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# BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOLS

**Fall 2020  
Newsletter**

## BRAVO Bees!

- The Bridgehampton School District joined school districts across the state to honor Board of Education members for their commitment to Bridgehampton and its students during the New York State School Boards Association's School Board Recognition Week. The district thanks President Ronald White, Vice President Lillian Tyree-Johnson and trustees Douglas DeGroot, Carla Lillie, Kathleen McClelland, Markanthony Verzosa and Jennifer Vinski for devoting their time and commitment to assuring every child learns at a higher level.
- Principal Michael Miller was lauded for National Principals Month. Through his visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each Bridgehampton student, Mr. Miller was thanked by the school community for his guidance and support in ways large and small every day.

## Welcome to Bridgehampton!

The school district welcomed several new staff members to the schools: Jennifer Coggin – School Business Administrator; Caitlyn Brown, Amanda Candelaria, Karen Flint and Julia Pendola – temporary/COVID-19 teachers; Angela Selvaggio – permanent teacher; Alissa Blydenburgh and Maxwell Spooner – teacher aides; Christopher Campbell – school health aide; and Ainsley Wyche – custodial worker.



Members of the Business Office, left to right – Simone Sooklall, Michelle Reyes, Jennifer Coggin, Jennifir Cunningham and Sylvia Fridie.



## GOOD MORNING, BRIDGEHAMPTON!

In addition to his day job as a Bridgehampton School guidance counselor, Mr. Ryan Barker has an early morning gig as the announcer on WBEE Virtual Radio, which is broadcast on the district's YouTube channel. His daily announcements begin with the Pledge of Allegiance led by a student, a showcase of talented staff and students and highlights of upcoming calendar events and meetings. Mr. Barker also sends birthday wishes and asks his listeners and viewers questions on gratitude, setting a daily tone of positivity. "The morning announcements are inspiring, fun and really get our students and staff geared up for the successful day ahead," Superintendent of Schools Mr. Robert Hauser said. "We appreciate Mr. Barker's efforts in uniting our school community in this manner."

## A POWERFUL FORCE: Bees Are Back!

After months of challenges, reimagined educational plans, and new safety procedures and guidelines set in place, the Bridgehampton School District welcomed students and staff back to school in September. Much of the focus was on reinventing and renewing the capacity of our schools to be welcoming, supportive, inclusive and equitable environments. Our prekindergarten started the school year virtually, kindergarten through grade 6 students are divided into two cohorts and attend classes daily and our grade 7-12 students are engaged in synchronous learning remotely. To further ensure success, all students were provided a Chromebook to complete work in-person or while distance learning and additional training in Google Suite applications and other virtual platforms has been provided for all

staff members. In addition to a robust academic program, the district is prioritizing social emotional well-being to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning to occur. The district has implemented tools and strategies to address the social-emotional needs of students, families and staff during this crisis. As we've learned, some of our students have had positive experiences during school closures, learning, growing and discovering new identities as activists and leaders in their communities. As always, we will support, nurture and provide coping strategies for all our students and encourage new skills and mindsets.



## PARENT INFORMATION

**Powering Healthy Minds with Healthy Foods** Tuesday, Dec. 8, hosted by BOCES. Parents of English language learners are invited to this session, which will be presented in Spanish and Turkish via Zoom. The program will highlight mind and body benefits of eating healthy, preventing chronic diseases with food and information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Register here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOxwzbnNSJOh-NYIzC6H7sHFK3jSXY\\_EhJukmrkglgkinSjQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOxwzbnNSJOh-NYIzC6H7sHFK3jSXY_EhJukmrkglgkinSjQ/viewform)

## PARENT DASHBOARD

The New York State Education Department has developed a Parent Dashboard to increase transparency and make information about school performance and other school-level data easier for parents and the public to access. The dashboard provides parents with information about the Bridgehampton School District: <https://data.nysed.gov/parents/>

## SEL and Equity Awareness Task Force

The purpose of the committee would be to develop goals and a shared mission to ensure stakeholders in the Bridgehampton School District reduce the rates of anxiety, depression, bullying, racism and chronic absenteeism. The committee will be instrumental in continuing to improve a positive climate for all stakeholders. For information on joining, please contact Principal Michael Miller: [mmiller@bridgehamptonschool.com](mailto:mmiller@bridgehamptonschool.com)

## EXPANSION PROJECT PROGRESS

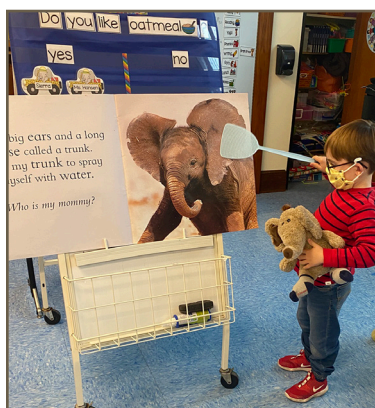
Have a look!

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

- |  |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Ronald White, <i>President</i>                         | Lillian Tyree-Johnson, <i>Vice President</i> |                     |
| Douglas DeGroot  | Carla Lillie                                 | Kathleen McClelland |
| Markanthony Verzosa                                    | Jennifer Vinski                              |                     |
| Robert Hauser, CPA<br><i>Superintendent of Schools</i> | Tammy Cavanaugh<br><i>District Clerk</i>     |                     |

# Education Is Everywhere!

Bridgehampton educators and students are making ordinary things extraordinary and extraordinary things possible! Traditional fall festivities – like Ms. Jennifer Suarez and Ms. Ava Mack’s second grade class carving pumpkins and using the seeds to reinforce mathematical concepts – are underway. In addition, students are embracing the benefits of yoga and stretching in Mrs. Jennifer Pluta’s health and wellness class and we continue to celebrate our students of the month.



## Kindergarten With Confidence!

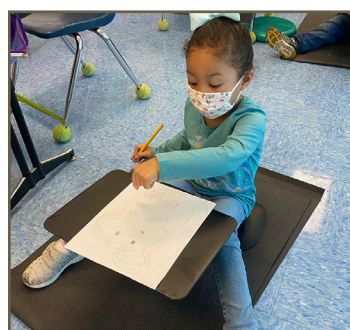
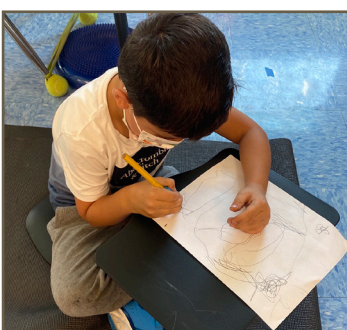
Our young students have been reading, writing and examining the world around them. As part of an introductory reading unit, Ms. Gabrielle Lemon and Ms. Caitlin Hansen’s class explored the hallways of the school with their reading monkeys and magnifying glasses. Along the way, they identified and discussed symbols, labels and other educational items that they discovered on their hallway journey. They also investigated big books and shared what they’ve learned and noticed with their peers.

“Students have been practicing positive reading habits to foster a love for reading, such as slowing down to observe letters, words, and illustrations, as well as rereading books once they finish,” Ms. Lemon said.

In a recent writing unit, the students learned how to look at an object,

think about its parts, and plan a drawing, all before they even picked up their pencils. Before students began writing about their own show-and-tell objects, they practiced looking, thinking, planning, and drawing the class mascot, Mabel.

Ms. Elizabeth Kirwan’s eager engineers completed a unit on types of weather and created shelters out of building blocks to protect their stuffed animals from wind and rain. As a follow-up, they then took on the roles of meteorologists and tracked the daily weather in Bridgehampton. They discussed and compared the weather in the morning to the afternoon, noticing patterns along the way and at the end of the weeklong lesson they conducted a “rain cloud in a jar” science experiment, mimicking the rain cycle.

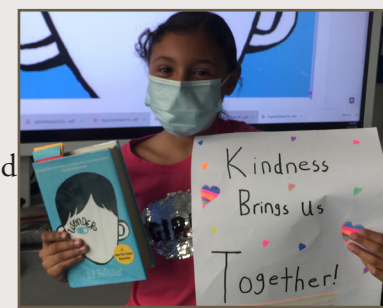


## Building Blocks of Kindness

After last year’s successful launch of Bridgehampton’s club Friends of Rachel, an offshoot of the inspiring national Rachel’s Challenge, this year’s club members are split into two groups (Middle School and High School) that meet virtually and alternate each week.

With the pandemic, club organizers and members felt they needed to reprioritize and focus on the mental health of students. “This is why the club has become a safe outlet for students to feel comfortable and share whatever is on their mind,” adviser Mr. Joe Pluta said, adding they are working to promote the club’s mission and recruit more members. “We also intend to set some long-term goals that we would like to achieve to promote kindness in our community,” he said.

To recognize National Bullying Prevention Month, Ms. Hamra Ozsú and Mr. Lou Liberatore’s fifth grade students read together and were encouraged by the book that inspired the Choose Kind movement, R.J. Palacio’s “Wonder.” As student Erick Alvarez said, “You can’t blend in when you were born to stand out!”



## Promoting Presence of Mind

As part of the eighth grade social-emotional curriculum, students worked on a simple yet unique project to connect to their thoughts, behaviors and feelings: sensory bottles – colorful, small jars filled with water, food coloring and glitter that serve as visual metaphors for the students to express their emotions. Added benefits were their use of science, math, language and fine motor skills for their new, peaceful and purposeful objects that can help them self-regulate.



## Science as Inquiry

Third graders are continuing to develop the physical and intellectual abilities of scientific inquiry. They are using their teambuilding abilities along with their engineering skills for some fun and educational lessons, including using plastic cups and popsicle sticks to create tower formations, experimenting and exploring the process of the water cycle in an outdoor laboratory and testing the properties of different materials to determine which are best to control a flood.



## Advances in Science and Math

Students in Ms. Christina Guastella’s fifth grade class created their own terrariums in a recent science lesson, making sure that the chosen plants will grow and thrive together in the same kind of environment. Students are also developing an understanding of decimal/fraction conversions by using number grids in math class.