



Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

As I was sitting down to write this brief article, I looked back to see what I had written last March. In that newsletter, we had just completed our first day of remote instruction. I also remarked how well it had gone even though we had gone into it fully unprepared. There was a certain naïveté where it was obvious that I was unaware that we would not be returning to our school buildings last year. Although there is more to do, we have come a long way since then.

On Tuesday, I sent a letter to all of our families explaining our next phase. This will likely be the last phase of 2020-2021 and it will begin on April 15. This new schedule will double the amount of time that our in-person students will be in the school buildings. There was a caveat to make this happen in that, with more students returning to schools, we would not be able to guarantee the 6-foot social distancing. However, as expected, today the CDC has revised their guidelines for social distancing. According to the AP, "Students can safely sit just 3 feet apart in the classroom as long as they wear masks, but should be kept the usual 6 feet away from one another at sporting events, assemblies, lunch or chorus practice." (<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-72584a00c039546f02eceb3715063e35>) In that same article, they list the major revisions as:

- Removes recommendations for plastic shields or other barriers between desks.
- Advises at least 3 feet of space between desks in elementary schools, even in towns and cities where community spread is high, so long as students and teachers wear masks and take other precautions.
- Spacing can also be 3 feet in middle and high schools, so long as there is not a high level of spread in the community. If there is, spacing should be at least 6 feet.
- The CDC said 6 feet should still be maintained in common areas, such as school lobbies, and when masks can't be worn, such as when eating.
- Also, students should be kept 6 feet apart in situations where there are a lot of people talking, cheering or singing, all of which can expel droplets containing the coronavirus. That includes chorus practice, assemblies and sporting events.
- Teachers and other adults should continue to stay 6 feet from one another and from students.

Our principals have been collecting survey responses from our families and, with warmer weather and the revised CDC standards, many more people are choosing to return to school. The response rate has been high but please make sure you complete the survey for each child in your family so that we are fully prepared for April 15.

Finally, there was one other important change in my letter from earlier this week. When we return from spring break on April 6, we will be fully remote until the next phase begins on April 15, 2021. We know we will be having a lot of families traveling over the break. Many have been cooped up in their houses for a year and have not been able to visit loved ones, friends, or just relax. Take this time to recharge and be safe so that we can end this year on a high note!

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2021

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All Virtual PD Day for Staff

As students began a four-day weekend on Friday, February 12, BRSD teachers and staff members embarked upon the district's first ever "all virtual" professional development day.

Some highlights from the first half of the day included:

- Training on Dyslexia and other reading disabilities for those who teach our emerging readers
- Grade-level and departmental planning time to share instructional ideas, collaborate on common lessons, and align curricular goals
- A presentation regarding the uses of Lalilo, an on-line support tool to enhance remote phonics instruction

To begin the second half of the day, all staff members came together, virtually, to watch a video presentation entitled "Developing Equitable Practice for Now and the Future." This presentation was created by five district staff members, Mike Melvin, 6-12 Supervisor of Mathematics; Michele Henry, K-5 Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction; Megan Geibel, Peter Muschal Principal; Taylor Gilbert, Middle School Social Studies Teacher; and Jason Zablow, High School Health/Physical Education Teacher, after they attended the workshop "Reimagining Instruction and Assessment: Making Learning Meaningful and Relevant for ALL Learners - During In-Person, Blended, and Virtual Learning Environments" as part of the district's membership in the New Jersey Consortia for Excellence Through Equity. This presentation prompted district educators to remember their "why" during these trying times and implored all to "create change with equity at the core."

The final portion of the day included staff members learning from their colleagues and attending four out of a possible eight "breakout sessions" from the list below:

- *"Don't Re-invent the Wheel": Using Pear Deck to Transform your Google Slides into Interactive Tools for Assessment* – Presented by Jeannette Berman, PMS 4th grade teacher
- *Breaking Down, Breakout Rooms: Tips for Enhancing Collaboration and Participation in the Classroom* – Presented by Rachel Gagliardo, BRMS Language Arts Teacher
- *Reassessing Your Assessments* – Presented by Michele Henry, Assistant Principal
- *Creating Screencasts and Instructional Videos* – Presented by Mike Brennan, BRHS History Teacher
- *Book Clubs in Virtual, Hybrid, and Physical Classrooms* – Presented by Karyn Fitzsimmons, BRMS Language Arts Teacher
- *Creating Engaging Interactions and Lessons Through JamBoard* – Presented by James Gill, BRHS History Teacher
- *Focusing on Social-Emotional Learning* – Presented by Megan Geibel, Principal
- *Implementing Google Sites for Engaging Instruction and Assessment* – Presented by Mike Melvin, Supervisor
- *Choosing Diverse Curricular Materials* – Presented by Matt Gens, Supervisor

CDA SUMMERCAMP 2021

Summer fun from June 21st through August 6th



At a Glance

See our website for more information about our summer camps:

cda.asapconnected.com

ONLINE Registration starts at 6:00am on March 17, 2021



June 21 - 25		
Baseball & Softball Camp - AM	Gr. 4 - 8	\$130
Fun & Games Camp - PM		
Just Dance! Camp - AM	Gr. K - 6	\$130
Just Dance! Camp - PM	Gr. K - 6	\$130
Ukulele Camp - AM	Gr. 1 - 3	\$130
Ukulele Camp - PM	Gr. 3 - 6	\$130
Ultimate Sports Camp - AM	Gr. 4 - 8	\$130
Full Day Child Care 7am - 5:30pm	Gr. K - 6	\$185
Extended Care - Before & After Camp	Gr. K - 8	\$100

July 26 - 30		
Cheerleading Camp 9am-3pm	Gr. K - 6	\$205
Playing Piano Camp: AM (Week 1)	Gr. 1 - 2	\$230
Playing Piano Camp: PM (Week 1)	Gr. 3 - 6	\$230
Soccer Camp - AM	Gr. K - 6	\$130
Wizards Camp - PM	Gr. K - 3	\$130
Full Day Child Care 7am - 5:30pm	Gr. K - 6	\$185
Extended Care - Before & After Camp	Gr. K - 6	\$100

4 WEEK CAMP June 28 - July 23		
This 4 week program provides a great balance of indoor and outdoor activities. Daily classes include Art, Gym, Storytelling, STEM, and our new addition of <i>Legends, Myths & Wonders of the World</i> . <i>Fee of \$520 is inclusive of all 4 weeks and will not be prorated.</i>		
DAY CAMP 7am - 3pm	Gr. K - 3	\$520
PRE-TEEN (PTC) CAMP 7am - 3pm	Gr. 4 - 6	\$520
Extended Care - Aftercare by the week	Gr. K - 6	\$80

August 2 - 6		
Basketball Camp - AM	Gr. 1 - 3	\$130
Basketball Camp - PM	Gr. 4 - 8	\$130
Field Hockey Camp 9am-3pm	Gr. 3 - 8	\$205
Fun & Games Camp - PM	Gr. K - 3	\$130
Kids Dig STEM! Camp - AM	Gr. K - 3	\$140
Kids Dig STEM! Camp - PM	Gr. K - 3	\$140
Playing Piano Camp: AM (Week 2)	Gr. 1 - 2	n/a
Playing Piano Camp: PM (Week 2)	Gr. 3 - 6	n/a
Track Camp - AM	Gr. K - 6	\$130
Ultimate Sports Camp - AM	Gr. 4 - 8	\$130
Full Day Child Care 7am - 5:30pm	Gr. K - 6	\$185
Extended Care - Before & After Camp	Gr. K - 6	\$100

SPECIALTY CAMPS		
Super STEM Camp (July 12-16) 9am-3pm <small>Please call the office to if you want to enroll in the 3 weeks of Day Camp</small>	Gr. 3 - 5	\$270
SAT Prep Course (June 28-July 2) 8am-11:15am	Gr. 9-12	\$330
Jazz Camp (July 19-28) 10am-12:30pm	Gr. 6-12	\$100

Fees above are the **EARLY BIRD resident fees** which go up by \$25 after April 30, 2021. Visit our website for the non-resident fees at cda.asapconnected.com
* Camps are subject to cancellation based on enrollment numbers and CDC guidelines.





BORDENTOWN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL



**Cindy
Wagstaff's
Retirement
Clap Out
2/26/21**

**Thank you to the
Bordentown
Community for the
donation of Girl
Scout cookies to
the staff. They
were greatly
enjoyed.**

BRHS UPCOMING EVENTS:

3/18

Virtual 8th grade open house

3/27

**Food Truck Event- Class of
2021- open to the public –
12 noon to 7PM**

Yearbooks: The 2021 Fabella is available for sale online. Last Chance offer to purchase the 2020 Fabella for \$90.00 will run from February 1, 2021 – June 6, 2021.

Student Voices &

Black History Month

A shout out to Ms. Rabenda and Officer Edwards for organizing groups of students, BRHS staff, alumni and community members into a series of live virtual events to celebrate and inform throughout the month of February. *Excellence across the board!*

Athletic Update:

Boys basketball, girls basketball, bowling and cheerleading completed their seasons.

Wrestling started on March 1st and Winter Track & Field is going strong.

April 1st spring sports start.

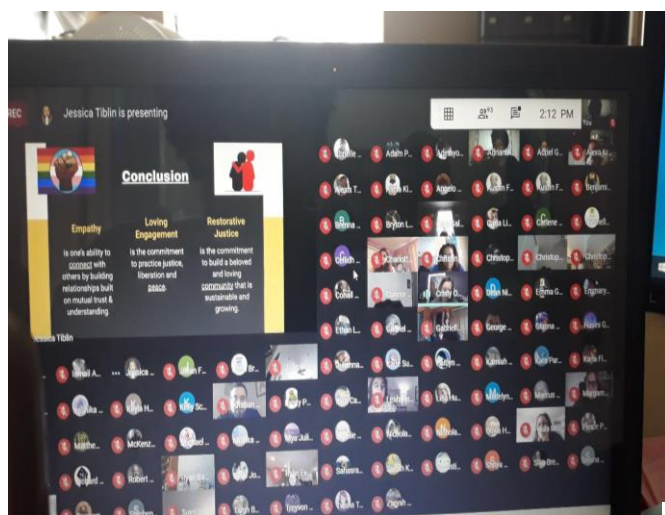
**Bordentown
Regional Middle
School**



**News & Notes
March 2021**

BRMS Celebrates Black History Month

Black History Month at BRMS was an experience we will never forget. We kicked things off with Black Lives Matter (BLM) at School Week of Action on February 1-5. BLM at School is a national educational movement that focuses on racial injustice in education. On February 1-5, schools all over the nation were invited to participate in this week of action. At BRMS we are committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all students so participating in this event was important to our school community. Each day, there was a different theme and lesson like Diversity, Empathy, Black Women, etc. that was presented to our students by various BRMS staff members, and they did an incredible job. Students, staff and parents were engaged and grateful for the activities that were implemented. In addition to this week of action, each day a trivia question of the day was read during morning announcements to test our students' knowledge of Black History facts. We also had a wonderful "Music of the Civil Rights Movement" workshop that was presented by Mr. Royster. Additionally, we had a Black History Month Trivia Competition where students competed against one another and the competition was intense. Our students did an outstanding job competing against each other. Other activities included an essay contest and a BINGO board that consisted of acts students had to complete throughout the month. We could not be prouder of our staff and students for creating such a positive experience. BRMS plans to use this experience to create more opportunities going forward.



Celebrating Kindness

The BRMS Kindness Board is Back!! Students were recognized for the random acts of kindness this week at BRMS!



MacFarland Intermediate School News

Luck o' the Irish at MIS



Students at MacFarland Intermediate School celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a schoolwide spirit day on Friday, March 12, 2021. Staff and students were invited to wear as much green as they could, including shamrocks and other festive St. Patty's Day appointments while trying to avoid the mischievous acts of an elusive leprechaun. A good time was had by all and here's hoping the luck surrounding this holiday will continue to move us forward on our path of pandemic recovery!



Clara Barton School News



Moments in Bordentown Black History. February 22-27, we highlighted some moments in Bordentown History which were specific to Black achievements and history – some right in Bordentown. Prepared by Mrs. Tuesday Robinson, these written pieces will be framed and displayed. It was important for all of us to learn about the rich history of the Bordentown black community in celebration of Black History Month.

- Black History Month started as a week, 95 years ago, to share, educate, remember, celebrate, embrace the lives and recognize the accomplishments of those who paved the way for the African American community.
- In 1917 Reverend William Bragg Sr., and six members of a mission, held their first church service in Maron Hall. By 1923 they acquired property and then opened the Shiloh Baptist Church. Reverend Bragg passed away in 1969 at age 107, and when you walk the halls of Clara Barton you can say hello to Reverend Bragg's great-granddaughter, Mrs. Robinson, and great-great granddaughter, Leyonna Robinson!
- Bordentown Manual Training and Industrial School was the first all-black boarding school for middle and high school students on the East Coast! It was open 1890-1954 on 400 acres of land in Bordentown. Students could learn trades, academics, sports, and music. They had formal dances and students resided at the school in dormitories. Students could also attend lectures and examples of some famous lecturers at the school were Albert Einstein and W.E.B. DuBois.
- The Number Two School – The first school for black children in Bordentown and was opened in 1842. In 1926 Bordentown was the second largest town in Burlington County and there were two school buildings – one for white students and one for black students which was called the Number Two School. The schools remained separate until 1948 when they were desegregated six years before it was mandated by Brown v Board of Ed.
- We untangled the history of black hair and were recommended to read "Hair Love" by Matthew Cherry.

Counselor Corner: Please meet Miss M! Marina Melillo began at Clara Barton in late December 2020. She has been working to get to know all the CBS students. Every month at Clara Barton we are focusing on a social emotional topic. Did you know February is Random Acts of Kindness month? We focused on promoting kindness all month long. As a school wide initiative our students participated in a Kindness Calendar Challenge. Each class had a Kindness Jar and Kindness Calendar. Every morning in February Miss M. spoke about an act of kindness during announcements. At the end of the week, she came around to see which classes completed an act of kindness and give them a Kindness Coin to put in their Kindness Jar! At the end of the month each class got a prize for completing the calendar. Guidance lessons were also focused on promoting kindness. Miss M read the story "A Little Spot of Kindness" to each class, and completed a little activity where students made their own spot of kindness craft. Clara Barton had a February filled with kindness. We will continue to spread kindness every day!



Peter Muschal Elementary School News



Read Across America

Read Across America week was filled with fun activities, live read alouds, dress up days and contests to highlight our love of reading. We also teamed up with the organization **People Animals Love**, to give our kindergarten through second grade students the opportunity to actually read across America. Students read favorite books to therapy dogs all over the United States on Zoom sessions throughout the week. Reading to animals helps children develop reading skills and confidence in a non-judgmental environment. We were happy to be a part of this unique opportunity.

Adventure writer Terry Lynn Johnson helped our third through fifth graders kick off their IditaRead challenge, held in connection with the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Prior to the visit, students chose mushers to follow during the race, conducted research and made finish line celebration flags. Our goal this month is to read the length of the Iditarod Trail or 850 books. We can't wait to see who will win the race this year!

The hilarious Chris Grabensetein and his wife JJ met with a special group of students to talk about their book, *Shine!* and the power of saying, "yes!". They were entertaining and inspiring. What an exciting treat for our students!

We have many more activities coming up during the month of March to celebrate National Reading Month. Students are looking forward to our buddy reading program, Masked Reader Competition, mascot exchange, and virtual author visit with Daniel Jude Miller in the upcoming weeks as our celebration continues.



This Month

March 3 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting

March 17 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting

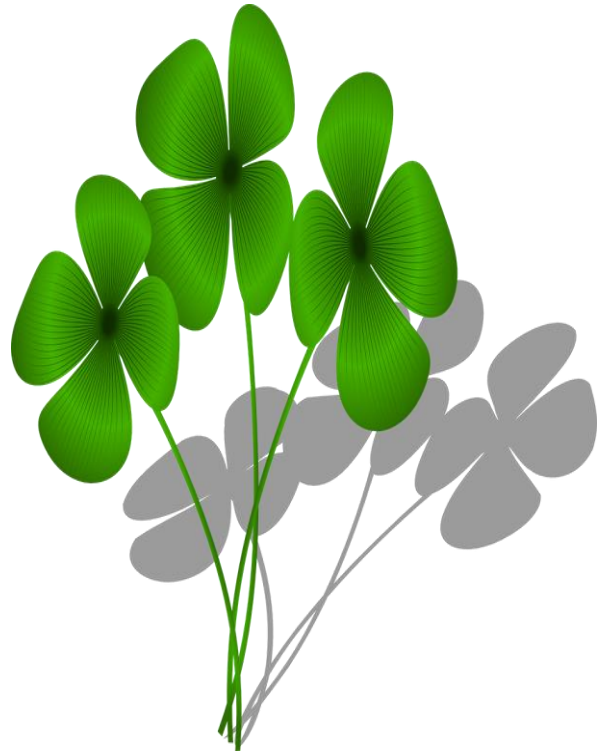
March 29-April 5 – Spring Break – SCHOOL CLOSED

Next Month

March 29-April 5 – Spring Break – SCHOOL CLOSED

April 7 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting

April 21 – Virtual Board of Education Meeting



*“A good friend is like a four-leaf clover,
Hard to find and lucky to have.”*

~ Irish Proverb ~

Thank you for checking in with The Bordentown Bulletin!

