



# The District Update

## Burrillville School Department

### May, 2018

#### News Worth Celebrating:

- Congratulations to **Mrs. Mary Jean Boucher**, Special Education Teacher at Austin T. Levy School and the most recent Burrillville recipient of the **Golden Apple Award!** Mrs. Boucher was surprised by her family, Patrice Wood of NBC 10, and Commissioner of Education Ken Wagner on May 24th. You can see her reaction by tuning in to the NBC 10 6:00 news on Thursday, June 7th!
- Congratulations to three of our third grade students at the W.L. Callahan School, **Julia Breault, Adam DeCesare**, and **Sean Zanella**, who noticed that the cafeteria uses styrofoam trays. They researched the harmful effects styrofoam on the environment along with alternatives to using styrofoam trays. With the help of their classroom teacher, **Mrs. Rachel Auclair**, they took the information they found and presented it to Aramark and the Director of Parks and Recreation, **Mrs. Andrea Hall**. Together, they are collaborating to reduce the use of styrofoam and plastic straws in our schools. They appeared in an interview on Channel 6 that you can access here:  
<http://www.abc6.com/story/38154211/third-graders-take-on-schools-use-of-styrofoam-lunch-trays>
- Congratulations to the students in **Mr. Kevin Stockwell's** construction program at BHS, who designed and built a storage shed for Steere Farm Elementary School! The teachers and students at SFE are very excited to start using it!
- Congratulations to all the Burrillville High School freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who were honored at the **BHS Awards Ceremony** on May 24th, and to all the BHS student athletes who were honored at the **Athletic Awards Ceremony** on May 30th - we are inspired by your hard work and dedication!
- Congratulations in advance to all our **5th grade students** who are moving up to Burrillville Middle School, to all our **8th grade students** who are moving up to Burrillville High School, and most especially to all the graduating seniors of the **Class of 2018!** Your community takes great pride in your accomplishments and we wish you success in all your future endeavors!

#### Spotlight On:

##### William L. Callahan School and Steere Farm Elementary School!

So many exciting events have been taking place at our elementary schools!

- WLC held its annual Learning Showcase earlier this month. It was an amazing evening, during which kids at all grade levels had the chance to share and present their year-long learning in math, science, social studies, reading, and writing. There were displays and student guides in classrooms, a historic "Wax Museum" of figures from the Industrial Revolution (see the description below) in the gym, art and music showcases in the hallways, and teachers everywhere throughout the building, welcoming families and showing their pride in their students! The parents truly enjoyed seeing what kids were doing in each of the rooms and appreciated

having the opportunity to come to such an event - comments from the exit surveys included uniformly positive feedback from families, including,

"Absolutely wonderful evening!"

"The children were well prepared and very knowledgeable!"

"Great presentation and Total School Involvement!"

"Excellent night - Thank you teachers"

"The hard work and dedication of students and teachers was very impressive"

"Wanted to let you know we are lucky to have you teaching our children. Thankful for what you do!"

- WLC teachers, students, and families spent a recent spring evening beautifying school grounds. This project was spearheaded by the School Improvement Team with parents at the forefront. Volunteers spread mulch, repaired trees, trimmed hedges, and spruced up the memorial garden at the front corner of the building. This was the first of what we hope will become a semi-annual event at Callahan!
- For the new school year the "Steere Farm SuperStars" will be the "Steere Farm Stallions" - our new logo and banner will be unveiled at our 5th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony. This project was spearheaded by two 5th grade students, **Olivia Ferraro and Charlie Lagor**, who lobbied for the change, and it was unanimously agreed upon by a staff and student vote!
- Fifth grade teachers and students at SFE organized a Wax Museum of characters from the American Revolution - students researched their characters, created background displays, dressed in period costumes, and prepared speeches to deliver when visitors pressed a button to "activate" them!
- On March 25, 2018, five students from Steere Farm Elementary School performed in the Elementary All State Chorus at the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Providence. This elite ensemble is limited each year to 150 students or less. **Riley Allen, Gabrielle Beaudreault, Lily Farrar, Helena Fleming** and **Brianna Fournier** were selected for the ensemble, and worked on many pieces on their own and in rehearsals. The pieces included challenges such as singing in French and African dialects, and choreography to accompany the singing. Congratulations to the students, and to their music teacher, **Mr. Bill Latendresse**, for this impressive accomplishment! (And congratulations to the five BMS students who participated as well!)

#### From the Curriculum Director:

- We are very excited to have received provisional approval from RIDE for two additional CTE Program Pathways at Burrillville High School - Project Lead the Way Engineering and Construction Management! High school students have a constantly-expanding array of choices before them, and we are proud to be building a comprehensive educational program that will entice not only our Burrillville students, but those from surrounding communities.

#### From the Superintendent's Office:

- Please see the attached letter of farewell from Dr. Pallotta.

#### Upcoming District Events:

- Last Day of School: Wednesday, June 20th
- School Resumes for Students: Tuesday, September 4th
- The next District Update will be posted on Friday, September 28th

We wish everyone a wonderful, safe summer vacation, and we look forward to seeing you all in the fall!