

Special Happenings

Issue No. 2 | Winter of 2022



Paw-li-cious Donation Foundation charity event. initiated by Mrs. Sigety, Miss Greaves and Mrs. Tomossone's classes at East Middle School.

PAW-LI-CIOUS

Mrs. Sigety, Miss Greaves and Mrs. Tomossone's classes started a Paw-li-cious Donation Foundation charity event. This project-based learning event took place during the students' lunch times.

The students sold cupcakes, cookies, etc. A special thanks to Ryder Sigety and Michael Baldassi for donating a dog/cat basket to be raffled off. This event made \$2,100 and will be split

between the Nobody Starves on Long Island and the ASPCA charities. East Middle has helped be the voice of our furry friends! Thanks to all who helped make it happen.

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR SAM GONZALEZ

Reclaiming Our Strength

3rd Annual

BLACK

HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

RHONDA YOUNG

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
OF SPECIAL SERVICES,
BRENTWOOD UFSD**

#BLACKHEALTHANDWELLNESS

Suffolk County Legislator Sammy Gonzalez utilized Black History Month to highlight the achievements of prominent leaders in the black community who have made direct and long-lasting impacts on our culture. Our very own Rhonda Young, BUFSD Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, was one of the recipients of this distinguished honor for her contributions as an educator and community leader. Her interview with Legislator Gonzalez was broadcast via Facebook live on February 26, 2022.

Meet the Professionals Day

On February 9, 2022, between 40-50 juniors and seniors gathered in the Ross library for our Annual Meet The Professionals Day, hosted by BUFSD Special Services in partnership with Career & Employment Options. Presenters from Apprenticeship Connections & Consulting Corp, TWINCO Mfg. Co., and Order a Plumber shared engaged students in a dialogue about various career pathways, as well as a variety of well thought out questions. This was a valuable career exploration option for those students who interested in trades and other vocations.



Lights, Camera, Action



In November 2021, the Office of Special Services hosted a video competition that offered all stakeholders the opportunity to produce a 3–5-minute parent support video on hot topics such as ADHD, Autism, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health, Homework, College and Career Readiness and more. On Friday, February 4, 2022, we celebrated and acknowledged the winners as well as, all participants with an award ceremony luncheon in the Sonderling Senior Cafeteria. Students received certificates and technology themed prizes. The courage and creativity displayed by our students was extremely impressive. All video submissions are featured in the Parent Resource Library and may be viewed on our district website. Featured videos are very honest, humorous, and insightful. First place winners received Samsung Galaxy tablets courtesy of Suffolk County Legislature, Mr. Sammy Gonzalez. It is our hope that this bank of helpful resources continues to grow and serve as a valuable tool to help parents support their children’s academic and social-emotional development.

1st Place Winners

Joshua Castellanos
Max Cabrera
John Wolynetz

2nd Place Winners

Ericka Henriquez
Valerie Henriquez

3rd Place Winners

Neena Govea
Yanasely Jaco
Audrey Javier
Kevin Valdez

Honorable Mentions

Students:

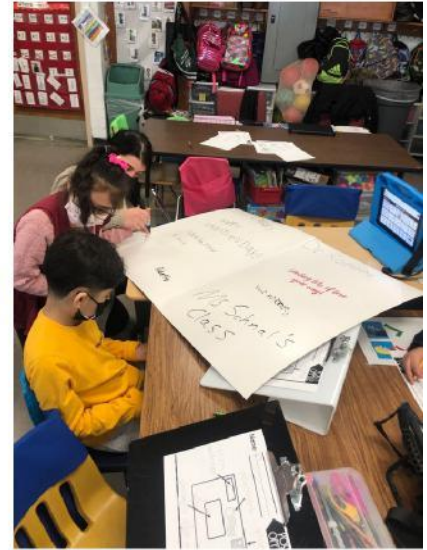
Brianna McCain
Christian Chaparro
Lily Aponte
Shane DeVries
Nicol Valdez

Staff:

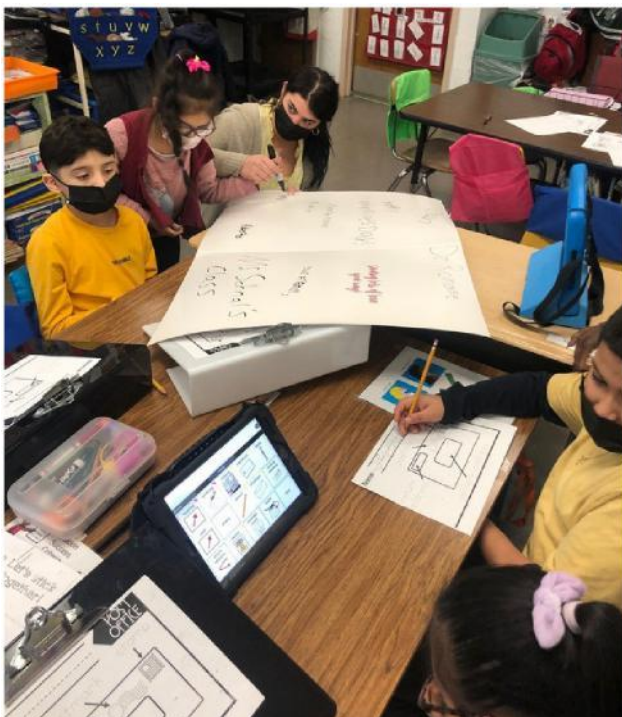
Stephen Burby
Cindy Reide-Combs
Evania Galindez
Dr. Rebecca Grella
Dr. Emery Francois
Dr. Andrea Lampert
Lisa Navarra
Diana Weaving



Show What You Know



Students loved learning how to write with Ms. Schnal and Ms. Giuliani, Southwest Elementary, when they had the opportunity to create Valentine's cards for their special someone's. Station Success Criteria was used to motivate students to utilize their voice, make decisions, and follow directions as part of this lesson.



Crest of Assessment



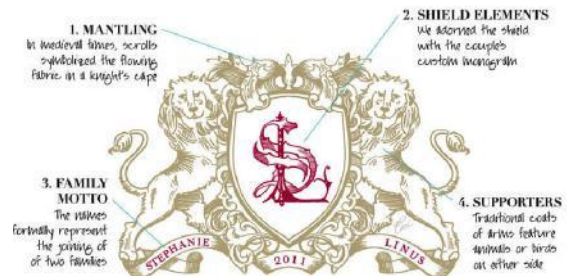
Coat of arms, the principal part of a system of hereditary symbols dating back to early [medieval](#) Europe, used primarily to establish identity in battle. Arms evolved to denote family descent, adoption, alliance, property ownership, and, eventually, profession according to Britannica.

Borrowing from this tradition that dates back to medieval times, Geometry students created a "Coat of Arms" using the letters of their name and corresponding ordered pairs to create their own unique armor.

The symbols created are a distinct representation of what they have learned from Ms. Mears, Ross Center.

CREATING A CREST

Ceci Johnson explains the elements of a custom coat of arms

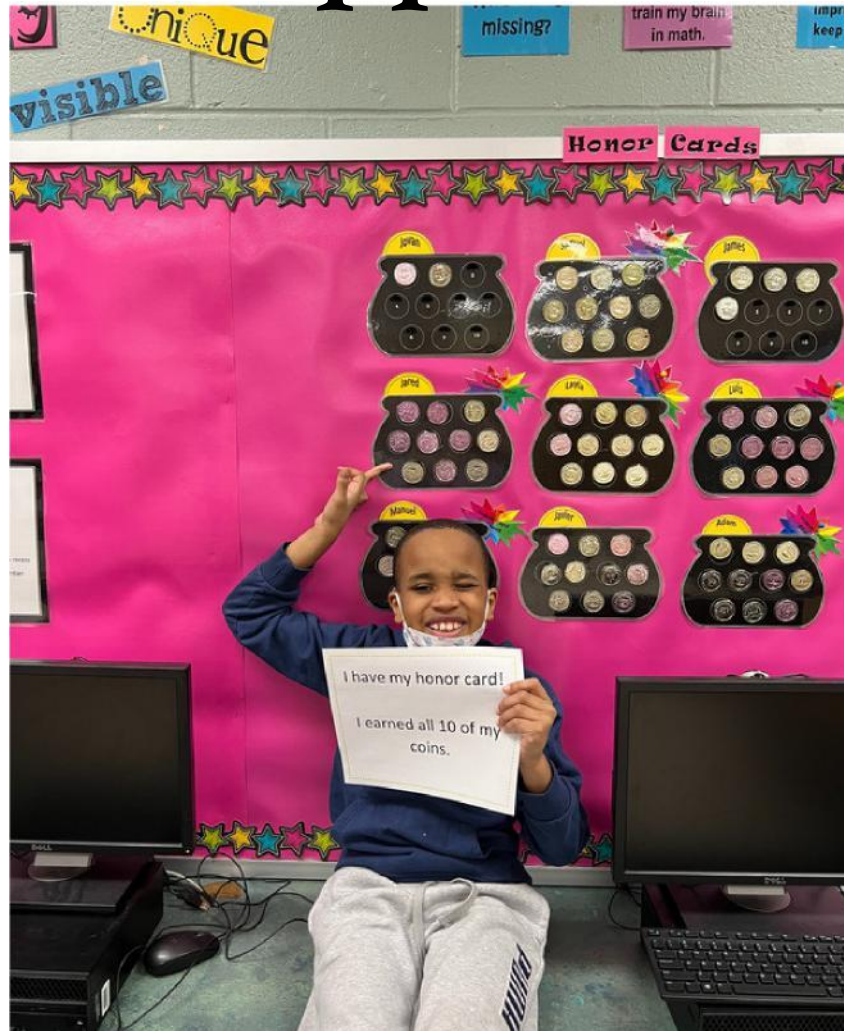


CREST CUSTOM DESIGNED BY CECI JOHNSON

CECINEWYORK.COM/CRESTSTYLE



Positive Behavior Supports



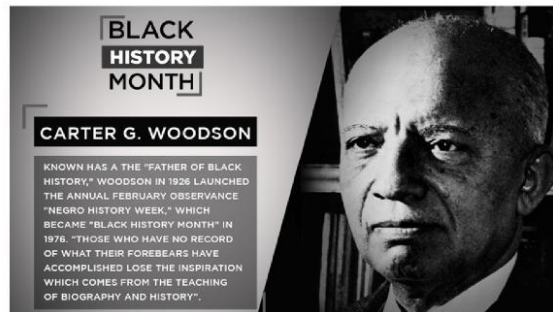
Positive behavior support is a form of applied behavior analysis that uses a behavior management system to understand what maintains an individual's challenging behavior and how to change it. Rebecca Rodriguez, Laurel Park Elementary, has mastered this craft. The young man pictured above was so glad to use the strategies he has learned to acquire success.

Stay
Positive!

Celebrating Contributions



Since 1926, the month of February has been used to recognize and celebrate the contributions that various African-Americans have made nationally and internationally. Mrs. Maggio, Ms. Perci, and Mrs. Rodriguez, Laurel Park Elementary, inspired their students to research important & current figures. Students accepted the challenge and proudly displayed what they learned.



CONGRATULATIONS



In honor of Black History Month, the School of Health Professions highlighted Black healthcare professionals who have made outstanding contributions to their fields.

The first honoree was our very own, Dr. Garvin Romane, PhD CCC-SLP. Dr. Romane is a dedicated and passionate school leader, educator, speech-language pathologist, and adjunct professor.

Congratulations, Dr. Romane!



PROJECT SEMICOLON™

Empowering Through Love



After the pandemic shut this event down for 2 years in a row, the Project Semicolon event came back strong for the 5th time. The Semicolon is a symbol for getting help when you need it. A writer has a choice to end a sentence with a period or use a semicolon to add more information. When facing difficult times in our lives we must remember the semicolon and promise to get help instead of ending our story. The event included Yoga and Meditation, Aromatherapy/semicolon tattoos, Drums Alive, A Zen Den for relaxation techniques, an art activity to create positive message boards called "Kind Words from a Stranger" and an Open Mic with musical and vocal performances in addition to varied forms of self-expression. Around 180 students participated. Students, teachers, administrators, and custodial staff planned and prepared inclusive efforts provided by several of our BHS clubs and honor societies for weeks. Thanks to these efforts, students from groups like the Friendship Club learned to find their calm.



BHM Spotlight



The Jeanine Rotolo Wax Museum on display at East Middle School for the month of February is legendary. Due to COVID, the Wax Museum did not open in February 2022. As an alternative, 30 students from Ms. Rotolo's class researched a person that have made a difference. What made this extra special? 5 of the students had the opportunity to speak to the people that have made a difference, then share their interviews with the class. Mr. Jay Baltimore-Former East Middle School Student and current EMS TA, Ms. Rhonda Young-Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, Ms. April Seneus-Assistant Director of Special Education, Mr. Barry Mohammed-East Middle School Principal, Mr. Andrew Austin-Assistant Principal East Middle School, and Shadrack Boayke-former East Middle READ 180 student, Emmy Winning Writer and Actor were amongst those interviewed. All that were chosen to be interviewed, were extremely honored and humbled as they listened to the student presentations.

COLLEGE FAIR

The Guidance Department at Brentwood High School once again presented a College and Career Fair on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM in the Sonderling Center.

The event was well attended by students, staff, parents, and members of the community. Approximately 100 organizations tabled to provide giveaways and resources to participants. Special workshops included:

The College Search Process, El Proceso de Admisión de la Universidad, Financial Aid, The NCAA and Athletic Scholarships, and Historically Black Colleges. Mr. Wayne Abenes, Sarah Tricoche, Scott Davidson (Special Education Guidance Counselor-Sonderling), Ruth Cosme (Drop Out Prevention Counselor), Anna Taldone (Special Education Guidance Counselor-Ross), Wendy Gudema, and other members of the Guidance Department were on staff to support participants in navigating the event.



ROCK YOUR SOCKS



ROCK YOUR SOCKS

— FOR —

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

 **3.21**



