



SPECIAL HAPPENINGS



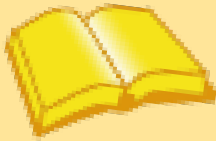
APRIL 2018

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

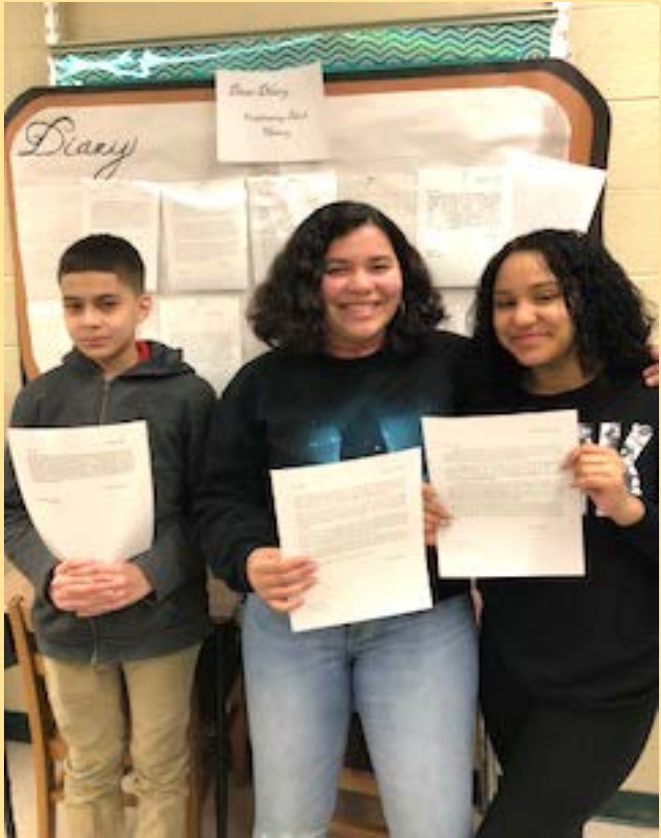
Ms. Philip's 7th grade North Middle School students worked collaboratively to design and construct a one of a kind wood sign in celebration of Black History Month. After it was constructed, students wrote messages of peace. The sign was proudly displayed in front of the building for everyone to enjoy.



DEAR DIARY.....



Ms. Lindsay's North Middle School students wrote a diary entry as a person in history. Each entry was a reflection based on real-life events of Coretta Scott King, Muhammad Ali, Sgt. Henry Johnson, Gabby Douglass, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks and Michelle Obama to name a few.

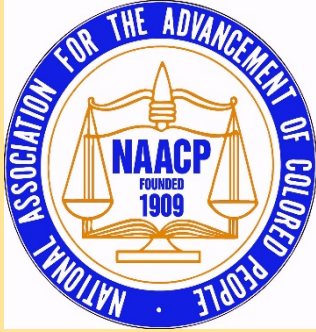


Madame Rotolo's Wax Museum:

Featuring Pioneers in African American History

East Middle School students in Mrs. Rotolo's, Mrs. Spahn's and Mr. Budnik's 7th grade Level III classes presented, "Madame Rotolo's Wax Museum, featuring Pioneers in African American History. In recognition of Black History Month, students dressed up as a person in history and presented themselves as pioneers to students, faculty, parents, and participates at the BOE meeting. Our special education students were teachers to over 600 students who attended the exhibit throughout the day.





Congratulations to **Ms. Young and Dr. Akil** for being recognized by the Town of Islip NAACP as a Women of Influence and Notoriety (WIN) in our community. The Islip Town Branch of the NAACP advocates for improved rights and opportunities for all people, especially people of color, women and youth



Yoga and Meditation Club



North Middle School students come together each Wednesday with instructor Ms. Zeoli for The Yoga and Meditation Club. Studies have shown that students who participate in yoga and meditation may experience an increased ability to pay attention in class, process information, build memory and think creatively.



The Great Cookie Experiment



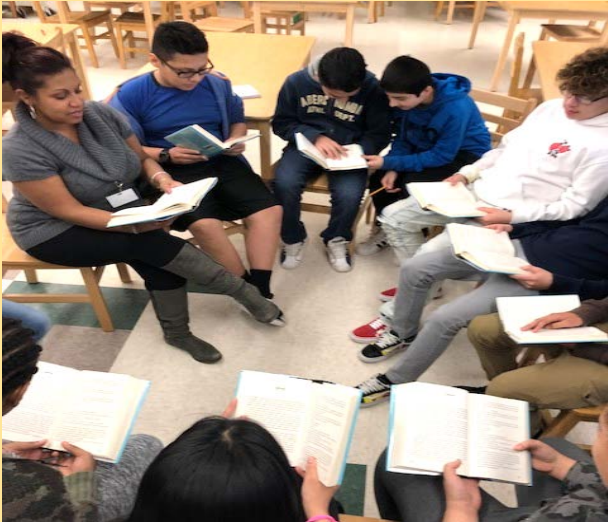
North Middle School students in Ms. Colligan's class worked in partners to determine which type of cookie absorbs the most milk. Students experimented using Chips Ahoy, Vanilla Wafers and Double Stuffed Oreos. They formed a hypothesis, collected and graphed data, composed an analysis and developed a conclusion! This lesson afforded students with the opportunity to build upon communication and turn taking skills.



Readers Are Leaders Club



North Middle School TA, Ms. Lopez instituted the Readers are Leaders Club. Here, students select a book to read together. They discuss plot, theme, characters, problems, and solutions and relate them to personal experiences. Students are highly motivated to participate and will tell anyone Ms. Lopez makes reading fun! Students are planning a field trip to read to younger students this spring. Since January this weekly club has more than doubled in size.



A New Playground for all at Pine Park!



Pine Park opened their new special needs playground for business this week. The playground was created for children who are not able to use the other playgrounds. This is the first special needs playground in the BUFSD. The office of Special Services and SEPTA would like to thank Ann Weishahn, Pine Park Principal for spearheading this effort by making this very special playground a reality.



The Friendship Club



Ms. Rachel Lijoi and Mr. Jim Farrell host **The High School Friendship Club** every Wednesday in the Sonderling Library. Since the fall, the club has grown significantly. We currently have over 45 members between our Special Ed and General Ed students who come consistently. Our members play group board games such as Heads Up and Apples to Apples. We also play partner games like Don't Break the Ice and Checkers. Cooperative games like Jenga and Uno are definitely favorites for our students. Some friends choose to read together, listen to music or play on the computer, while others sit in the lounge area and chat. This club has been a great success and we look forward to adding even more members over time.



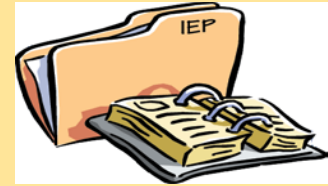
Hands on Learning at WMS



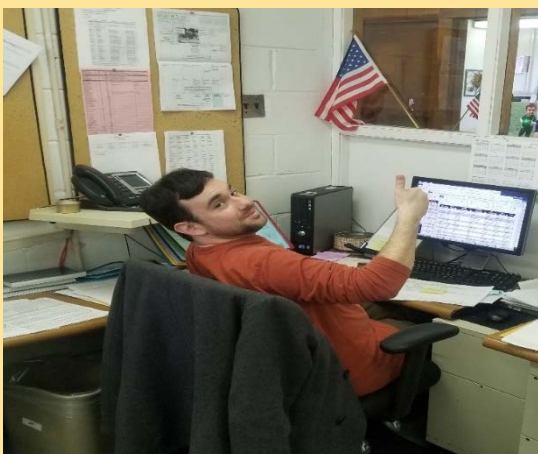
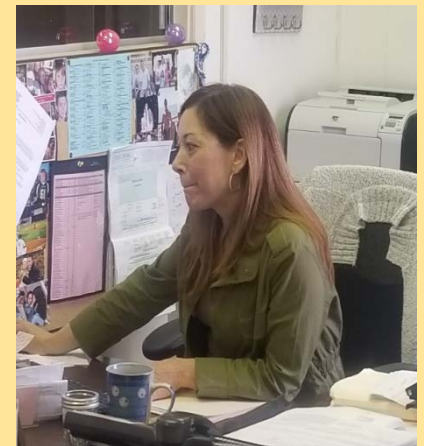
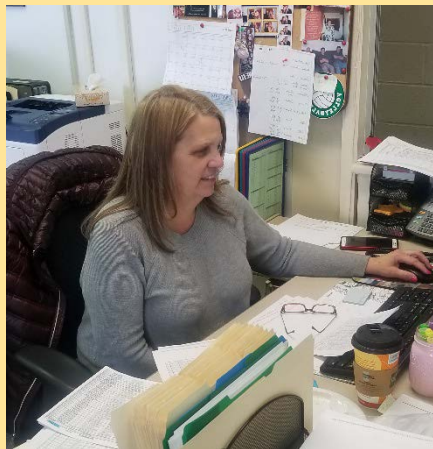
West Middle School students in Ms. Kuhn's and Ms. Rottmund's classes learned about the developmental stages of chicks as they become adult chickens. The students observed chicks daily for nearly 4 weeks. They discussed and recorded their observations. It was an amazing experience for all of our students.



Office of Special Services



Each year from January through June, the Special Education Committee (CSE) meets to discuss each student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The purpose of the meeting is to review the progress that the student has made as a result of this year's plan and to develop a plan for the coming year. Annual review season for a district this size is no easy task. The amount of work that goes into IEP preparation is tremendous. We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of our teachers, chair people, and CSE members however, the development of the new IEP does not stop with them alone! **The clerical staff at Special Services** operate like a well-oiled machine to ensure each IEP gets finalized correctly! We appreciate



Three very special social workers from the Brentwood School District were honored by the BOE for their tireless effort on behalf of our students. **Congratulations Cindy Combs, Mara Kasdan, and Karla Torres.** Thank you ladies for all you do.





Services for the Student Who Presents With a Hearing Loss

The major challenge facing the child with a hearing loss is access to instruction. It has been well established that over 90% of our knowledge is acquired through audition. It has also been demonstrated that 80% of that knowledge is learned via incidental exposure other than formal instruction. Even a mild hearing loss can significantly impact the clarity of speech, resulting in misinterpretations and erroneous perceptions. When the noise levels encountered in the typical classroom are factored in, the student with a hearing loss is at a real disadvantage as he/she attempts to access instruction, process information and learn at the same rate as her/his peers.

It can be difficult for people with normal hearing to appreciate the impact that a hearing loss presents because most have no frame of reference. We tend to take our gift of hearing for granted. However, our ability to acquire speech/language/knowledge is dependent on a very complicated, sophisticated system that encompasses a variety of bodily organs, nerves, pathways, reflexes, brain function, biological constructs, electricity and physics, to name just a few. Unfortunately, when the system breaks down, outward signs are usually nonexistent. We forget that the student with a hearing loss will be at a disadvantage when we address him/her while we are turned away, or have moved across the room, or the air conditioner has kicked on. Simply speaking louder does not solve the problem and can actually have the opposite effect. "Louder" can reduce clarity because the weak, soft speech sounds that are critical for understanding can be drowned out by the strong vowel sounds. "Louder" just adds auditory chaos; think: "Yada, yada, yada" in a cafeteria.

So, how do we level the playing field for the student with a hearing loss? How do we provide the same access to instruction that her/his peers enjoy? Technology. We can present the teacher's voice and peer input with clarity using today's DM/FM systems. Systems can be tailored and programmed to each child's individual hearing needs, including cochlear implants, and incorporated into the classroom environment. Of course, technology is not the entire answer. Provision of auditory training (learning how to listen and what to listen for) and self-advocacy skills are also necessary to ensure that the student with a hearing loss has the tools necessary to achieve the outcomes of his/her dreams.

Bill Eagen, Audiologist

SAVE THE DATE!



**Celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month
May 21, 2018**

Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) is the time each year when you can demonstrate the importance of your services

SEPTA

President: Jill Wolynetz

- Contact Jill Wolynetz at Jill.Wolynetz@bufsd.org for information or questions.
- New members always welcome!
- Join our Facebook group “SEPTA of Brentwood” for information about parent information meeting and events for the 2017-2018 school year.

Volunteers Always Welcome!



SEPTA information can be found on our PTSA web page