



The District Update

Burrillville School Department

January, 2018

News Worth Celebrating:

- The Burrillville Prevention Action Coalition (BPAC) is a volunteer, working task force comprised of individuals who are interested in substance abuse prevention issues in the Burrillville community. Its members represent a wide range of constituents, including Burrillville's youth, parents, schools, prevention and treatment organizations, law enforcement, faith communities, health care organizations, business owners, and local government. We are very excited to welcome two new members to BPAC, recently hired with grant funding through the collaborative efforts of our local law enforcement and school department: Ms. Monica Blanchette, who is BPAC's new Community Outreach Coordinator, and Ms. Michelle Harter, who is our new Addiction Assistance Program Coordinator. If you are interested in joining BPAC or you would like more information, please visit our website at <http://www.burrillvilleprevention.org/>.

Spotlight On:

- Steere Farm Elementary School! There are some great things happening at Steere Farm! Teachers are continuing to learn and embrace the power of the *Empowering Writers* program. We are seeing students who are becoming very engaged in the writing process, and who are becoming thoughtful and detailed writers. This program stresses the gradual release philosophy and it has allowed students to learn the writing process through a variety of supports, whole class modeling, and writing organizers. Students are becoming more confident in their writing and are proud of their work! We are also continuing to enjoy our awesome science curriculum! Second grade students have been busy learning about Solids and Liquids which have included using a variety of solids to build towers and bridges. Third grade has been investigating patterns of motion and are currently learning about the patterns of whirlybird flights. Fourth grade students recently completed their unit on electricity and are now moving toward magnetism. Lastly, our fifth grade students have been investigating mixtures and solutions and are discovering some properties of dissolving and melting. Our budding scientists are always highly engaged in their science investigations! They collect data, make predictions and inferences, and draw diagrams in their science notebooks. Students are always collaborating with one another to discover how variables can change an outcome and it's exciting to see this work in action! Finally, Steere Farm is celebrating **Kindness Week** this month, focusing on the importance of being kind, choosing to be nice, and making good decisions. We stress paying it forward, and treating others kindly. #kindiscool

From the Superintendent's Office:

- The Commissioner of Education will be visiting our district **tomorrow, January 23rd, from 4-5:30 p.m.** at the Burrillville High School Media Center. All of our community members are invited to attend and to join in a conversation with Dr. Wagner about educational initiatives in Rhode Island. We hope to see you there.

Upcoming District Events:

- **Our Next District Update will be posted on February 22nd!**