



happy
holidays

**Bordentown
Regional
School District**
**The Bordentown
Bulletin**

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Visit us on the web at www.bordentown.k12.nj.us

Superintendent's Office

Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer III

Obviously, like the world, there is a lot going on in the schools. This newsletter is a little late getting out because so much has been evolving due to the pandemic. We have been closely monitoring COVID-19 cases in the schools and our positive rates remain low when compared to the State of New Jersey. However, as the state has reached the high designation for activity level tracking, schools have needed to adapt. New guidelines now count people with certain symptoms as "presumed positive." Prior to the high designation, if a student or staff member had symptoms, of which there are numerous possibilities, that person would quarantine until a test indicated positive or negative. With these new protocols, and in consultation with the Burlington County Health Department, once you have three individuals in a school who test positive *or are presumed positive*, we need to quarantine that school. As of this writing, we are quarantining Peter Muschal Elementary School and Bordentown Regional Middle School.

The pandemic has had an effect on nearly everyone. For many people, Thanksgiving was altered this year. We have cancelled some student events and the governor, earlier this week, has shut down all sporting events and practices. Some area schools have shuttered their buildings for various lengths of time with some going all the way out to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 18th. So far, we have been able to remain open, as recommended by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This has sometimes been difficult due to staffing situations. Our staff has been great, but if there is a positive, or a presumed positive, case, all of the staff who came into contact with that student or staff member are quarantined. At the secondary level, this often means that at least four staff members are quarantined for one incidence. We have been managing and we will continue to monitor if changes are necessary.

On a different note, with winter often comes snow. Please make sure that you have the most current contact information with your child's school so that you will receive all emergency notifications. I am hopeful that all of our snowy days occur over a weekend but, if history is any indicator, you are bound to be receiving at least one 5:00 a.m. telephone call.

On January 4, 2021, we will have a Reorganization meeting of the Board. Eileen Francisco-Cabus and Janet Nielsen will be sworn into an additional term and Joseph Dean will be joining us as a new Board of Education member. I want to offer a special thank you to retiring Board member Jamie Augustyn and best wishes to departing Board member Aneka Miller. Aneka will be leaving us to become a Bordentown Township Committeeperson. Jamie and Aneka have left indelible and positive marks on our school district and should be acknowledged for their hard work, insight and contributions.

As we prepare for the winter recess at the end of this month, I hope you will be able to enjoy some socially distant time with your family and friends and that you are able to recharge for 2021! On behalf of the school district and the Board of Education, I extend best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

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November Curriculum News

Did you know that November is designated as National Family Literacy Month? In 1994, November 1st was designated as National Family Literacy Day after Sharon Darling, president of the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), recognized that “parents’ educational attainment and children’s educational outcomes were related. If the goal was to improve children’s outcomes, then parents needed opportunities to build their skills.” Family Literacy Day highlights the importance of families working with their children at home and finding ways to collaborate with parents/families to support that work. This year, with the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, students are experiencing learning in a variety of different ways with teachers and parents working together now, more than ever, to educate children.

We are proud that our teachers are providing the in-person instruction that students need in our hybrid model, but with some of the learning being virtual or “asynchronous,” parents and caregivers may need to provide some extra support that students typically receive from their classroom teachers especially in the areas of literacy. Our students are already familiar with the workshop model where they are spending a lot of time reading and writing. Our teachers have been provided with additional resources to support our literacy curriculum and even have videos they may have shared with you!

In addition to attending conferences this month and contacting your child’s teacher to discuss what your child is currently learning in reading, writing and math, there are many ways that you can support your child in their reading and writing endeavors at home. Some suggestions are listed below:

- **Ask your child to share what he/she is reading and writing with you.** All of our students read self-selected text and write about topics they care about within a particular genre. Perhaps you could ask your child why they selected a particular book and talk to them about the book. For a fiction text, pose simple questions like: Who are the characters? What is the problem in the story? How did they solve the problem? To extend your child’s thinking about their story ask them if they agreed with how the character solved his/her problem. How might they solve it a different way? If your child is reading non-fiction text, ask questions like: What is the book about? What are some things you have learned about your topic? Readers of non-fiction are often challenged to analyze or synthesize information from a variety of texts. Encourage your child to read more than one book on a topic they are interested in and then ask if their ideas or what they have learned have changed and how.
- **Encourage your child to “rehearse” a story they are thinking about writing** – think of rehearsing a story as planning it orally. Our elementary writers rehearse writing pieces with their partners in school often telling their stories across their fingers. You can play the part of their partner as well and maybe even rehearse a story of your own!
- **Model reading and writing behaviors at home for your child.** Many children emulate the behaviors of those around them so if they see their caregivers making time to read and write, they will too!

Below are links to some videos that you may also find helpful in working with your child in the areas of literacy:

How You Can Support Your Child’s Writing Development at Home (TC Staff Developer Sarah Picard-Taylor) <https://youtu.be/kQGIWo54qcs>

Supporting Your child as a Reader https://youtu.be/ZQyY2D_cJ_U

Spelling Video for Parents (Grades K-2) <https://youtu.be/HkhhIYfuTzU>

To access the resources mentioned in the spelling video above use this link:

<https://sites.google.com/bordentown.k12.nj.us/spellingresources/home>





CDA 2020-2021 BSAS

BEFORE SCHOOL -AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Did you know...

We are offering a successful Before and Aftercare Program that aligns with the district's hybrid model. It is held at both Peter Muschal and Clara Barton schools for students in Grades K-5. On the days your child attends in-person instruction, he/she can participate in our CDA Before/Aftercare Programs. All state mandated childcare protocols are in place. Our mornings provide an opportunity to eat a light breakfast and socialize with friends. The afternoon includes lunch, recess, independent work time, then fun activities and crafts. We find a great balance between supporting academics and having fun in a safe environment.

Check us out online: cda.asapconnected.com

Hybrid Model: Session A: (A-K) Session B: (L-Z)

BSAS Monthly Rates:

Before School = \$100 this consist of 10 mornings per month, starting at 7am.

Session A: (A-K) Tuesdays/Thursdays and every other Monday

Session B: (L-Z) Wednesday/Friday and every other Monday

After School = \$225 this consist of 10 half-day afternoons per month.

A bagged lunch and water bottle is required. Aftercare ends at 5:30pm.

Session A: (A-K) Tuesdays/Thursdays and every other Monday

Session B: (L-Z) Wednesday/Friday and every other Monday



Our staff provide a safe & caring community for all students.



BORDENTOWN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



Fall Spirit Week
meets
Red Ribbon Week



October 26th – October 30th

BRHS students and staff joined together to show their Scottie pride and bring awareness to alcohol, tobacco, drug, and violence prevention by participating in the following themed dress-up days:

Monday: Support those who have been affected by drugs and alcohol.

- Wear Red or Wear Fall Colors (Orange, Yellow, Brown)

Tuesday: I'm too bright to do drugs!

- Wear your Favorite Hoodie or Wear Bright Colors

Wednesday: Don't get mixed up in drugs and alcohol!

- Wear flannel or Wear Mismatched Socks & Outfit

Thursday: Team up against alcohol and drugs!

- Wear your favorite Sports Jersey

Friday: Say Boo to alcohol and drugs!

- Wear a costume or Wear Orange and Black



@BRHSScotties

Bordentown Regional Middle School



News & Notes 2020



#Hatnothate BRMS Virtual Assembly
During National Bullying Prevention Month, the #Hatnothate Campaign distributes blue knit hats to schools across the country for students to wear, empowering them to stand up to bullying. Students and families stopped by BRMS throughout the month of September to pick up their blue hat and learn about the [#Hatnothate Program](#). On Friday, October 9th, the BRMS School Community participated in the first ever virtual #Hatnothate anti-bullying assembly! Facilitated by the #Hatnothate team, students learned about the impact bullying has on adolescent students, both digitally and in school, and discussed ways to stand together as a Tight Knit Community against bullying! We are so proud of our BRMS students!

Red Ribbon Week Celebration

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the nation. During the school week of October 26 through October 30, BRMS students and staff demonstrated their personal commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the Red Ribbon. This year's theme was "Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free."

Our BRMS students dressed up for Red Ribbon Spirit Days (such as "Team Up Against Alcohol & Drugs"), designed posters based on the Red Ribbon Week Theme for a county-wide poster contest hosted by Prevention Plus, and spread prevention awareness for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth an ounce of cure." Our students make us proud each day with the healthy choices they make!



MIS News

Spring Beauty At MIS

Third grade students at MIS are helping to beautify the school with a bit of spring color and a lesson on botany. Recently, students helped plant 100 tulip bulbs on the MacFarland grounds. They learned about proper planting depth, the importance of planting the bulbs “pointy side up” and why tulips and other spring bulbs must be planted in the fall. Tulips originated over a thousand years ago in the mountainous, high-plain regions of Central and Southwest Asia. In these climates, the flowers would be exposed to cold winters, rapidly draining soil, strong winds, and lots and lots of sun. Tulips have evolved to require an extended period of cold dormancy before they will flower. Students were surprised to learn that in hot climates, or for indoor applications, growers can actually 'trick' or force them to bloom by storing bulbs in a cold place like a refrigerator for 12-16 weeks. We hope that you will stop by and visit when the bulbs bloom in the spring of 2021!



AT CBS we are grateful for our generous and hardworking CBS PTO!



We are thankful for our hardworking PTO who are looking for ways to make the home-school connection strong even in this virtual environment. Additionally, we had many events in October that were supported by our CBS PTO. We are always thankful for the hard work of the parents of Clara Barton. Our PTO had many fundraisers and tried a virtual book fair! They also had a fun virtual pumpkin painting event with Leaping Dog Art Studios.

We are moving to Synchronous Mondays! Starting November 9. All of our half days will also be synchronous instruction from 8:25 – 11:10 a.m.



This is the drop off spot at MIS. When driving, turn into the MIS driveway and then drop off your student between 8:25 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. You can not stop and idle, you need to drop and go when the staff are present so as to not cause a line behind you!

Thank you to our teachers, students, staff, and families. Everyone has been working hard to get technology to work, to pick up items, to submit items and to keep our students scheduled and moving forward. Please remember Parent Teacher Conferences are Thursday November 19 and Monday November 23 from 2-7. Teachers have already sent out sign ups – so make sure you choose times which work for you. They are all virtual this year.

Please complete the health app every time your child is going to attend school! If you have any questions, speak to Mrs. Curry x 3109.

Peter Muschal Elementary School News

Thank you to all our Veterans!!



PMES is rolling along and learning new ways to make our new normal fun and engaging. So much going on in and virtually outside the school.



Kindergarteners are writing books.



1st graders are being detectives and working with words.



2nd Graders are celebrating their published narrative pieces!



3rd Graders are beginning their mystery unit



4th Graders are working with nonfictional text.



5th Graders are celebrating short stories



PMES Staff and Teachers wish everyone

a Happy Holiday!!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Burlington County Health Department
Health Starts Here

FREE

COVID MOBILE TESTING

MULTIPLE DATES IN DECEMBER - 9 AM - 4 PM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.

12/1 - 12/3

Burlington County Human Services Facility

12/8 - 12/10

(Side Entrance)

12/15 - 12/17

795 Woodlane Road

Westampton Township, NJ 08060

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

12/21 - 12/23

12/28 - 12/30

Additional Information :

The offered test is a SALIVA test, so please do NOT eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum for 45 minutes prior to testing. Please wear a mask.

If possible, please bring a smart phone or tablet. It's not required but if you have one, please bring with you.

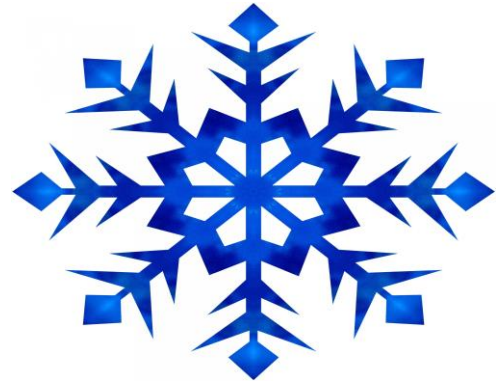
No cost!!

This Month

December 16 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting

December 23 – ½ Day ALL Students and Staff

December 24-January 1 – Winter Break – SCHOOL CLOSED



Next Month

January 4, 2021 – Virtual Board of Education Re-Organization Meeting 7 pm

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

*“We must find time to stop and thank the people who
make a difference in our lives.”*

~ John F. Kennedy ~

Thank you for checking in with The Bordentown Bulletin!

