



**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

January has already been a busy month for the school district. On January 4th the Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting. Business Administrator, Chifonda Henry, swore in three Board members. Jan Nielsen (City), and Eileen Francisco-Cabus (Township) were each sworn in after winning reelection and Joseph Dean (Fieldsboro) was sworn in after winning his first term on the Board. Mrs. Francisco-Cabus was reelected as the board president and Mr. Michael James was elected as vice president.

The Board currently has only eight members. Former Board member, Aneka Miller, resigned from her seat when she was elected to the Township Committee. Nine township residents expressed interest in the vacant seat and the Board has been conducting interviews. They are down to two finalists and will hopefully be able to finalize a decision at the February 3rd Board meeting so that we will have a full board.

At the December Board meeting, I notified the Board of my intention to retire on June 30th of this year. Although that seems like eons from now, it takes a while to hire a superintendent. Having a full Board of nine members will be critical and I have every confidence that they will find a successful successor.

The school district has been able to keep their buildings open as we continue in-person instruction using the hybrid model. We were counting our good fortune for the two weeks after returning from the winter break and we came through it relatively unscathed. My hope, like everyone else's, is that we will start to see a decrease in positive cases. One piece of good news is that we are modifying our elementary schedule beginning next week so that our in-person students will be able to attend school more regularly. The district will continue to examine ways to improve the educational climate until we are able to return to a daily and full day schedule.

Administration

Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer III
Superintendent

Ms. Chifonda Henry
Business Administrator
Board Secretary

Mr. James Lymper
Director of
Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Vanessa Bekarciak
Director of Special Services

Ms. Jodie Glenn
Director of CDA

**2021
Board of Education**

Ms. Eileen Francisco-Cabus
President

Mr. Michael James
Vice President

Mr. Howard Barman

Mr. Joseph Dean

Mr. Stephen Heberling

Ms. Janet Nielsen

Mr. Salvatore Schiano

Ms. Erika Worthy

January Curriculum News

In the November bulletin we shared some ways that families and caregivers could help support their children at home during the pandemic while learning was taking place both in a hybrid setting, and, for some, in a completely virtual environment. As you know, our teachers have been using virtual supports from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) as part of their literacy instruction in grades kindergarten through 8th grade, and some of your children may even share with you that they have a virtual “co-teacher” working alongside their classroom teacher.

This past month the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project updated their website and included a new and valuable resource for parents and caregivers. As our students continue to be instructed in both the hybrid and virtual setting, I wanted to share some of the highlights from this resource that may help with supporting your learners at home so that you can provide them support and also allow them to work more independently-after all, you are their parent or caregiver, not their teacher-and that’s okay! Your interactions don’t all have to be academic based just because your child is learning at home.

In this first video link TCRWP founding Director Lucy Calkins shares the importance of “productive struggle” which is a term that we in the education world use to describe the importance of letting kids do their own work-even when it gets hard! Teachers learn the most about their students when they see the mistakes they make and the struggles they have when working through any problem or activity. Check it out to hear her analogy of productive struggle and a special gift she received from her children!

The Importance of Productive Struggle <https://youtu.be/OrHkmDYLkhk>

For some of our families finding ways to support our child throughout the day while also completing our own daily tasks (working from home, taking care of other family members, completing household tasks, etc.) can be quite challenging and can make for stressful days and leave us wondering: how can we get it all done? In the following video link, Shanna Schwartz provides some simple ways that parents and caregivers can help their children find success with at-home learning and establish executive-functioning skills that you may even find useful in your own day to day situations!

Six Ways to Help Your Child Find Success with At-Home Learning and Establish Executive Functioning Skills That Will Last a Lifetime <https://youtu.be/UQSGEMr3akk>

We also know that while everyone has been “staying safe at home” we are doing a little more binge television watching than we normally do-and that’s okay, too! In addition to reading books, TCRWP talks about “digital texts” and having conversations with your children about a favorite series or show you might be watching or a movie you have seen over and over again (Remember that movie a few years ago about an icy princess and a silly snowman friend of hers?) This next video link shares some tips for having conversations around reading that sounds natural and more conversational and less like “teacher talk.” Who knows, maybe your conversations around a favorite book or television series will turn into deeper conversations and lead to stronger connections between you and your child that stretches beyond the pandemic.

How to Have Natural Conversations with Your Kids about Books <https://youtu.be/cxhDqwnYINk>

The TCRWP Family Resource site is full of more amazing videos and information to help with supporting your child in many areas from kindergarten through 8th grade. To access this information, click here: <https://readingandwritingproject.org/resources/supports-for-families> . Some other videos to note are below:

Ways to Support Spellers When They Say, “How Do I Spell. . . ?” <https://youtu.be/r1V4XSBiOJU>

How to Help Your Child Stay Focused While Reading <https://youtu.be/hDHb0F4M9Uo>

Let Them Write and Peel Oranges! <https://youtu.be/C26n0hBb0lc>

Ways to Help Your Child Build a Strong Vocabulary <https://youtu.be/Z2ce0viNkFA>



BORDENTOWN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Congratulation to our Governor's
Educator of the Year &
Educational Specialist of the year:
Ms. Rebecca Jacobsen and Mr.
Ramses Charles!**



Winter Sports Start Dates

January 11th- Bowling, Girls & Boys Basketball

February 1st – Winter Track

March 1st – Wrestling

Follow athletics on Twitter for updates:
[@brhsathletics](https://twitter.com/brhsathletics)

Fall Sports Recognitions



JADEN BLANDING
FOOTBALL



HANNAH HORNBECK
XC



TYLER GENTRY
XC



LEXI MAZZELLA
SOCCER



JAY BEYERS - SOCCER

Football -

Jaden Blanding (Sr.) - BC Times All County Defensive Football Team
Gordon Master's Defensive Player of the Year

Kerry Nicholas (Soph.) - South Jersey, Week 5, Game Ball Winner
(252 Rushing Yards, 2 TD's)

Girls Soccer -

Lexi Mazzella (Jr.) - 2020 NJGSCA South - ALL State Honors

Boys Soccer -

Jay Bevers (Soph.) - 2020 HSSCANJ- All State Honors
3rd Team All Area - Trentonian / NJ.com
Brandon Valeri (Sr.) - 2nd Team All Area - Trenton Times
Shane Ritter (Sr.) - 2nd Team All Area - Trentonian / NJ.com
Charlie Revy - 3rd Team All Area - Trentonian / NJ.com

Cross Country -

Tyler Gentry (Sr.) - Burlington County All Star (top 25)
Hannah Hornbeck (Jr.) - Burlington Country All Star (top 25)

Bordentown Regional Middle School



News & Notes January 2021

Intergenerational Tea

The Intergenerational Tea is a meaningful Bordentown tradition dating back to the days when McFarland Jr. School housed our 7th and 8th grade students. An annual event, this collaborative effort is hosted by the IMPACT Club and sponsored by the Bordentown Regional Education Association. Each November, students send invitations to local senior citizens inviting them to join us for an evening of music, games, and dinner. The students and guests always enjoy spending time getting to know each other over a shared meal and engaging activities. Throughout the years we have proudly continued this holiday celebration and felt strongly about continuing this year despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

We knew our event would need to look different this year to protect our seniors and students. We adapted by coming up with the idea of a drive-thru event. Partnering with Mastori's Diner to prepare a limited menu of items, participating seniors simply called the school to RSVP by leaving their name and dinner choice. Then, on December 22nd, the meals arrived at BRMS through Mastori's contactless delivery service. They were prepared fresh and individually packed in tamper-resistant containers.

Over forty Bordentown residents participated, and we were thrilled to be able to offer a safe, socially distant event experience that seniors would enjoy from the safety of their personal vehicle. It's well known that these times call for events that look a little different. But the one thing that remains the same is the joy you can bring to your community. It was a unique experience that was enjoyed by all, but we look forward to returning to an in-person event as soon as it is safe to do so.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AND OUR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our Educational Services Professional of the Year, Mrs. Erica Grilletto and our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Cara Jones! We are very fortunate to have you working with our students!!



MIS News

MIS Teacher and Ed. Services Professional of the Year

MacFarland Intermediate School recently honored two very deserving staff members with this year's ***Teacher and Educational Services Professional of the Year*** awards.

Award recipients are chosen yearly by students, parents and colleagues based on a variety of criteria. Those submitting nominations had the following to say:

"Ms. Medici is an exemplary educator. She cares deeply about each and every one of her students and works diligently to provide them with the very best education possible. Ms. Medici spends a great deal of time crafting and planning lessons that reach learners of all levels. She is beloved by students, parents and her colleagues. Ms. Medici has embraced virtual education and stops at nothing to ensure her students are thriving despite not being in a school building. She is highly deserving of this award."



Ms. Dawn Medici

"Stacey is a consummate professional. She consistently goes above and beyond the role of classroom paraprofessional to reach the children she serves. Stacey is keenly aware of their individual needs, strengths and deficits and uses that information to expertly tailor her services to each individual student in the special education classroom. Since the start of the pandemic, Stacey has transferred her talents to an online format and works to see that the needs of each student are addressed whether it be remotely or in person. We are truly fortunate to have someone as talented as Stacey on our staff at MacFarland Intermediate."



Mrs. Stacey Olhovsky

We hope that you will join us in honoring this year's recipients and all the amazingly talented individuals that comprise our MIS family!



Happy New Year from Clara Barton School!



On behalf of Clara Barton, we would like to congratulate our 2020-21 Teacher of the Year and Educational Service Professional of the Year. We are so pleased to have such dedicated, inspiring and outstanding staff members represent the excellence of CBS for Burlington County. It is an honor to have them recognized for their exceptional work with our students.

Our Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Jessica Silva. Mrs. Silva is a gift to students and families. Her nomination stated, "I have had the opportunity, first hand, to witness her dedication to students as well as to her profession. She inspires her children daily by continuously looking for, and researching, ways to reach each and every student in her classroom. She's an advocate for her students and reaches out to families and staff members to ensure her students are receiving the best education. She supports the need to achieve in school." Mrs. Silva is a strong turnkey education as she does much curriculum work and outside research and shares it with her colleagues. We is well regarded by staff, students, families, and colleagues. We are proud of Mrs. Silva, she is an outstanding example of CBS educators.

Our Educational Services Professional of the Year is Mrs. Janice Wilson. Taken from Jan's nomination, "If you know Jan Wilson you know she is not one for the spotlight. This is not her style. Instead, you will find Jan Wilson quietly working, planning, and showing up for students, staff and parents. Day after day, week after week, year after year. Jan is a dedicated, consummate professional who is a natural at the art of counseling. Mrs. Wilson is a dedicated educator and skilled counselor who understands the helping relationship begins with rapport which she deftly establishes through humor. Jan demonstrates a commitment to students with diverse backgrounds through her work the ESL population. As the ESL summer program leader, she spent countless hours researching and planning interesting learning adventures for students that were little to no cost." Mrs. Wilson has just retired, and we wish her a healthy and happy retirement!

The staff, students, and parents of Clara Barton are overjoyed to honor both of these special staff members. We are fortunate to have these dedicated and caring ladies as part of our staff. Please congratulate them when you see them!



**Jessica Silva 2020-2021
Teacher of the Year**



**Jan Wilson 2019-2020
Educational Services Professional of the Year**

Peter Muschal Elementary School News

December activities looked different but we still had FUN!!!

Grinch DAY!



Making Snowflakes!!



PMES SANTA DRIVE Thru!!



Thank you to PMES PTA for another wonderful event our families LOVED it!

Looking Forward to 2021!

This Month

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

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

January 20 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting 7 pm



Next Month

February 3 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting 7 pm

February 15 – President's Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

February 17 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting 7 pm

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

[Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Thank you for checking in with The Bordentown Bulletin!