

# BRENTWOOD BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WINTER 2021

## Giving Back in a Time of Need

### How Brentwood Students are Stepping up for the Community

#### MBK STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Members of Brentwood’s My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) chapter, in conjunction with the Presidential Inaugural Committee’s Day of Service, honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this past January by volunteering their time to give back to their communities. Throughout several weeks in preparation for the event, Brentwood’s MBK students collaborated with staff members to solicit donations of personal protective equipment, personal care items, and non-perishable food. On MLK Day,

Brentwood students, joining similar events being done nationwide by MBK groups, distributed the essential items to several local senior citizens and families. The New York State My Brother’s Keeper Initiative seeks to “Change the Narrative” of boys and young men of color, and all students, by closing and eliminating the opportunity gaps they face and helping them to reach their full potential. Brentwood’s MBK advisors include Marisol Pagan, Jonathan Morgan, Jorge Aranda, and Dr. Chief Taylor.

#### STUDENTS SERVE CRITICAL ROLE AS VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS

More than 60 Brentwood High School students recently volunteered their time to open up lines of communication among elementary parents, teachers, and the community by serving as volunteer translators, interpreting conversations from English into various languages. During a day of scheduled conferences, BHS students reported in-person to the Translating Command Center, located in the high school, and attended the meetings via Microsoft Teams. Spanish was the number one language needed, based on the number of requests for translators. Requests for other languages included Urdu and French Creole. “On behalf of the Board of Education and central administration, we are humbled by the selfless service of our students,” said Mr. Richard Loeschner, Superintendent of Schools. “This initiative proactively involves Brentwood guardians in their child’s education and provides them the opportunity to understand the extent of their child’s educational performance, opening doors to further enhance parent-teacher relationships for the betterment of our students.”



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

#### 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*  
Kathy Hoey, *District Clerk*

Richard Loeschner, *Superintendent of Schools*

# BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE BEST IN BUSINESS

Two dozen students from Brentwood High School were recently named finalists in the 2020-2021 Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) regional competition. The DECA program in Brentwood, spearheaded by BHS business education teacher Avaril McNamara, is designed to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs, attending high schools and colleges around the globe, for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

“I am so pleased to celebrate our entrepreneurial students on this outstanding achievement. Without fanfare, Avaril has built an incredibly successful program over the last several years and encouraged a tremendous amount of our students to become involved in DECA,” said Richard Loeschner, Superintendent of Brentwood Union Free School District. “I am so proud of the hard work and commitment put forth by our students, and Avaril, to prepare for competitions. We look forward to supporting the group throughout the remainder of the competition on their journey to virtual states.”

## **Congratulations to the students who qualified to compete at the New York State Competition:**

- *Accounting Applications:* Kevin Durand and Cindy Amaya
- *Apparel and Accessories Marketing:* Lorraine Montero
- *Business Finance:* Amelia Chicas and Julia Spadaro
- *Business Services Marketing:* Nicole Olekanma
- *Entrepreneurship:* Amber Connell
- *Marketing Communications:* Annie Hsu
- *Personal Financial Management:* Julianna Sandoval and Jessica Hsu
- *Principles of Hospitality and Tourism:* Lilly Aponte
- *Principles of Management and Administration:* Max Cabrera
- *Principles of Marketing:* Patricia Gomez
- *Quick Serve Restaurant Management:* Victoria Vasquez
- *Retail Merchandising:* Kiana Davidson
- *Travel and Tourism Team:* Queri Rubi, Shari Martinez-Ramos, Jennifer Lachapelle, and Christian Blanco.

## **Congratulations to the following students who received honorable mention:**

- *Principles of Management and Administration:* Eric Gonzalez
- *Hospitality Services Team:* Melissa Benitez
- *Hospitality Services Team:* Walter Benitez
- *Hotel & Lodging Management:* Adriana Flores
- *Apparel and Accessories Marketing:* Aaliyah Barden.



## **A ReCOMMENDED Brentwood Student**

A big congratulations are in order for Javier Garcia, a student at the Brentwood High School Sonderling Center, who recently earned the “Commended Students” designation by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Students who receive this distinction represent a valuable resource in their classrooms and are recognized for their accomplishments and their pivotal role in their school’s academic success. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognizes about 34,000 students as Commended Students for their successes on their PSAT, an exam to help measure academic prowess and prepare students for their future SAT exams. Javier Garcia scored a 1420 on his PSAT last year out of a possible 1520, securing his spot amongst these distinguished students. Way to go, Javier!

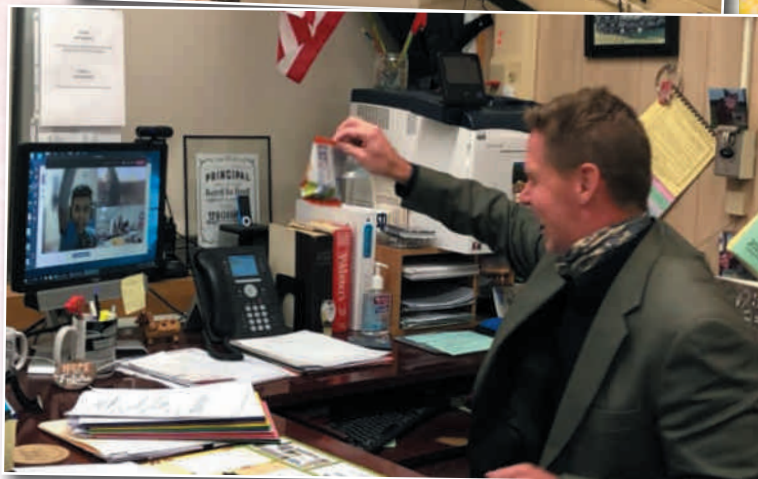
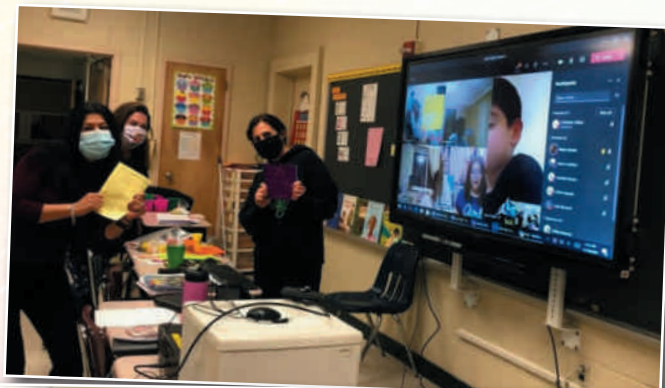
# CHECKING IN AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Family Math Night at Loretta Park Makes Math Fun

Math is a critically important component of any curriculum, but it's also a subject that can be intimidating for many people. At Loretta Park Elementary School, however, math is a subject that can be fun for the whole family! Last fall, the school hosted its very first Virtual Family Math Night! Traditionally, Loretta Park's Math Night has been an in-person event, but of course the realities of the pandemic shifted the occasion to a digital platform.

The change in venue, however, didn't result in a change of fun! This year, the families joined one half-hour session using a Microsoft Teams meeting and learned several fun math games that can be played at home with the family. Materials were distributed in school for hybrid students and remote students picked up the materials at the building.

Math may be an intimidating subject for some, but by creating fun, unique ways to learn it, Loretta Park teachers are proving that anyone can enjoy math.



## The Library in a Pandemic

Fostering a love of reading is one of the most important responsibilities of any educator, even more so during a time when many of us are forced to stay at home for long stretches of time. Obviously, the pandemic has had many consequences on libraries, as the traditional way of sharing and disseminating physical books could present health risks.

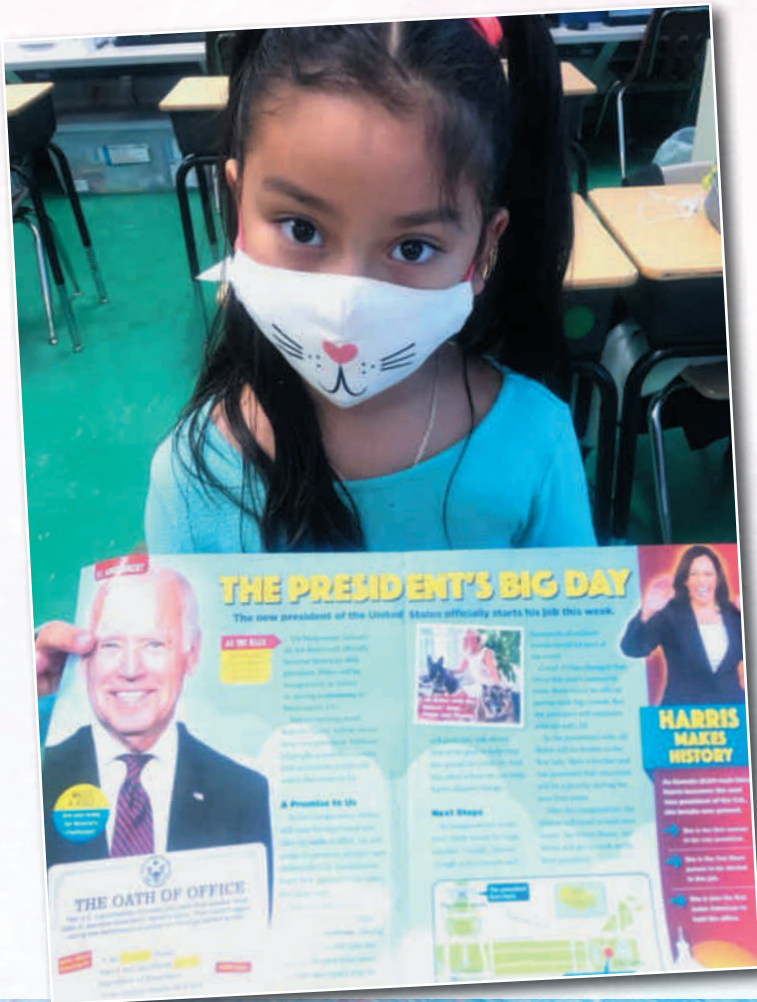
At the Brentwood School District, educators are working hard to keep the library—and the love of reading it creates—alive and well during this difficult time.

Pictured here are two such methods educators have used to keep book sharing safe. In the first picture, students are seen with their "Book Baggies"—bags of books that are sanitized and kept isolated to minimize the spread of any germs. In the second picture, you can see indicators to promote social distancing in the library space. Additionally, all books in this library are sanitized and placed in a quarantine after use before they can be borrowed by another student.

## The 'Plank Challenge' Keeps Kids Healthy and Active

The state of public school athletics may be in flux at school districts all over the country, but that doesn't mean that physical education—and a focus on physical and mental health—isn't as important as ever. At Laurel Park Elementary School, two physical education teachers are striving to instill in all their students the critical need we all have to stay active and healthy during this difficult time.

Mr. Canales and Mr. Scanna have been working in overdrive to keep kids focusing on their health, and friendly and exciting challenges are often one of the best ways to accomplish that. Here, Mr. Canales and Mr. Scanna are pictured with the winning students of their schools seven minute planking challenge. A tremendously effective core workout that strengthens your abdomen, helps your posture and can relieve aches and pains, a plank is a wonderful yet difficult maneuver. Major congratulations are in order to these students for winning the seven minute planking challenge!



## Watching—and Learning About—History in Real Time

History is being made in real time every single day! At Southeast Elementary School, classes are taking advantage of modern tools to watch history be made right in front of their eyes. With a focus on the educational aspect, students watched the January 20<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration, as the 49<sup>th</sup> vice president and 46<sup>th</sup> president of the United States were both sworn into office.

While watching the inauguration, students used a program called Scholastic News to teach them about essential topics such as the voting process.

## Celebrating Vice President Harris

---

The inauguration of Kamala Harris, our first woman and first woman of color to be Vice President, was an amazing moment for so many of the young women in our District. To celebrate and have fun with this historic moment in time, Freshman Center Guidance Counselor Antoinette Shervington helped Brentwood's Girls Inc. students emulate Vice President Kamala Harris' signature look by distributing pearls, courtesy of the Cedarmore Foundation. This opportunity served as a joyous celebration of the significance of a woman finally holding the second-highest position in the United States. Thank you, Ms. Shervington, for your unparalleled commitment to capitalize on opportunities that enhance our students' educational experiences!



## Loretta Park Holds Virtual Bedtime Story Night

---

In recognition of National Read Aloud Day, Loretta Park Elementary School hosted its very first Virtual Bedtime Story Night! Traditionally, Bedtime Story Night was an in-person fun night out, at which children gathered to hear a great story and complete a fun craft. This year, the students joined a read aloud session using a Google Teams meeting. Sessions were available in English and Spanish. Way to adapt, Loretta Park!

# En garde!

## Brentwood Fencing Team Highlights a Slow but Steady Return of Sports in the District

*The pandemic greatly changed what a sports program in public schools looks like, and the Brentwood School District was no exception. However, modified forms of competitive sports are happening in Brentwood, as you can see from these tremendous photos of our fencing team.*

