clinics with college basketball coaches and learn about college recruiting.

Cont'd on pg 2...

Historical Society

Welcomes BHS Student Volunteers

this summer, while lifelong Beaconite George Atkinson is the oldest at 97. However, all three share a love for local history.

“George was born and raised here 97 years ago, he is a living legend,” Beacon Historical Society trustee Diane Lapis said of Atkinson. “It’s great to see young people who are also born and raised here embracing that same love of Beacon.”

Though they do not work directly with Atkinson, Lopez and Marcus love seeing two different generations come together over a shared interest.

“Everyone feels there’s this huge gap between generations, but it’s cool to be together,” Marcus said. “Common interests can really bring people together.”



Atkinson was thrilled students like Lopez and Marcus wanted to help preserve Beacon’s history.

“It’s encouraging to know that some young people are interested,” Atkinson said. “That’s really commendable.”

The society proved to be a perfect place for Lopez to volunteer at as it intertwined her desire to help the community and indulge her passion for history. She greeted visitors, researched old articles and organized newspapers and postcards.

“There’s a lot of information that I would have never known if I had never volunteered here,” Lopez said. “It helps the community and it helps you because it brings personal fulfillment.”

Marcus’ mother volunteers at the society, so it was only natural he would volunteer there too. He is engaged in a project where he walks down every Beacon street to discover historical places.



“Just seeing things, you can discover so much about the history,” Marcus said. “If I’m going to call someplace my hometown, I feel like I should know a lot about it.”

Lapis praised the students for bringing enthusiasm to the role, being good listeners and having superb organization skills, which comes in handy since artifacts and documents have to be properly stored.



Senior Represents Beacon at State Level Sports Event ...Cont'd from page 1

When Whitted first heard he would be participating, he was amazed and honored to represent the district at such a level.

“Just being named an alternate was something special for me and for Beacon,” Whitted said. “It was an honor and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

With college coaches watching all the attendees, Whitted knew it was best to play the game well and have fun. He also learned a lot.

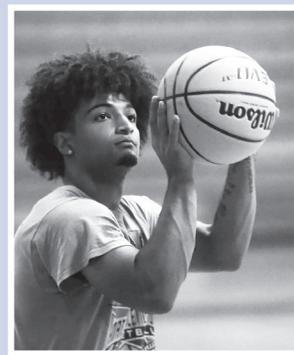
“It has shown me where my skillset is truly and let me know that there’s talent everywhere,” Whitted explained. “If you want to play at the next level you have to be willing to put the work in.”

For Whitted, his favorite part of the game is to see how passionate everyone gets. He has enjoyed playing for Beacon and had this advice for anyone attending next year’s festival.

“Go out there and play your hardest because you don’t know who is watching,” Whitted said. “And always remember to just have fun and play the game.”

Basketball coach Patrick Schetter could not be prouder of Whitted who said he earned the opportunity to attend the festival because of his dedication.

“We at Beacon are proud of the man he is becoming and all of the work he has put in and we are grateful that others in the area recognized it as well,” Schetter said. “We are excited to see what else will come of his hard work.”



CHEERLEADERS HONE THEIR CRAFT AHEAD OF SCHOOL YEAR

Beacon High School’s varsity cheerleaders spent their summer perfecting their cheers and jumps in a series of workout sessions ahead of a busy football and basketball season.

These workout sessions, led by coach Andonia Karnavezos, were split into two parts. In July, they focused on stretching, flexibility and conditioning, while they focused on jumps and the beginnings of a cheer routine in August.

Freshman SaRiah Faust has been with the district’s modified cheerleading team since seventh grade and is eager to move up. She has always enjoyed gymnastics and dancing, so cheerleading was a perfect fit.

The sessions were helpful for Faust while preparing for the new school year. She is most looking forward to improving her talents.

“I’m excited to do the stuff that I got to do last year, but more improved,”

Faust said.

Freshman Evangeline Santise followed her friend Faust into cheerleading and most enjoys the camaraderie it brings to the school.

“It’s really nice because it’s bringing together a bunch of people in school who are all different,” Santise said. “It helps you have more school spirit.”

While cheerleading is not a competitive sport, it still incorporates dancing and gymnastics into it, something Santise appreciates.

She finds everyone focuses on accomplishing a shared goal rather than individual ones.

“It’s nice to not have to worry about being better than everybody else,” Santise explained. “You’re just helping each other.”



ENL Students Learn Though Art and the Community

This summer, students in the English as a New Language (ENL) Multicultural Language Learning Through Art & Community program were engaged in perfecting their English and creating beautiful art projects with the help of Dia Beacon.

SOCCER CAMP

Widens Its Audience



"I would not rather spend my time anywhere else," LaDue said. "The girls are giving such good effort and we're having fun too."

As a coach, senior Brody Timm liked providing his perspective on gameplay to the younger boys and was happy to see them have a camp where they could improve their skills.

"It's good that they have a bunch of varsity players to help them out and everyone out here is having fun," Timm said. "It's a great way to start the season."

The younger athletes who attended gave the camp high praise, including seventh grader Mikaela Arce who liked learning how to improve in the future from the older girls.

"This is a good camp to learn new things," Arce said. "It's really helping me for my soccer season."

Seventh grader Luca Lentini most enjoyed shooting drills with the older boys and noted that he would definitely come back to volunteer when he's older.

"It's very fun, I like the drills," he said.

South Ave ES Boo-Hoo / Woo-Hoo Breakfast

Once they dropped off their kindergartners, South Avenue parents had an opportunity to have some bagels and juice at the first ever "Boo-Hoo / Woo-Hoo Breakfast," sponsored by the school's PTA. The name comes from parents either crying about their children starting school or celebrating them being out of the house.



"They're happy to see their kids start this new journey, but at the same time it's bittersweet," PTA secretary Shana Westlake said.

Westlake came up with the idea after seeing a similar concept at a school her children attended before Beacon and thought it would make for a nice opportunity for fellow parents to meet each other. It also serves as a chance to drum up interest in joining the PTA.

"When you talk to people about who their friends are, who their kids hang out with, a lot of those friendships started in kindergarten," Westlake said. "Getting those parents connected outside of their kids being in the classroom is a great way to facilitate building community."

Let's GALA



JOIN US for OUR 3RD ANNUAL Fundraising Event

SCAN CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT
click here... FOUNDATIONFORBEACONSCHOOLS.ORG



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH | 7-10PM | THE ROUNDHOUSE



Celebrate our public schools and help us to sustain and grow the Foundation for Beacon Schools.

