



Bulldog

BULLETIN

December 2021

Message from the Board

As a board, we are proud that, despite the challenges of the last year, the BCSD has prioritized giving students a safe and successful educational experience.

- More resources for mental health, including professional development around trauma-informed care, a district-wide assessment of students' emotional well-being, and a developing plan to address the increased mental health needs of students
- Operation of a free meal program that has served students and the broader community
- Successful launch of the Summer Academy, which served over 500 students
- A combined strategy of masking, vaccination, ventilation, and contact tracing that allowed us to open all schools for entirely in-person classes this school year
- A major \$26-million [Capital Project](#) that is tax-neutral and will improve every school in the district
- The development of a restructured and reimagined curriculum to include a more culturally responsive education, more innovative benchmarking tools, updated texts, and new class offerings
- On-site vaccination clinics for staff and students
- Athletic events, performances and student concerts that let us come together as a community
- Improved communication through the launch of a new BCSD website and newsletter

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Beacon Senior on his way to the CIA

Sting – not the lead singer for *The Police*, the Culinary Institute of America's honeybee mascot – surprised a Beacon student in Dutchess BOCES' Culinary Arts Program Nov. 29 to celebrate his acceptance.



CIA admission directors and Sting, visited Chef Instructor Darcy Sala's afternoon class to surprise Beacon's own Maison Migliore who posed for pictures with Sting and received a swag bag.

Migliore's boss, a CIA graduate, recommended him for admission. Migliore, who works at The Roundhouse on East Main Street in Beacon, was excited to hear the news. "It feels good," Migliore said. "I'm sure my parents will be happy."

Migliore will study restaurant management since he desires to own a restaurant someday. Growing up, Migliore loved cooking shows and often helped his mother out in the kitchen.

"I just grew a love for it," he explained. "I've always wanted to own a restaurant."

The CIA looks for *well-rounded* applicants who have a passion for food and are academically ready for college level work. Migliore easily fit the criteria, CIA Admissions Director Michelle Mullooly said. "Migliore comes to us very well prepared," Mullooly said.

Alumni Inducted in Sports Hall of Fame



Beacon High School Alumni, one from as far back as 1961, were recently inducted into the Eric J. Romanino Athletic Hall of Fame.

The ceremony, on December 3rd at St. Rocco's Society Banquet Hall, recognized athletes, coaches and others for their athletic accomplishments and contributions at the district, local, state or national levels.

The nominees included:

- **Head Coach Jose Rodriguez** for the 1997 and 2004 Boys Track & Field Team
- **Emily Eraca**, Class of 2013, for Varsity Golf

- **John Humeston**, Class of 1970, for Varsity Wrestling
- **Sara Sheehan**, Class of 2010, Varsity Soccer
- **Northern Morgan**, Class of 1961, Varsity Cross Country

As opposed to the usual structure, a semi-formal dinner allowed the school to honor the inductees in a more intimate fashion. Over 80 guests were present for the ceremony.

"After canceling our 2020 ceremony, it was extremely rewarding getting back together in person," Director of Physical Education, Athletics, Health, & Recreation John Giametta said.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1996 and was named after Romanino in 2014 in honor of his many contributions to the district during his 34 years of service.



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In addition to this, advocacy continues to be a priority. We've been collaborating with the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA), the Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC), and the Dutchess County School Boards Association (DCSBA) to advocate for issues including more funding to address the mental health needs of students; full funding of Foundation Aid; permanent de-coupling of teacher assessments and state tests; and making public school lunches permanently free.

We will continue to build on these achievements in 2022 and we hope you'll join us!

- If you would like to learn more about how you can advocate for education issues that are important to you, please visit www.beaconk12.org/domain/507.
- If you would like to share your thoughts on these initiatives or your advocacy priorities, you can email the board at bcsdboe@beaconk12.org.
- For more information about specific initiatives or school-related issues, or to get involved, please consider attending a meeting of one of the [District committees](#) or [School Board committees](#).

Winter Concerts Bring Holiday Cheer

Beautiful and festive music filled the halls of the Beacon High School as the annual free Winter Concert took place at the BHS Theater on December 16. The jazz and concert bands, directed by James Walton, and the chorus, directed by Susan Wright, were excited to perform again after two years since the last in-person concert.



The 58-person concert band features a mixture of students from 9th - 12th grades, while the jazz band features 15 students

from those same grades. The jazz band highlighted three soloists: Charlie Klein on trumpet, August Wright on trombone and George Humphreys on trumpet.

"We are so excited to be back and making music in a semi-normal way this year," Walton said.

Students performed a wide array of songs including holiday favorites "Sleigh Ride" and "Deck the Halls." The theme of the concert was the idea of rediscovering and reconnecting with music from a "30,000 foot view."

"I wanted to cast as 'wide of a net' as possible when it came to musical styles and tradition," Walton said.

Walton highlighted a rousing tune on the set list titled "Einherjar," about a tsunami. It combined the Swahili text of the Lord's Prayer and a traditional march commissioned by the United States Air Force Marine Corps Band into a dramatic masterpiece.

"The band is showing a lot of flexibility and versatility with this program," he said. "We are excited to share the result of our efforts."

BHS is also celebrating the recent achievements of three students. Humphreys was accepted to and will participate in the New York State School Music Association's Area All-State Festival.

"This is a significant achievement," Walton said.

Klein and Jacob Signorelli were both accepted into the Dutchess County Music Educators Association's Junior-High All County Festival to be held in January.



Spotlight On Beacon City School District's Nurses

Beacon's nurses work hard to keep the school community healthy and this month we are shining the spotlight on them for all the important work they do.

Kristen Brandemarte, RN **Beacon High School**



Brandemarte has been a nurse for four years at Beacon High School and was previously a school nurse in the Wappingers Central School District.

It was a trip to the ER when her infant daughter was sick with meningitis that sparked Brandemarte's desire to be in the medical field at age 40. She was further encouraged by her mother-in-law to pursue it.

"I found that I was very good at it," Brandemarte said. "I was good at keeping my baby calm."

While taking nursing courses at Dutchess BOCES, Brandemarte worked in numerous hospice centers and expected to work in one after college because she enjoyed the job. "I did home care and that was my setting I was comfortable with," she explained.

However, when Brandemarte was looking for work, a job opening for a school nurse popped up and she took the opportunity. Her favorite part of the job is interacting with and caring for students.

"It just happened, this is where I am now," Brandemarte said. "I love the kids."

Amber Klemann, RN **Rombout Middle School**



Klemann, who earned her RN in 2014, has been with the district for five years at Rombout.

Some of Klemann's previous experience includes working in pediatric offices and a drug and alcohol rehab center for adolescents, as well as working at a special needs camp during the summer.

Treating patients both physically and mentally is vital for Klemann. She lives by the mantra of "They may forget your name but they will never forget how you made them feel," as said by Maya Angelou. "Kids sometimes just need someone to talk to in order to feel better," Klemann said.

A native of Richmond, Indiana, Klemann lives with her partner of 18 years, Terrence and dog Auggie. Klemann is involved with the after-school program, Girls on the Run, which trains kids to run a 5K that builds their self-esteem. She is currently training for a 50-mile trail race at Mohonk in May.

"I am very active, training for triathlons and running races," she said.

Aida Kuka, RN **Glenham Elementary**



Kuka has been at Glenham since September 2018 shortly after receiving her registered nurse degree. While COVID-19 has made her job harder, she loves working with students.

"I enjoy my job," she said.

Kuka is currently taking classes toward earning a Bachelor's degree and worked at a nursing home for eight years while going to school to become a nurse.

Carmela Walden-Lail, RN **Sargent Elementary**



Walden-Lail has worked for the district since September 1995, but has a longer history with Beacon – she attended district schools before becoming a registered nurse in 1980.

Before Beacon, she was a private duty nurse and additionally worked at a local hospital and a doctor's office for 15 years.

During her first year at the district, Walden-Lail was the nurse at both South Avenue and Sargent and has since seen many changes in education and the medical field. She has enjoyed every minute of her time at Beacon.

"I never planned on being here this long," she explained. "Someone once said if you are blessed to have a job you love, you truly are blessed. I have truly been blessed."

Walden-Lail has three children, all Beacon alumni, with her late husband and was born in Italy before moving to the United States as a toddler.

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Rombout 8th Grader Named BOCES' Student Of Distinction

Congratulations to Beacon 8th grader Sa'yon Harrison for being named Dutchess BOCES' Student of Distinction for November. Harrison was honored during the Beacon



Board of Education meeting on November 8. Every month, BOCES nominates one component district student who is hardworking, dedicated to their studies and embodies positive behavior.

Harrison was ecstatic to receive the award. "I feel happy and special and really honored to get the award," Harrison said.



During his time at BOCES' Salt Point Center, Harrison has remained committed to improving himself academically.

His favorite subject is math because he likes to solve problems. "I've been doing my work and focusing," he explained.

He recommends taking deep breaths and going for a walk to anyone having a hard time. "I'm doing better now," he said.

Harrison credits his mother and grandmother for supporting him through difficult times and they always remind him to do well in school. "They care about me and love me," he said. "I love them a lot too."

BEACON PLAYERS Book a Stay



The Beacon Players sang and danced their hearts out during three performances of the Irving Berlin musical "Holiday Inn" held between December 3 and 5 at the Seeger Theater at Beacon High School.

The play, based on the 1942 film "Holiday Inn," centers on Jim, who moves to a Connecticut farmhouse after leaving show business but soon turns the house into an inn with the assistance of Linda, a school-teacher after finding his life lacks song and dance. The troupe's president Jonah Mensch and Audrey Lewis were the leads.



Prior to the show, Gordon Greenberg, who directed the Broadway adaption of "Holiday Inn," recorded a video message for the students from The Old Globe in San Diego wishing them good luck. "I'm sending you so much love and gratitude that you're doing the show," Greenberg said. "I hear such good things about your productions."

While all performances make for a good experience, it was wonderful to be back in the theater with the administration's support, after a year of performing outside, Beacon Players Advisor/Director Anthony J. Scarrone said.

"This time around it truly was a feeling of joy and exaltation," Scarrone said.



The student actors and crew members came together to present a joyful musical experience that will be remembered for years.

"Seeing 'my kids' doing what they love makes every moment worthwhile," Scarrone said. "There is no value that can be placed upon that feeling."

Spotlight On Beacon City School District's Nurses

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Carol Struble, RN JV Forrestal Elementary



Struble graduated from Ulster County Community College for nursing in 2011. Prior to nursing she worked for over 20 years as a paramedic in the Hudson Valley. Struble's EMS experience made it an easy transition into emergency-room medicine where she worked as for seven-plus years.

Struble has been part of the Beacon family working at JVF for the past two challenging years. She comments, "This is by far the most rewarding job in my professional career. The smiles I get to see every day are priceless. I look forward to being part of the BCSD family for many years to come."

When not working you can find Struble on her paddle board enjoying the water and beaches. She also enjoys playing with her two pups and working in her gardens at her home.

Christine White, RN South Avenue Elementary



Christine White feels privileged to be the school nurse at South Ave School for the last four years.

Her favorite prior work experience includes Ambulatory Surgical Care and of course School Nursing. "It is by far extremely rewarding to care for the children of our community. I love making kids smile as I care for them and making them feel safe as they venture throughout the school day," she said

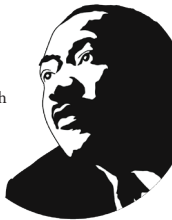
Prior to becoming a school nurse, she was a stay at home mom for many years. White is the mother of three children that attend the district (daughter, Isabella, 15 and two sons, Parker, 12 and Easton, 8). She enjoys watching her children play sports and explore the world as they grow.

Her favorite quote which hangs in her office as a daily reminder for all is, "Speak in such a way that others love to listen to you-Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you."

Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

Just a reminder that you have until January 6th to enter the Southern Dutchess Coalition's essay contest!

[Click here for info-flyer](#)



Happy Holidays!



Thanks for reading our



If you have a submission idea, email: bulldogbulletin@beaconk12.org