



Hurricane Watch

A publication designed to share the excellent stories of the Brooklyn City Schools

Spring 2021

Tradition. Pride. Excellence.



**Superintendent & CEO
Dr. Theodore Caleris**

Dear Brooklyn City Schools Community,

Spring is finally here, and brings not only warmer temperatures and increased sunshine, but a sense of anticipation for the many milestones and observances that occur at the end of the school year. Our students and staff have demonstrated resilience, perseverance and a can-do attitude despite the various obstacles brought forth during these challenging times. I am extremely proud of the unity and collaboration demonstrated by the entire Brooklyn City Schools community!

Extended Day Learning Option Offered During 4th Grading Quarter

To coincide with the start of the fourth grading quarter on Monday, April 12th, the District will be offering an Extended Day Learning Option for select students from 1:30 – 2:30 pm for specified grade-levels and content areas. This initiative is being launched to address the specific enrichment and remediation learning needs that have occurred during the ongoing pandemic. Parents will receive building specific schedules and details from principals in the next week.

Exciting Opportunities for Our Students

The Brooklyn City Schools are proud to offer several new educational and enrichment opportunities for our students. The newly launched Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy (BDLA) is a hybrid learning option for students in grades 10-12, and 9th graders with permission from the building principal, who need an alternative to the traditional in-person school day, or who are better served working at their own pace. The BDLA is currently enrolling and interested parents can find more information on page three of this latest edition of the Hurricane Watch newsletter.

Through a partnership with Brooklyn Recreation Department and Saint Thomas More School, students entering grades K-6 at the start of the 2021-2022 school year will have the opportunity to attend a Summer Day Camp beginning in June 2021. The summer camp will feature a full day of student enrichment, education, and physical activities. Registration is now open and interested families can register online and learn more at www.brooklynrec.com.

Update on Important Administrative Staffing Changes

The District would like to take an opportunity to update the community about several important administrative staffing changes. Brooklyn School Principal, Mrs. Cristin Cicco, will be moving into a Central Office position with the District at the start of next school year. The process to hire a new Brooklyn School principal is currently ongoing and is anticipated to be completed by May 2021. In addition, current Athletic Director, Mr. Jim Verba, will be transitioning back to the classroom at the start of the 2021-22 school year. The District would like to thank both individuals for their dedicated service on behalf of our students and staff. It is with

great excitement that the District welcomes Mr. Michael Becker as the Director of Alternative Education and Athletics starting in the fall of 2021. To learn more about Mr. Becker, please visit our website at www.brooklyn.k12.ny.us. Stay tuned for more information regarding a "Virtual Community Meet and Greet" in the coming weeks to officially welcome our new administrators!

Wishing Our Hurricane Family a Wonderful Spring Break!

A friendly reminder that there will be no school for students on Thursday, April 1st as this will be a Records Day/In-Service for our staff members. All Brooklyn City Schools students and staff will be on Spring Break from Friday, April 2nd through Friday, April 9th. I wish our entire Hurricane Nation a safe and enjoyable Spring Break! In the meantime, please take a moment to read the latest Hurricane Watch newsletter and enjoy highlights of the many accomplishments and engaging learning taking place in the Brooklyn City Schools.

GO HURRICANES!

Dr. Theodore Caleris

Superintendent & CEO

Brooklyn City Schools



The Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy provides students the District's engaging curriculum and programming opportunities while meeting their unique learning needs in a hybrid learning environment





Chick-Fil-A Recognizes Brooklyn Staff Members as Community Heroes

Brooklyn School 7th grade teacher Mrs. Sherrin Frate, District Nurse Mrs. Barb Manley, High School Science teacher Mr. Chris Roegiers, and High School Building Secretary Mrs. Barb Hastings were recently recognized by representatives from the Chick-fil-A Parma location as "Community Heroes" for going 'above and beyond' during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. On Thursday, January 14, 2021, Sheilla Lienerth, Owner/Operator of the Chick-fil-A Parma location (6676 Ridge Rd), presented the above Brooklyn staff members with a "First 100" gift of 52 free Chick-fil-A Meal cards as a gesture of thanks for their dedication on behalf of the District. Each recipient was nominated by their respective building principal. Thank you to Chick-fil-A for supporting our teachers and staff. On behalf of the Brooklyn City Schools, congratulations to Mrs. Frate, Mrs. Manley, Mr. Roegiers, and Mrs. Hastings on their proud recognition!



Mrs. Manley (far left) and Mrs. Frate (far right) were one of four Brooklyn staff members recognized by Chick-fil-A Parma for their efforts during the ongoing pandemic



Brooklyn Student Artwork Selected for Congressional Art Exhibition



(Left to Right) All Day Every Day by Ollie Loyer; Stolen by Brayley Yonek; Stranger in the Mirror by Alexis Jenkins

Three student-artists from Brooklyn High School, Ollie Loyer (9th grade), Brayley Yonek (9th grade), and Alexis Jenkins (10th grade), were given the proud honor of having artwork selected for display in the 2021 Congressional Art Exhibition. The professional exhibition annually features artwork from students residing in the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio. A select jury of professionals representing the arts community will be appointed to evaluate each submission, and select the winning selection, two-runners up awards, honorable mentions, and additional sponsored awards. Each award is granted based on specific criteria, including Creativity, Composition, Technique, and Originality. All selected artworks are available for viewing online at <https://theartscommission.org/shop>. Congratulations to Ollie Loyer, Brayley Yonek, and Alexis Jenkins for their participation in the prestigious Congressional Art Exhibition!



Kindergarten and 1st Grade Celebrate 100th Day of School

Brooklyn's Kindergarten and first-grade classrooms celebrated the 100th Day of the 2020-21 school year with a variety of fun and creative activities during the week of February 22nd. The Kindergarten celebration on Tuesday, February 23rd included reading and listening to books, and dancing to songs featuring a 100th Day of School theme. Kindergarteners also wrote about what items they would buy with 100 dollars, created 100th Day crowns to wear, counted out 100 fruit loops for a delicious snack and exercised for 100 seconds. Each Kindergarten student also had the opportunity to design their very own 100th Day t-shirt featuring 100 items and show-off their t-shirt in a class fashion show!

The first-grade classrooms took advantage of the seasonably warm weather on Wednesday, February 24th to count and mark 100 steps with sidewalk chalk, run for 100 seconds, and stand together to make the number 100. Indoor activities included a 100th Day scavenger hunt, writing 100 words around the classroom, making 100th Day crowns and "monsters", and reading the "100th Day Worries" book together. Students also presented their colorful and unique 100th Day posters to the class.

Altogether, students and their teachers had a blast celebrating the 100th Day of School and look forward with anticipation to continued learning and growth this school year.



Creating fun posters was one of many ways Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms marked the 100th Day of School



District Launches Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy

The Brooklyn City Schools is excited to announce the launch of the Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy (BDLA), an innovative hybrid learning option featuring both in-person and remote learning formats. Instruction will be delivered by certified Brooklyn City Schools educators and staff using the same curriculum offered to students in a traditional classroom setting. Students will have the opportunity to learn at their own pace with flexible schedule options in a physically safe environment. The BDLA is open to all District students entering grades 10-12 for the 2021-22 school year, with options available for 9th graders receiving permission from the building principal. **Interested families are asked to make a commitment to the BDLA for a full semester and submit their online application to the High School principal no later than April 15, 2021.** For more information and to complete an application, [please click here to visit the Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy page](#), located under the Schools tab on the District homepage.



The Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy is a hybrid learning option that features both in-person and remote learning formats.



Second Graders Learn About Chinese New Year



As part of a special lesson on Chinese culture led by BHS Mandarin Chinese teacher Mrs. Huang, 2nd graders learned how to draw the letters of the Chinese alphabet

Second graders at Brooklyn School recently took part in an in-depth exploration of Chinese culture, including the Chinese New Year, thanks to an engaging and impromptu lesson provided by Brooklyn High School Mandarin Chinese Instructor Mrs. Ching-Ling Huang. After noticing a display celebrating the Chinese New Year in the second-grade hallway, Mrs. Huang spoke with the second-grade team teachers and expressed an interest in sharing more about the celebration with their students. The second graders greatly enjoyed learning more about Chinese culture, which included a lesson on how to draw letters of the Chinese alphabet using a writing brush and special paper. A special thank-you to Mrs. Huang for providing our second-grade students such an exciting and culturally enriching learning activity!



BHS Art Teacher Chris Kaspar Honored with Photograph Accepted into International Juried Exhibition

Congratulations to Brooklyn High School Art teacher Mr. Chris Kaspar who was recently given the honor of having a photograph submission selected for display in the 2020: International Juried Photography Exhibition hosted by The University of Southern Mississippi Museum of Art and School of Performing and Visual Arts. The online exhibition took place in February 2021 and featured photographs submitted by individuals from across the globe which conveyed each artist's personal perspective on living through the unprecedented year of 2020. Mr. Kaspar's submission, "A Happy Family", was created using a combination of analog photography and technology to create a new image that was printed on large-scale metal plates. For A "Happy Family" and similar bodies of work, Mr. Kaspar first identifies photographs taken from around the world and dating from the late 19th century to the 1970's.

"I search for photographs that speak to me on an aesthetic level or I find an image from the past that seems relevant to current political and social issues," shares Mr. Kaspar. After scanning the photograph, Mr. Kaspar applies a manipulation to the scan resulting in a new image.

The Brooklyn City Schools proudly congratulate Mr. Kaspar on his impressive artistic accomplishment!



Mr. Kaspar's photograph, "A Happy Family", was selected for display in an international juried exhibition



Students Return to the Stage with Performance of Freaky Friday

One year after the abrupt cancellation of the 2020 spring production, Brooklyn students once again took the stage under the bright lights of the Auditorium with an impressive and energetic performance of the Disney musical, *Freaky Friday*, from Thursday, March 11th through Saturday, March 13, 2021. Based on the 1972 book of the same name and various film adaptations, the massively popular *Freaky Friday* musical tells the story of a mother and daughter who accidentally swap bodies, and the ensuing comedic and heartwarming events that follow. In addition to stellar performances by cast members, the production featured intricate set designs by the Stage Crew and a lively musical score performed by the Pit Band. A special thank you to all teachers and staff for their contributions, including Play Director and Vocal Music teacher Mrs. Kim Cipriani, Pit Band Director Mr. Sean Sullivan, and Pit Crew Director Mr. Chris Kaspar. Thank you also to the Brooklyn Music Boosters for their continuous support of our students. The Brooklyn City Schools congratulates all participating students for their hard work, creativity, and talent which helped to make this year's spring musical a phenomenal success!



Students returned to the Auditorium stage for an unforgettable performance of Disney's "Freaky Friday" from March 11-13th



Brooklyn School Celebrates Right to Read Week



Students had the chance to listen to a story and interact with guest readers as part of Right to Read Week 2021

To help promote the importance of literacy, Brooklyn School hosts a variety of fun reading-centered events throughout the school year, including the much-anticipated annual Right to Read Week celebration. This year's observance took place during the Week of March 8th – 12th, and included Guest Reader Day on Tuesday, March 9th. District staff, community leaders, public safety workers, and others visited K-7 classrooms, virtually and in-person, to read and discuss a selected book with students. The list of guest readers included Superintendent Dr. Theodore Caleris, City of Brooklyn Mayor Katie Gallagher, Brooklyn Council Pro-Tem Andy Celcherts, representatives from the Brooklyn Fire Department, including Fire Chief Kevin Paul, and members of the City of Brooklyn Police Department, including Police Chief Scott Mielke.

Several classrooms also had the opportunity to go to the playground area and meet members of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau's Crisis Negotiations Team, including Brooklyn Police Lieutenant Cindy Eschweiler, and listen to a story inside the unit's Mobile Command Center. A fun time was had by everyone who participated. In addition to Guest Reader Day, each grade level participated in a variety of different activities to celebrate Right to Read Week. Some grade levels featured specific themes, such as First grade, which incorporated an "Enchanted Forest" theme through mystical stories, a homemade puppet activity, and more. Special thanks to first grade teacher Lisa Foley for helping to coordinate guest reader appearances. Finally, thank you to all guest readers for spending time with our students and promoting the importance of literacy.



5th Grade Science Students Construct Terrariums During Engaging Lab Activity

Fifth grade students at Brooklyn School had the opportunity to conduct research, develop a hypothesis, test it with experimentation and share results as part of an interactive lab activity in science class. Students constructed actual terrariums in which grass seed would be planted and observed over a period of time. The project called for students to use gravel, charcoal, landscaping fabric, soil seeds and water to sow grass seeds. Along the way, they made predictions about when the seeds would sprout and how long will it take for them to grow to certain heights. Students analyzed the important processes of condensation formation, which is part of photosynthesis. Once grass reached a height of 5 cm, each group changed a variable of growth, such as amount of light, the amount of water, soil conditions and heat levels. Once all data was collected, students delivered a presentation on their findings. This science experience allowed students to walk through steps of the scientific method, enhanced their grasp of photosynthesis and deploy creativity. Way to go 5th grade science students!



As part of an interactive lab activity, 5th grade students constructed terrariums, planted grass seed and watched it grow

