



The Baldwin E-Beat

www.baldwinschools.org

Fall 2016

A New Year – and the Future – Begin in the Baldwin Schools

In her annual letter to staff, students and parents, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Shari L. Camhi welcomed everyone back to school, including the kindergarteners who will make up the Class of 2029! “What will be invented by 2029? What scientific breakthroughs will change the way we live? What new technology will be available? How will we communicate?,” she asked.

The Baldwin School District started off on a new school year in which the future is *now* - as students prepare to learn the skills necessary for the next generation of work. Not only have new courses and curriculum been added, but innovative learning spaces have been constructed in all of the schools to enhance learning styles for the 21st century. Residents were invited to take a tour of these spaces at the high school while adding their comments about future facilities improvements in the “Tour and Talk” at the Community Input Meeting on October 26. More to come in an upcoming special issue of The Baldwin Beat!



Board of Education Trustee



Susan Cools was elected as a trustee on the Baldwin Board of Education effective July 1. Five generations of her family have attended the district schools, including her three children. Mrs. Cools is a licensed real estate broker who volunteered with the Plaza PTA and co-founded the corporation to raise money to build the Plaza playground. She also serves as president of the Baldwin-Rockville Centre Rotary Club. "As a school board trustee, I am proud to be a part of bringing our district into a new era of technology, growth, and success. Along with an amazing superintendent and school board, I believe this is an exciting time for our district. It is always important to have a board and administrators who work well together and are able to make important decisions that result in providing the best education possible for our kids."

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction



Anthony Mignella has been appointed as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. Mr. Mignella began his educational career as a science teacher at St. Edmund's Preparatory High School and Valley Stream South Junior-Senior High School. He then became the Assistant Principal of Valley Stream Central High School and most recently served as the Principal of Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School. Mr. Mignella holds a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Stony Brook, a Master of Science degree in Education from Long Island University, C.W. Post, and Advanced Graduate Certification in Educational Administration from SUNY Stony Brook. Mr. Mignella brings to Baldwin a keen interest in character education and the enhancement of student learning through the use of technology as well as a focus on keeping parents informed of relevant school issues. Says Mr. Mignella, "I firmly believe that when educators collaborate, students can be challenged to achieve and become critical thinkers prepared to be productive members of the global economy."

Principal of Baldwin High School



Caterina Lafergola has been appointed Principal of Baldwin High School. Ms. Lafergola started her career as an English teacher at Franklin K. Lane High School and the High School of Teaching, Liberal Arts and Sciences in Queens. She later became an English teacher and chairperson in the Valley Stream Central High School District and Eastport School District. Most recently she served as a principal in the New York City Department of Education at Automotive High School in Brooklyn. Ms. Lafergola holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Master of Arts in English Literature from St. John's University, and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership with honor from Adelphi University. She is currently working on her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. Ms. Lafergola is hosting monthly Coffee Talks on Saturdays and has formed advisory committees to create and sustain academic excellence and socio-emotional well-being across the high school learning community. She says, "Education is my passion. I consider it a privilege to work with young people and take part in their development."

Director of Pupil Services



Sherrisse Young has been appointed Director of Pupil Services. She was previously the Assistant Director of Pupil Services since 2007. Ms. Young has a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from New York University, Master of Science degree in Special Education from Long Island University, C.W. Post, and Masters of Science in School Administration and Supervision from Touro College. Ms. Young says: "I look forward to collaborating with colleagues, staff, students, and parents to ensure that each student's academic, physical, social and emotional needs are addressed in a safe and nurturing environment. We will continue to ensure that each student is provided with the skills necessary to reach their fullest potential to become well-adjusted contributing members of our society."

Assistant Director of Pupil Services

JoAnn Pisano has been appointed the Assistant Director of Pupil Services. Ms. Pisano has been a school psychologist for the past 24 years with over 10 years as a district chairperson for Special Education. She has worked in the Hempstead School District and the Churchill School in New York City and most recently was the Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services in the West Hempstead School District. Ms. Pisano has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Sociology from Iona College and Master of Science degrees in both School Psychology and Administration from the College of New Rochelle. Says Ms. Pisano: "Baldwin has a wonderful reputation for its large Life Skills program and for its team approach. I look forward to working with the staff, families, and students to ensure a continued quality of education that enhances both the students' emotional and educational growth."



Interim Assistant Principal at Meadow School



Stacey Morgan has been appointed Interim Assistant Principal at Meadow School while Janine Rossi is on maternity leave. Ms. Morgan was previously a K-12 Coordinator for Literary and K-5 Coordinator for Math in the Lindenhurst School District, an elementary teacher in the South Huntington School District, and a reading teacher in the Three Village School District. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queens College and a Master of Science degree from Long Island University, C.W. Post. Ms. Morgan says: "I want to learn more about the educational community and determine what I can bring to its success. This is a great community that is inclusive and caring. It's all about the children."

Meet Baldwin's New Teachers



Juliana Becker
Plaza, Special Education
B.S., SUNY Old Westbury
"Teaching is about activating students' thinking and stimulating their minds."

Ms. Becker has previous experience in the Bethpage School District and as a leave replacement teacher at Meadow School. She says Baldwin provides support and believes in the full learning experience using multi-sensory approaches. She wants to continue to create an individualized focus to learning while engaging her students academically and emotionally. She enjoys musical theater and spending time at the beach.



Jaclyn Cerciello
BHS/BMS, Social Studies
B.A. and M.A., Hofstra University
"Integrate democracy into the very fabric of teaching so students become active citizens."

For the last three years, Ms. Cerciello worked at Brooklyn College Academy and she was previously a leave replacement teacher in Baldwin. She values the diversity in Baldwin and the camaraderie between the faculty, parents, and students. She plans to incorporate more current events in her lessons and to engage students with more hands-on, cooperative learning. Her hobbies are traveling, history books, and theater.



Andrew Christensen
BHS, Science
B.S., University of Miami
M.S., Dowling College
"Curiosity is the only prerequisite for knowledge."

Mr. Christensen attended Brookside School and graduated with the Baldwin High School Class of 2008 as well as completed his student teaching here. So, he says he knows first hand Baldwin's dedication to students, and he will always be a proud member of the Baldwin community. He intends on expanding student interest in science and technology, and his interests include film, technology, and writing and playing music.



Kathryn Brown
BHS, Special Education
B.S., Molloy College
"A moment of positive thinking can truly change your day."

Ms. Brown was a special education and English teacher in the Bellmore-Merrick and Long Beach School Districts. She says she has only heard fabulous things about the academics and extracurricular activities in Baldwin. Her goals this year are to become involved in the school, set a positive example for her students, and foster a love of reading and learning. Her hobbies include music, photography, baking desserts, reading, sports, and travel.



Christine Chillak
BMS/BHS, Science
B.A. and M.A., SUNY Stony Brook
"It is better to try and get something wrong than not to try at all."

Ms. Chillak has been teaching at the High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology in Brooklyn for the past four years. She says Baldwin is a great place, noting the diversity among its staff and students. She hopes to get to know the school district and to become a significant part of it. She likes crafting and baking especially during the holidays! During the summer, she enjoys kayaking and exploring Long Island.



Allison Cullinan
BMS/Meadow, Speech & Hearing
B.A., St. Joseph's College
M.S., Touro College
"When children gain access to communication, they improve their quality of life."

Ms. Cullinan previously worked at a K-8 educational center in Philadelphia and in preschool, home, and nursing care. She says she is honored to be a part of the Baldwin School District and to give back to the community. She looks forward to learning from students and staff. She enjoys crafts, watching HGTV and movies on Netflix, shopping, tennis, running and walking.

Meet Baldwin's New Teachers



Rachel Evans
Plaza, Psychologist
B.A., Duquesne University
M.A., Adelphi University
"Teaching and learning both require patience, determination, and encouragement."

Ms. Evans completed her internship here in Baldwin. During that time, she said she had opportunities to interact with many educators, other school professionals and parents. She believes Baldwin is richly diverse and welcoming and hopes to develop sound relationships with students, families, and staff. Her hobbies are reading, playing basketball, and attending sporting and musical events.



Catherine Impelli
BHS, Science
B.S., Fairfield University
M.S., St. John's University
"Inspire students to find their passion, set goals and reach their stars."

Ms. Impelli was previously a science teacher at St. Francis of Assisi School in Astoria. She was attracted to working in Baldwin because of its strong connection to the community. Her goals are to fully immerse herself in the district through clubs and sports while learning and growing with the help of her department. Her outside interests include reading, running and traveling.



Fatema Jaffer
Lenox/Brookside, Psychologist
B.A. and M.A, Adelphi University
"Don't be afraid of making mistakes. They are how we learn."

Ms. Jaffer has experience as a school psychologist in the Commack and Lynbrook School Districts. She says she admires Baldwin's diversity and emphasis on school and community collaboration. She wants to build strong relationships with her colleagues and strong connections with her students. She enjoys all sports, especially tennis, as well as reading (a big Harry Potter fan!), arts and crafts, traveling, and most importantly, spending time with family and friends.



Megan Lynch
Lenox, Social Worker
M.S.W., Adelphi University
"Be perfect in your imperfections, happy in your pain, and strong in your weaknesses."

Ms. Lynch previously worked in the Sachem School District and was a supervisor in the PINS Diversion program. She notes Baldwin's strong family connection on a school, district, and community level, and she plans to build a foundation in her relationships with students, staff, and families in order to empower students socially, emotionally and academically. Her hobbies are being active and spending time at the beach and with her family and friends.



Lauren Maywald
Brookside, Elementary Education
B.A., SUNY Cortland
M.A., Queens College
"Teachers who love teaching teach children to love learning."

Ms. Maywald formerly taught third and fourth grade in the Lynbrook School District for six years. She feels very passionate about Baldwin's motto: "We are Innovative. We are Inclusive. We Are Involved." Her plan is to instill a love of learning in her students and to create engaging and exciting lessons to encourage and motivate them. She likes spending time with family and friends, reading, exercising, and traveling.



Nicole Naggar
Meadow, Social Worker
B.S., University of Delaware
M.S.W, Adelphi University
"Change your thinking!"

Ms. Naggar previously worked for the North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center and BOCES. She says Baldwin is a highly respected district and feels honored to receive this opportunity to help students succeed both emotionally and academically. She hopes to use all of her experience and knowledge to support Baldwin students. Her interests include exercising, going to the beach, and reading.

Meet Baldwin's New Teachers



Suzanne Oakes
BMS, English Language Arts
B.A., SUNY Stony Brook
M.S., Dowling College
"Teaching is both the most difficult and rewarding profession."

Ms. Oakes previously taught middle school in the South Bronx. She says a friend of hers who works in Baldwin always spoke so highly of the district. Her goals for the upcoming school year are to create an inviting environment and a love for learning for her students. Outside of school, she enjoys singing, dancing, and acting.



Nicole Paolillo
BHS, ENL
B.S., SUNY Cortland
M.A., St. Joseph's College
"Teaching is not a job but a passion to inspire students to make discoveries."

Ms. Paolillo previously worked in New York City schools and at Westbury High School. She was attracted to Baldwin's diversity and collaborative and innovative teaching approaches. She plans to engage her students in learning while facilitating student inquiry and perspectives. She wants to create a culture where all students feel valued. Her interests include drawing, crafts,



Danielle O'Brien
BMS, Special Education
B.A. Towson University
M.S., Queens College
"If you are the teacher who sees hope, opportunity and love, then you can make a difference."

Ms. O'Brien was an elementary teacher in New York City public and charter schools. She says she's heard great things about Baldwin. Her goals are to increase student reading levels and vocabulary comprehension and to help students set their own goals. She likes hanging out with her husband and dog Jetty, walking the boardwalk, traveling and reading.



Sarah Speechley
Meadow, Elementary
B.A., Bucknell University
M.S., Molloy College
"Teachers ignite students' imaginations so they have a lifelong love of learning."

Ms. Speechley taught social studies, science and math in the Oceanside School District. Having grown up nearby, she knows what a tight-knit community Baldwin is and looks forward to finding creative ways to teach students with special needs. Outside of school, she enjoys tennis, travel, and spending time with twins William and Samantha and their two dogs - a German shepherd and Chihuahua.

Board of Education Priorities

Each year, the Board of Education focuses on a number of specific priorities. Last year, the board set the following priorities that will extend over a three-year period for 2015-16 through 2017-18. Last year, district administrators helped the board to create a comprehensive strategic plan for these priorities:

1. Improve student performance while addressing differences in achievement between different demographic groups.
2. Expand the use of technology to improve communication inside and outside the school community, and on technology as an instructional tool to enhance educational outcomes.
3. Refine and expand the Career Academy program.
4. Inspire cultural awareness and sensitivity that builds character and citizenship throughout the Baldwin community.

Baldwin Educational Assembly Charges for 2016-17

The Board of Education has finalized its charges for the Baldwin Educational Assembly (BEA) this year:

Fiscal Advisory Committee

1. Analyze results of exit polls, identify trends, determine whether it is worthwhile to continue with exit polling.
2. Review bond referendums of other districts, strategies and methods to promote passage, details of the bonds, and make up of the bond committees.

Educational Trends Committee

1. Research pre-k program success, costs, and benefits. in other districts.

2. Research science research program success, costs, and benefits in other districts.

School and Community Relations Committee

1. Research methods of other districts to communicate with parents and guardians via social media and educational apps.
2. Research ways Baldwin can create structures and procedures to maintain contact with alumni and current students before they graduate.

To join one of the committees, please call BEA Secretary Mary Hobbs at 434 6011.

Inclement Weather is Coming!

Winter weather is right around the corner!

Be sure that you receive the message when schools are closed or having a delayed opening. There are many ways to be in the know.

First, check that your most up-to-date contact information is provided to the main office of your child's school including a home number, cell number, and an email address. This way, you will receive Blackboard Connect calls and emails.

Second, are you signed up for the district website and mobile app? Sign up today so you will receive e-alerts when important messages are posted on the website and simultaneously broadcasted on the mobile app.

For the website, click the SIGN UP button in the upper right corner of the homepage at www.baldwinschools.org and follow the prompts. To download the mobile app for free, go to the Apple Store or Google Play, depending on your cellular carrier.

Third, check radio and television stations for the listings of schools that are closed or delayed on WALK (1370 AM & 97.5 FM), WCBS (880 AM & Channel 2), WKJOY (98.3 FM), WHLI (1100 AM), WINS (1010 AM), WABC (Channel 7), WNBC (Channel 4), WNYW (Channel 5), Fios 1, and News 12 Long Island.

Additionally, these messages are posted on the district and school Facebook pages and Twitter handles so follow us online.



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Baldwin Public Schools