

BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT NEWS



WINTER EDITION - DECEMBER 2022



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Christopher M. Tully Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



The first four months of the school year have flown by and, as previously reported, we continue to be on course for the best school year ever. It is the time of year where we are all looking forward to the holiday season and the coming new year. This is the perfect time for parents and students to review their grades and set goals for the remainder of the school year.

This is also the time of year to reflect on the people and things that we are grateful for in our lives. For me personally, this means appreciating all of our students that we are preparing to be the future leaders of our great country. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" We are fortunate that, in our district, students are already leading the way through their participation in community service projects.

Speaking of service to others, our students once again honored our veterans at our annual Veterans Day Ceremony in November. Our American heroes were presented with essays written by our students, which focused on the theme "What patriotism means to me, and how I show patriotism in my daily life." This year, we had one student from each grade (3-5), plus one district-wide winner, who were chosen to read their essays aloud to our veterans. The ceremony also featured an excellent performance by our world-famous marching band.

Our students are provided with several opportunities to serve our community throughout the year. For example, students have been collecting supplies needed by people spending their first night in a shelter. This project includes planning, organizing, packaging, and shipping the items to their final destination. In addition, students have been collecting clothing and shoes for those in need in our local area. These are just a few ways our students are spreading kindness by providing services to others and part of what makes Bergenfield such a special place.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize our parents who provide outstanding examples of going above and beyond to provide a better future for the children of Bergenfield. Our parents also serve as teachers, assisting their children in attaining their goals and dreams. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we all work together towards the success of our children. On behalf of the Board of Education, please accept our sincere wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2023.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Holiday Recess

Schools will close at 12:30pm on Friday, December 23rd and will re-open on Monday, January 2nd.

Martin Luther King Day

There will be no school for students on January 16th, as we will be holding professional development for the faculty and staff.

Inclement Weather

If schools must close, delay opening, or dismiss early due to inclement weather, we will continue to utilize our district website, social media, the BPSD mobile app, and the Blackboard emergency notification system to notify the community. Alternatively, you may tune in to News 12, FOX, NBC, and ABC on the television. Please be sure your contact information is up-to-date by signing in to Blackboard Parentlink or by contacting your child's school.

Parent Conferences

Elementary

Marking Period 2

February 8th (5:30pm-7:30pm)

February 9th (1:30pm-3:30pm)

Middle School

Marking Period 2

January 5th (4:00pm-6:00pm)

High School

Marking Period 2

January 3rd (7:00pm-9:00pm)





TEACHERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED



Teachers of the Year

Ms. Schultz, Mr. Heede, Mrs. Stankowksi, Mrs. Cappa-Maher, Ms. Puthuvamkunnath, Mrs. Pflieger, and Mrs. Maurer.

Congratulations to each of this year's honorees on being selected as Teacher of the Year of their school! The seven recipients are: Ms. Puthuvamkunnath for Roy W. Brown Middle School; Mrs. Pflieger for Washington School; Ms. Schultz for Franklin School; Mrs. Cappa-Maher for Hoover School; Mrs. Stankowksi for Lincoln School; Mrs. Maurer for Jefferson School; and Mr. Heede for Bergenfield High School.

Dr. Tully stated, "On behalf of the Bergenfield Board of Education, I would like to congratulate our 2022-23 Teachers of the Year. Each recipient is being recognized by his/her peers within our learning community for demonstrating outstanding commitment to our students. This honor is well-deserved!"

The school-wide winners will now each have the opportunity to apply for the honor of Bergen County Teacher of the Year.

FRANKLIN ARTISTS SHINE



Anabelle and Viola show off their entries.

Franklin School students Viola Eigenbrod and Anabelle De Moya were two of only eight finalists in the Bergen County Unity Sticker Contest. The competition featured entries from over 600 students countywide. Both were honored at the county offices in Hackensack, where Viola was named county grand prize winner!

PATRIOT PEN CONTEST



The winners pose with staff and veterans at RWB.

Congrats to the winners in this year's VFW Post 6467 Patriot Pen Essay Contest: Ophelia Pavas (1st); Maximus Neri (2nd); and Daniella John (3rd). The theme for this year's contest was "My Pledge to Our Veterans." These students won cash prizes, and their essays have been entered into the regional stage.

FACILITY UPGRADES: FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR



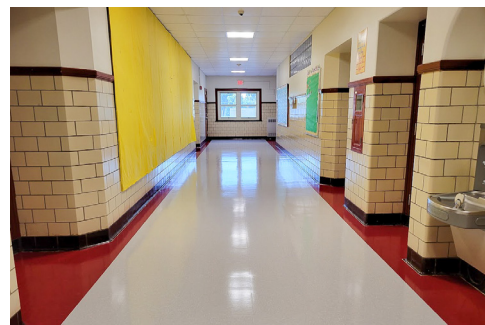
A new STEM laboratory at BHS.

In preparation for each new school year, the district invests in capital infrastructure to improve our school buildings and grounds. Many renovations have been made throughout all of our schools this past summer. These include facility upgrades to classrooms, hallways, and shared spaces, both indoors and out.



Fully-renovated gymnasium at Jefferson School.

The images within this article represent only a few examples of recent renovations that the district is proud to share with our community. The Board of Education and school administration remain committed to maintaining our facilities and providing state-of-the-art learning environments for all of the students of Bergenfield.



New hallway floors installed at Franklin School.

DISTRICT NEWS



VETERANS HONORED AT ANNUAL APPRECIATION CEREMONY



Thomas Nathan Morrell III of Lincoln School, district-wide winner, reads his essay to those in attendance.

On Wednesday, November 9th, Bergenfield High School hosted its annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony on the athletic field. All staff and community members who had served in the military were invited to attend the event as honorees.

As part of the ceremony, the BHS Marching Band performed patriotic songs, including "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." Stephanie Valencia, Class of 2023 President, and Anna Marin, Student Congress President, read the names of the fallen graduates of BHS.

During the weeks leading up to the event, students in grades 3-5 participated in a letter-writing contest. Three grade-level winners and one district-wide winner were selected. These students were invited to read their letters to the veterans in attendance.



Andrew Basilio, grade 3 winner from Franklin.



Abegail Eshetu, grade 5 winner from Jefferson.



Sophia Villa Rivas, grade 4 winner from Hoover.

LIONS CLUB COMPETITION



Mr. Orlando with Julian holding his certificate.

Congratulations to Roy W. Brown Middle School sixth-grader Julian Pinzon-Tavera on winning the local-level 2022 Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Sponsored annually by the Bergenfield Lions Club, this stage of the competition featured over 60 entries. Julian will now advance to the regional level.

STUDENT REP APPOINTED



Anna with the Board of Education and Dr. Tully.

Anna Marin, BHS Student Congress President, was appointed as the student representative to the Board of Education at the November meeting. Boards of education in NJ are required to appoint a student representative to the local school board as outlined in P.L. 2021, c.446, which was signed into law in January 2022.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



Panagiotti and Chris with VFW members and Mr. F.

At BHS, three winners were named in the VFW Post 6467 Voice of Democracy Program: Panagiotti Niko-lopoulos (1st); Ashley Joyce (2nd); and Chris Tillock (3rd). The audio essay's theme was "Why is the Veteran Important?" They will now have a chance to win scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$35,000!

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Dr. Frank V. Auriemma, Interim Director of Personnel
JoAnn Khoury-Frias, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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DISTRICT NEWS



SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

Inside This Issue

From the Desk of the Superintendent.....	Pg 1	Facility Upgrades.....	Pg 2
Important Reminders.....	Pg 1	Veterans Honored	Pg 3
Teachers of the Year Announced.....	Pg 2	Lions Club Competition.....	Pg 3
Franklin Artists Shine.....	Pg 2	Student Rep Appointed.....	Pg 3
Patriot Pen Contest.....	Pg 2	Voice of Democracy.....	Pg 3