



THE LEARNER WITHIN NEWSLETTER



APRIL / MAY 2026



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Shubert Jacobs
Executive Director

As we arrive at the months of May and June, we step into one of the most meaningful seasons of the school year—a time rich with reflection, accomplishment, and hope.

These final weeks are when the story of the year comes fully into view. Our students bring together months of curiosity, effort, and perseverance to show not only what they have learned, but who they are becoming. In classrooms, hallways, and shared spaces, we see growth not only in academic skill, but also in confidence, compassion, and courage—signaling an awakening of the learner within. These moments remind us why the work we do matters so deeply.

For our instructional and operational staff, May and June offer a powerful opportunity to pause and reflect—to celebrate what worked, learn from challenges, and recommit to continuous improvement. The learning that happens among adults during this time is just as important as the learning in classrooms, as it shapes the experiences our students will have in the year ahead.

This season is also one of connection and community. Through celebrations and culminating events—such as Graduation, Moving-Up Ceremonies, the Senior Trip, Fun Day, Open Houses, and the Box Car Derby—students, families, and staff come together to honor milestones both large and small. These shared moments strengthen the bonds that make our school more than a building; they make it a place of belonging.

Behind the scenes, our teams are working with care and intention to ensure a strong transition from one school year to the next. Thoughtful planning now—around programs, staffing, systems, and supports—allows us to open September with clarity, confidence, and renewed energy. The future we hope for our students begins with the decisions we make today, reminding us that every ending holds a beginning.

As we close this chapter of the year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our Board, students, families, and partners in education. You are the heart of Bronx Better Learning. Your trust, dedication, and shared belief in our mission continue to inspire us all.

Let us move through these final weeks with pride in all that has been accomplished and optimism for all that is still to come.



UPCOMING DATES

May 2026

5/16 - BBL Carnival
5/20 - Half Day (12:30pm Dismissal)
5/25 - No School (Memorial Day)
5/27 - No School (Eid)
5/28 - Board Meeting - BBL1 campus @ 5pm

June 2026

6/4 & 6/5 - PD Days (on campus)
6/12 - Fun Day
6/19 - No School (Juneteenth)
6/25 - End of Year Staff Party (12:30 Dismissal)
6/25 - Board Meeting - BBL1 campus @ 5pm
6/26 - Last Day of Classes (12:30 Dismissal)



AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

April is Autism Awareness Month and BBL Staff wore blue to celebrate.





A LOOK INTO THE CLASSROOM

3RD - 5TH GRADE ART STUDY: ALMA THOMAS

Alma Thomas, Artist



Students learned about the life and artwork of Alma Thomas. She is known for her vibrant paintings, which feature a mosaic style. Students created their own artwork inspired by Alma.





A LOOK INTO THE CLASSROOM

3RD GRADE ART STUDY: FAITH RINGGOLD



Faith Ringgold (1930 - 2024) was an American activist, author, and artist. Below is student artwork inspired by Faith.





BOOK BUDDY FUNDRAISER



We have wrapped up our Book Buddy fundraiser. We are happy to share that the school has earned a total profit of \$1,136.36 from the program! 🙌

There was substantial family and student support for this fundraising effort. All grade levels received gift cards from the fundraiser participants. These funds will be allocated to each homeroom and used for class events, supplies, and extra goodies.

- **Grade K:** 53 students | \$2,380.00 in gift cards
- **Grade 1:** 52 students | \$630.00 in gift cards
- **Grade 2:** 45 students | \$460.00 in gift cards
- **Grade 3:** 59 students | \$670.00 in gift cards
- **Grade 4:** 69 students | \$780.00 in gift cards
- **Grade 5:** 66 students | \$840.00 in gift cards
- **Grade PK:** 11 students | \$50.00 in gift cards



Zoe served as the driver for our team!

SOAPBOX DERBY

Students from BBL1 competed in the Seton Falls Annual Soapbox Derby on Sunday, May 3rd . We are incredibly proud that our students had the opportunity to showcase their creativity and teamwork through their participation in this exciting event.



Thank you to Mr. O, Mr. Manford, and Mrs. Sheehy for their guidance and support of our Soapbox Derby team.





BRONX BETTER THEATER & MUSIC

THE WIZ

Students from BBL1 and BBL2 are gearing up for their performances of *The Wiz*! Directed by Jonathan Carter, students have been preparing throughout the school year for the upcoming performances. Join us on June 16 and 17th to see the show!

MEET THE DIRECTOR



Jonathan Carter is an actor, director, and dynamic arts educator with a deep passion for bringing stories to life on stage. Having previously directed *Annie Jr.* with creativity and heart, he is committed to building vibrant, empowering theatre experiences for young performers. Jonathan firmly believes that the arts are just as essential as any academic subject, shaping confidence, discipline, and identity in every student. He is incredibly honored to direct *The Wiz Jr.* alongside a brilliantly talented cast and the best creative team he could ever ask for, and is excited to share this powerful, joyful production with the community.

Jonathan Carter
Theater Director



BRONX BETTER THEATER & MUSIC

THE WIZ

Mrs. Meagan Linzer-Metzger will be directing the BBL Band in a rendition of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* on performance day.

MEET THE BAND DIRECTOR



Meagan Linzer-Metzger is a dedicated musician and music educator, currently celebrating her 11th year teaching music and 10th year directing the Band at The Bronx Charter Schools for Better Learning. Under her direction, the Band has been featured in productions of *The Lion King Kids*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, and *Annie Jr.* She is thrilled to once again lead the band for this year's production of *The Wiz Jr.* This year marks a particularly exciting milestone, as it will be the first time the BBL1 and BBL2 Bands perform together on stage. Meagan is honored to work alongside such talented young musicians and a deeply supportive Band staff, and she looks forward to celebrating this special moment in the Band program's history.

Meagan Linzer-Metzger
Band Director



BRONX BETTER THEATER & MUSIC

MEET THE CAST



**Dorothy
Peyton W.
BBL1**



**The Wiz
Imari W.
BBL1**



**Scarecrow
Pearly A.
BBL2**



**Tinman
Danielle A.
BBL2**



**Lion
Braxton C.
BBL1**



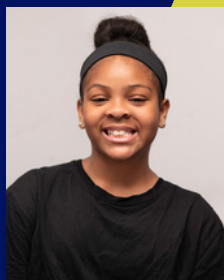
**Evillene
Jeremiah O.
BBL1**



**Addaperle
Precious A.
BBL2**



**Glinda
Aria R.
BBL1**



**Aunt Em
Chloe G.
BBL1**



**Uncle Henry
Elisha A.
BBL1**



**Lord High Underling
Zaire
BBL2**



**Royal Gatekeeper
Cody G.
BBL2**



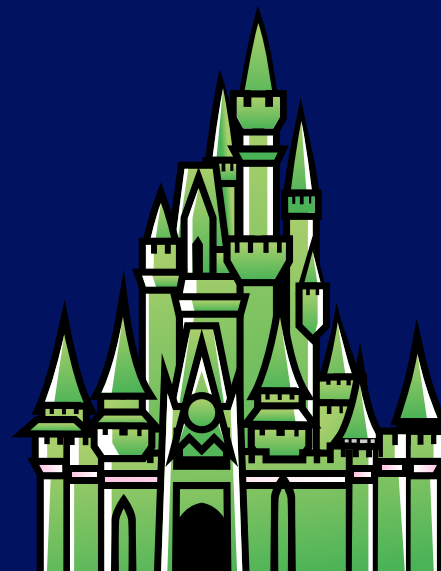
**Leader of Winged Monkeys
Paige
BBL2**



**Messenger
Jay-Ann D.
BBL1**



**Leader of Winged Monkeys
Seiko S.
BBL1**





BBL1

NEWSLETTER

APRIL-MAY

STAFF NEWS & UPDATES

ADMIN SPOTLIGHT



Thank you, Ms. Comerie, for your encouragement and support of the K - 2 staff and students. Did you know Ms. Comerie has worked at BBL for 18 years?!

**OUR ATTENDANCE
PERCENTAGES HAVE
INCREASED FOR THE
MONTH OF APRIL!**

**CONGRATS TO 4TH GRADE
WITH AN AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE OF 93.5%**



**CARNIVAL
Saturday,
May 16th**

**10 AM - 2 PM
BBL1 Campus**



REMINDERS

NWEA TESTING CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE

NWEA Math & ELA
• June 2 & 3

**Please ensure your student gets
a good night's rest, has a filling
breakfast, and arrives to school
on time on testing days.**



MAY & JUNE SAVE THE DATES

5/20 - PARENT INVOLVEMENT
5/25 - NO SCHOOL
5/27 - NO SCHOOL
5/28 - BOARD MEETING - BBL1 @ 5PM
6/4 & 6/5 - NO SCHOOL
6/9 - 5TH GRADE TRIP
6/12 - FUN DAY
6/17 - THE WIZ JR @ 5:30 PM
6/19 - NO SCHOOL
6/22 - 5TH GRADE GRADUATION
6/25 - KINDER MOVING UP
6/25 - PRE-K MOVING UP
6/25 - BOARD MEETING - BBL1 @ 5PM
6/25 - 12:30 DISMISSAL
6/26 - LAST DAY 12:30 DISMISSAL