

BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FALL 2021

WELCOME BACK, BRENTWOOD!

Last month, the Brentwood Union Free School District opened its doors for the 2021-2022 school year, and after all that we had been through, it felt like nothing short of a total success! We are so excited to welcome our students back for another incredible year of achievement. The potential for what we can accomplish individually and as a community is endless. Enjoy these photos from the first day, and here's to another prosperous year full of learning, laughter, friendship, and hard work!



This publication is designed to inform residents of the Brentwood School District community of news about your schools. For further information, call 434-2334.

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A Message from Your Board of Education and Superintendent

It fills the Board of Education's hearts with joy and excitement as we welcome students, staff and faculty back for the 2021-2022 academic year! We hope that you and your family enjoyed the sunshine and rest that comes with summer vacation. And, above all, we hope that you have all remained safe and healthy during these times.

As we head into the 2021-2022 school year, the Board of Education would like to take this time to acknowledge the health and safety measures put in place to keep our school community, and our students' families, safe. As per the recent New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) emergency health mandate, mask usage inside all school buildings is required and the Brentwood Union Free School District will comply with this mandate. Several social distancing measures have also been maintained from the previous year as part of the District's efforts to create a learning environment that is both safe and engaging for all students.

While the year won't be without its challenges, we feel confident in our ability to successfully address them while ensuring our students continue to achieve, triumph and grow. We are watching with bated breath to see what our students will accomplish next. Will it be a scholastic recognition for the brilliant work conducted inside our classrooms each day? Will it be a win on the basketball court or the soccer field? Whatever the achievement may be, one thing is certain—the hard work of our students is what sustains the work of this Board of Education, central administration, and District staff.

The community's resilience, patience, and active engagement in the work being done by the District for the betterment of its students has always been unparalleled. We look forward to that same level of participation this year and working in tandem with the community to provide students with a well-rounded educational experience. Collaboration and communication are at the core of the Brentwood School District's success. Together we look forward to an exceptionally successful year!

In service,

Brentwood Board of Education

Robert Feliciano – President

G. Paula Moore – 1st Vice President

Maria Gonzalez-Prescod – 2nd Vice President

Julia Burgos – Trustee

Cynthia Ciferri – Trustee

Eileen Felix – Trustee

Simone Holder-Daniel – Trustee

Richard Loeschner, Superintendent of Schools

COMMITTING TO A GREENER FUTURE



While the District has engaged in several energy performance projects in the past, the current project stands to be the District's most ambitious and impactful. Upgrades planned for the project include the installation of high-efficiency insulation on all windows, the replacement of outdated lights with high-efficiency LED units, other assorted system improvements, and, most notably, the installation of solar panels at all schools. It is the largest solar initiative ever approved by the New York State Education Department!

When the project is complete, it will produce 6.5 megawatts of power District-wide. That will virtually zero out the District's electric bill. The improvements will bring about impactful offsets to the District's environmental footprint as it is expected to offset the emissions of more than 1,300 cars in terms of CO₂ emissions.



All Aboard the BioBus: Innovative Science Program Lets Brentwood Students Help Restore Local Habitat



Educators in Brentwood are always looking for new and creative ways to teach lessons about the importance of protecting our environment. After all, few subjects are as critical to our future than climate change and environmental stewardship. Over the summer, the Brentwood School District partnered with New York State Parks and Stony Brook University to bring Brentwood students the BioBus, a travelling education center that helps K-12 and college students in New York discover, explore, and pursue science.

During the event, BioBus staff and researchers were on site in the Field 2 parking lot of Sunken Meadow State Park, providing support and encouragement to Brentwood's young researchers as they conducted experiments and projects centered around habitat restoration efforts. The BioBus, an airstream trailer filled to the brim with biological investigation tools, was also on display for all to see. The day's event was punctuated with several individuals speaking about the work being conducted in the field to aid in these practices.

"The Brentwood Union Free School District is continuously exploring different avenues to elevate the learning experience of our students," said Richard Loeschner, superintendent of schools. "The District's partnership with BioBus is one of our latest extracurricular offerings designed to help our students engage with material they learn in class in a unique, meaningful way."

Brentwood students have been serving as apprentice researchers and environmental interns for New York State Parks in a program that was developed by Dr. Rebecca Grella and Regional Parks Environmental Manager Annie McIntyre. Brentwood's researchers-in-the-making have been involved in marsh restoration efforts for the last three years and have collected informative ecological data that continues to be of significance in the rehabilitative efforts of the park's habitat. The BioBus partnership is one of Brentwood Union Free School District's most recent collaborative grants and is supported by the National Science Foundation to advance STEM for students and educators.

Brentwood Schools Urges Students to 'Start With Hello'

Sandy Hook Promise: Help students feel less isolated, more inclusive



The Offices of Language Arts and Bilingual/ENL and the Brentwood Public Library provided families with homework help, resources and upcoming opportunities for extended school day programs.

As students across Long Island return to school for in-person learning, the Brentwood School District kicked off its school year by celebrating Start With Hello, a project from the national nonprofit organization, Sandy Hook Promise. The organization was founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were lost in the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012. The school shooting claimed the lives of 20 first graders and six educators.

The Start With Hello project, with over 10,000 schools and youth organizations from across the country participating, brings attention to the growing epidemic of social isolation and is designed to empower young people to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their schools, youth organizations and communities. Feelings of isolation and depression are very common in teens, with the pandemic and quarantine only making things worse. Breaking through those feelings of isolation has been extremely hard for families and community members during these times, but can ultimately help stop violence before it starts.

“Participating in Start With Hello was a great way for the Brentwood community to connect and create a safe environment where our students are respectful, responsible and ready to learn. It was so wonderful witnessing students of all ages interact and learn more about their school programs and activities,” said Richard Loeschner, Superintendent of



The team from True North Ministries, who were so instrumental in the holding of this wonderful event!



Collected backpacks, donated by the community!

Brentwood. “I enjoyed getting to know more about our students through one-on-one meet and greets and other inclusive games and activities.”

Brentwood participated in Start With Hello by hosting the youth violence protection program on September 1st at the Sonderling High School Auditorium. The event gave students and other members of the community an opportunity to meet and participate in games with their peers, learn about instructional programs, technology, athletics, transportation, food services, Brentwood Public Library events and more. The event also included a meet and greet with the superintendent and Brentwood’s central office administrators.

Food Drive and Backpack Giveaway Provides Essential Items to Hundreds

The Start With Hello event was sponsored by True North Community Church’s Love Others Market, a food drive program that was created during the toughest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the event, Love Others Market gave away 500 backpacks filled with school supplies on a first come, first served basis as part of its Backpack to School Sponsorship Drive. Love Others Market has collected and distributed more than \$500,000 worth of essential goods to families and organizations throughout Long Island.

Brentwood will continue to foster a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their schools through Start With Hello’s three simple steps:

- See someone alone
- Reach out and help
- Start with hello

“Some people feel like they’re invisible, and it’s an awful feeling. And if that goes on for a long time, it can lead to other things,” said Start With Hello’s Co-Founder Mark Barden. “Just start with ‘Hello’ and make that person feel validated, and that they’ve been noticed, and they do exist.”

The Brentwood School District, in partnership with its community and Sandy Hook Promise, provides education to students of over 50 different nationalities. The Brentwood School District’s vision is to provide an inviting, innovative and inspiring learning community. For more information about the Brentwood Union Free School District, visit the district’s website at www.bufsd.org.

For more information on Sandy Hook Promise’s Start With Hello project, and how to prevent gun violence, visit www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/start-with-hello.

***Special Thanks to True North Ministries,
We Couldn’t Have Done it Without You!***



The Brentwood Food Service Department distributed delicious meals and health and nutrition information.



A Brentwood student at a recent Start With Hello event.



Serena Acevedo, a former Brentwood Graduate and True North Ministry congregant, gives back to her community.

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

THE TRUTH ABOUT STIMULANT DRINKS, PRESENTED BY A BRENTWOOD STUDENT

Stimulant drinks may be everywhere, but do we really know what's in them? Well, thanks to a talented Brentwood student and her award-winning video PSA, we know a little bit more about them and how dangerous they are. Brentwood student Cihara Satudio created a public service announcement, also known as a PSA, about stimulant drinks called "The truth About Stimulant Drinks," and it was so effective, it was selected as the best PSA in Suffolk County in a recent county-wide competition.

For her video, Cihara spent approximately 40 hours filming and editing the emotional work that resonated with her peers. Cihara's tenure in the Media Communications Club has allowed her to hone her visual technology skills and has been a tremendous asset to her during her time in the ENL program. In addition to being a member of the video club, Cihara has been a student in the media communications course offered at Brentwood High School, allowing her to supplement what she learns by being a part of the club. Cihara will be attending SUNY College at Old Westbury in the fall, where she will pursue a major in communications.

She also received a County proclamation. Congratulations, Cihara! And well done to the educators and members of the Brentwood School District who supported Cihara on this journey. Our Brentwood students never cease to amaze and inspire us! To view Cihara's "The Truth About Stimulant Drinks" PSA video, visit: <https://youtu.be/n8RRhLAqR3w>.



THE GREEN MACHINE PLAYS ON

It was a sound for sore ears: Brentwood's Frank A. Mauro Stadium filled with the music of Brentwood's Green Machine. Playing at an annual invitational of high school bands, our Green Machine dazzled the audience with talent and precision and filled our District with pride. We're so proud of the hard work and dedication of our band and performing arts department on this tremendous display of skill. We can't wait to hear what the Green Machine does next!



MEET MILO, BRENTWOOD'S FAMOUS ROBOT

Visitors to Brentwood may be greeted with an unusual sight: Milo, a next-generation robot developed by elementary students! Designed to improve language learning, social cues, and creative play for students with autism or ASD, Milo is just the latest evidence of the ingenuity, talent, and imagination of Brentwood students.

Milo is one of many resources the Brentwood School District has added to its impressive roster of academic resources. We're always looking for new teaching methods and assets to propel the learning experience of students forward. Milo will be brought into classrooms to ensure that all students, no matter what, receive a quality education that is best suited to meet their needs.

