



SPECIAL HAPPENINGS



June 2018



Library Participation Award

Mrs. Kobel, **Freshmen Center** librarian presented winner, Wendy Martinez from Ms. Gregory's class with an Amazon Fire Tablet. Congratulations Wendy for winning the library participation raffle!



Autism Awareness Fundraiser



Brentwood High School students in Ms. Lijoi's class used part of the funds raised from their Autism Puzzle Pillow fundraiser to make purchases from Target. They did a great job applying money counting skills and computer skills to purchase clothing, Legos, puzzles and arts and crafts items of their choice. It was a rewarding learning experience for all.



Better Hearing & Speech Month

Our Annual May is Better Hearing and Speech Month Event was held on Monday, May 21st, at **East Middle School**. Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication and hearing disorders and the role of speech-language pathologists and audiologists who provide life-altering treatment to students.



Thank you to SEPTA, Speech and Language Department, Volunteers, and members who contributed to make this event a great success.

The 1st Annual Friendship Club Social

On Wednesday, May 9th from 3:30 – 5:30 pm. **Brentwood High School** hosted a social, *#doitforthegram*, for all the Friendship Club members in the middle schools, Freshman Center and the High School. The Friendship Club was implemented last fall as a way to foster friendship and understanding between special education students and their general education peers. This social offered students from across the district an opportunity to mix and mingle while enjoying food, games and taking selfies with props in a photo booth. The students had a great time dancing and engaging in the planned activities with their peers. Besides all of the fun, students who attended the social realized that they are part of a larger community. A special thank you goes to all of the Friendship Club advisors and a special thank you to Dashana Dulin, Rachel Lijoi and Jay Farrell for organizing our district's first annual Friendship Club social.



Friendship Social Continued.....

Thank you to all who helped make the Friendship Club a reality in our district.



A Special Visitor at North Middle School

Up-standers Rule!



Professional singer, actress, and 8th grader, Alexa Valentino visited **North Middle School** to meet with members of The Friendship Club, led by Dr. Morris and Ms. Phillips to discuss her anti-bullying campaign. Students participated in thought provoking discussion and learned the importance of being an up stander. Alexa taught students the words to her original single **Free 2 Love**. Students were excited to watch Alexa's video and had a wonderful time listening to their song requests.





A Friendship Club Field Trip

Ms. Lewis and Ms. Greaves' Friendship Club students at **East Middle School** had an amazing time visiting The Escape Room. It was so much fun! The kids all worked together to solve riddles, figure out lock combinations and utilized clues in order to escape 3 challenging rooms! Students exemplified team work and awesome social skills to "ESCAPE". It was wonderful to see teamwork in action!



An Out of this World Fieldtrip



Mrs. Caldera's 4th grade class, from **Loretta Park Elementary School** enjoyed a field trip that was "out of this world". They visited the Vanderbilt Planetarium & Museum. Students toured the beautiful grounds and museum which highlighted different animal exhibits. Students enjoyed a show in the planetarium, learning about the planets, sun eclipses, moon phases, and the stars. It was a perfect way to prepare for the 4th grade science test.





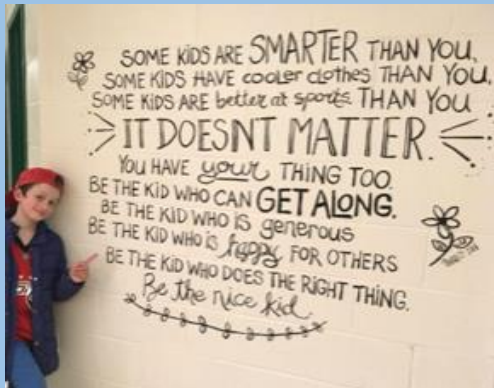
The Brentwood High School Special Education Department and Math Department Collaborate to Improve College Readiness

Ms. Dashana Dulin, Special Education Department Head and Kristin Devita, Math Department Head proposed the addition of both an SAT Math Preparation Course and a Modified SAT Math Preparation course for our Students with Disabilities at the high school. The Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) agreed it would be beneficial to provide our students with training in order to meet the benchmark for Mathematics. Additionally, the two courses would provide a wonderful opportunity for students to prepare for the SAT during the school day. As such, the CAC unanimously approved the addition of two SAT prep electives for the 2018-2019 school year.





Identifying Good Character



North Middle School resource room students in Ms. Lindsay's class created an interactive bulletin board. Inspired by this internet image that went viral, students composed their own version. They requested their peers sign their name if they supported the idea of being kind, tolerant and doing the right thing.



A Visit to the Statue of Liberty

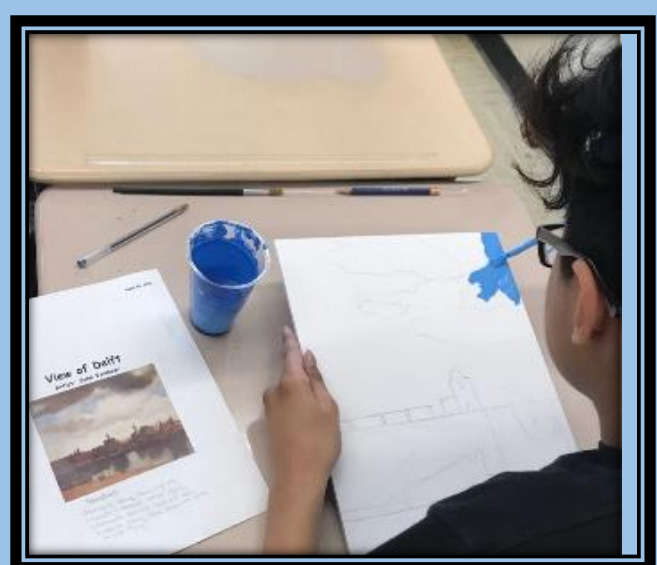
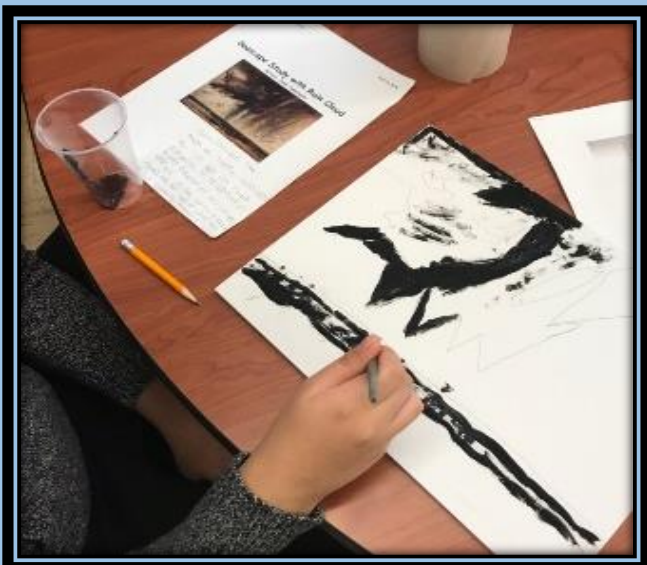
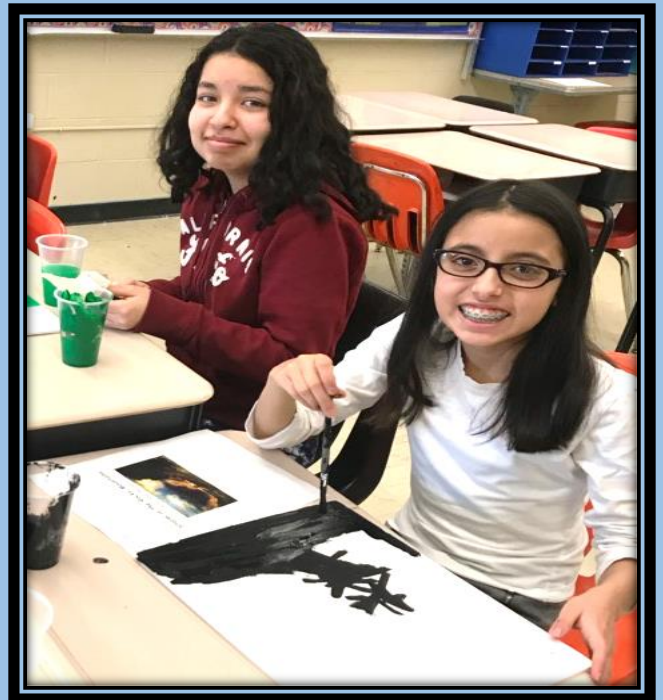
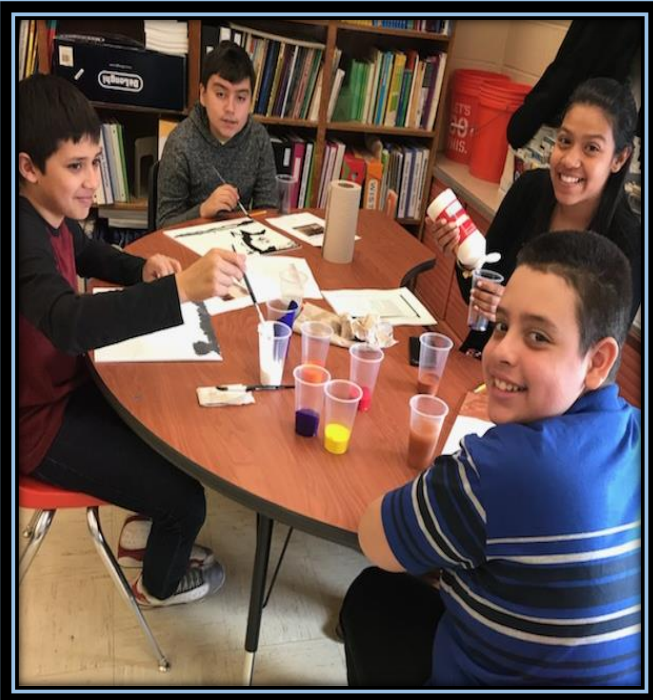
Ms. Swedborg and student, Cristian Arias joined Oak Park 5th graders on a trip to the Statue of Liberty



Studying Clouds in Art



Ms. Kunzig's **North Middle School** students studied clouds. Students analyzed famous paintings and determined the type of clouds depicted in the paintings based on their research. They composed an informative paragraph and recreated the artwork.





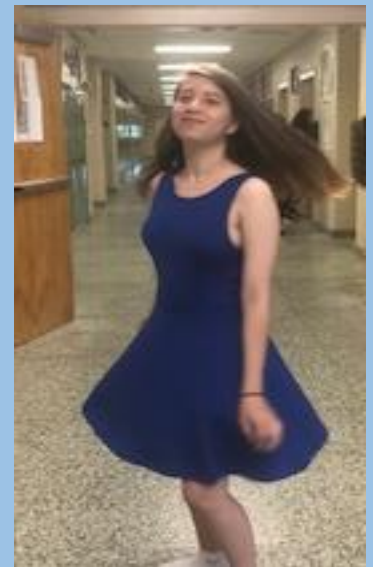
A Visit to the Bronx Zoo

Mr. Skillman's and Ms. Kenney's senior and sophomore students visited the Bronx Zoo. The Bronx Zoo has so much to offer and is a beautiful place to escape to. It was an enjoyable experience for all.

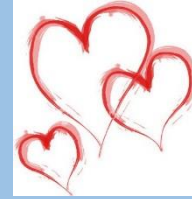


North Middle School Provided the Dress, and They Said “Yes!”

Over 80 students participated in a unique shopping experience to select the perfect dress for the formal dance. Nearly 500 dresses were available to choose from! This was all possible with help of our special education students. They were responsible for setting up/sorting the dresses according to size and style, decorating a two room boutique, preparing a buffet area, organizing raffles and clean up.



Sincere Appreciation



Dear Mr. Stone,

This is Karen Smith, Toby's Grandmother. Hope all is well with you. I just wanted you know this. I got this letter from Toby the other day and wanted to pass this along to you and Mrs. Ortiz and Ms. Lopez. Toby has been accepted into a private high school in Connecticut, called Vinal. He is no longer in Special Ed. In Middle School. He had to be interviewed and tested. He also had to write an essay and then answer questions about the same. His grade cumulative had to be in the 90's and his is a 97. A true testimony to the very AMAZING Special Education staff who never gave up on him. THANK YOU SOOO MUCH for all that you did for him and us. God Bless you.

Love, Karen

Good Morning Mr. Stone,

I just wanted to take some time before I go out in the field to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for my son. Thank you for being such an excellent educator. I know teachers like you are not easy to find. I truly appreciate your time, your patience, your ability to make a dry subject interesting for Juan and for keeping things real with him as well. I wanted to share with you how good Juan is doing in school. I have been getting some positive feedback from some of his teachers and heard he is even trying to catch up in Social Studies. (Yes, the subject he thought we don't need to get by in life. lol) One teacher (math) called me one night after I had worked 15 hours to tell me she is so proud of Juan and that was an awesome feeling. I see him growing each day....although baby steps but to me they seem huge. Anyway, may God bless you for being such a positive influence in my child's life. I will be forever thankful. Have an awesome day.

Sincerely,

Ms. Pounce



Social Justice

A Program to Mentor Young Activist, implemented

Emery Francois and Lilian kicked off the Social Justice Program this past fall at **South Middle School**. The aim is to give voice to our youth; standing up against injustice; promoting social justice; and empowering youth for a promising future. We are greatly impressed by these students' character and leadership skills. They are eager to bring positive changes to both their school and home communities. It is such a delight to have the inclusive group (mainstream & special education students) working collaboratively through these efforts. Ms. Francois and Ms. Budnik are planning a program newsletter as means to communicate with the schools and parents.



Happy Retirement

The Special Services Office honored our Retirees and celebrated the good work of all those who serve our children with special needs and their families at Captain Bill's on May 31, 2018. We had a wonderful time celebrating the following Retirees:

Social Worker:

Eleanor Ponce

Ana Carrion

Special Education Teachers:

Joseph Manchester

Sheila McCabe

Theresa Reilly

Tina Schneyer

School Nurses:

Barbara Murray

Mary McCafferty

Arlene Gernon (December 2017 Retiree)

Clerical

Phyllis Brusca



Honoring our retirees continued...



Congratulations

A message from Rhonda Young

Assistant to the Director of Special Education



I am truly grateful that ten years ago God provided me with the opportunity to serve as Advisor for "The Truth" at Brentwood High School. As Advisor, I helped lead the way for a wonderful group of students to perform a truly remarkable play written by a student named Shadrack Boakye. Since 2008, The Truth Theatre Group has continued to advance and grow, recently earning an Emmy award as well as many other noteworthy accolades. What started as a high school play, has turned into a theater group that travels across the country with a mission to speak the truth and inspire youth. Sunday night I was able to reunite with some very terrific young people that are doing awesome things!





SEPTA

President: Jill Wolynetz

- Contact Jill Wolynetz at Jill.Wolynetz@bufsd.org for information or questions.
- New members will be able to join September 2018. Watch for our application in your child's backpack.
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- Join our Facebook group "SEPTA of Brentwood" for information about parent information meeting and events for the 2017-2018 school year.

[http://www.brentwood.k12.ny.us/HTMLpages/Parent_info/PTSA_Home.html - septa](http://www.brentwood.k12.ny.us/HTMLpages/Parent_info/PTSA_Home.html-septa)

Volunteers Needed!





Keep it cool at the Brentwood Public Library!

Be sure to check out this awesome community resource.

<http://brentwoodnylibrary.org/>



HAPPY
SUMMER
VACATION!

