



The District Update

Burrillville School Department

January, 2019

Happy New Year!

News Worth Celebrating:

- Congratulations to **Dr. David Alba** and **Mrs. Ashley Crenca**. **Dr. Alba** was recently appointed as the Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and **Mrs. Crenca** was appointed as Interim Assistant Principal at Burrillville High School. We wish them both luck in these new endeavors!
- Congratulations to **Melissa Rhodes**, 5th grade science teacher at the William L. Callahan School, who will join a cohort of elementary teachers working on an 18-month grant to determine how computational thinking overlaps with core disciplines in the elementary school. This research project is designed and carried out by the GEMSNet staff at URI, with whom we collaborate on our district science curriculum.
- We're so excited to announce that **Joan Surprenant**, **Amanda Martins**, and **Charlene Walsh** will be participating in Rhode Island College's Ed Tech Expo on April 25th. They'll join educators from around the state who will be showcasing the many ways that technology is used in our classrooms!
- Congratulations to the **Austin T. Levy Staff** for their incredible work on the new sensory paths - check out their recognition by the RI Department of Education [here](#), and see more information below!
- Together as a community, **Burrillville High School** collected over \$500 in donations for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients campaign. Special thanks to **Mrs. Linda Kennelly** and her 10th grade advisory students who contributed over \$190 towards their goal! We are looking forward to the Pennies for Patients campaigns in our other schools this spring - be on the lookout for more information!

Spotlight On:

Elementary Schools

- When the students at Austin T Levy School came back to school in January they were excited to explore the three new Sensory movement pathways. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the students, parents, Levy staff and volunteers, we were able to purchase 3 sensory pathways for grades Pre-K to 1. The three pathways were prepared by volunteers and staff and placed in the hallways over the break. The paths require coordination of gross motor movements and hand-eye coordination. Students also sequence various patterns as they move through the paths. Science has proven that movement combined with purposeful activities promotes brain connections to enhance brain functions such as memory and organizational skills. Additional benefits include improved attention, alertness, and ability to calm themselves, as well as improvement in the use of classroom tools such as scissors and pencils.

Each pathway has a specific fun theme that includes decals of numbers, letters, and shapes on the floor and the walls. There are hand decals on the wall for the students to push, places on the floor to jump, hop, spin, and even touch their toes and shoulders. As you can see in this [video](#) the children are able to utilize their creativity and learn to work with others while jump- starting their brains and coordination skills with the goal of being ready to learn.

- Kindergarten Registration is coming soon! Please see our [flyer](#) for more details, and feel free to share!
- We're very excited to announce that Callahan, Steere Farm, and Levy are collaborating with the RI Healthy Schools Coalition, Farm Fresh RI, and Chartwells to introduce fun, fresh, local produce to our students. On February 12, 13 and 14, each of our elementary schools will be host to special guests from our partner organizations who will share a delicious, healthy treat with students during lunch periods. We're hoping to entice kids to try new flavors and foods that they might not otherwise have tried, and we'll be sending the recipes home so families can try them together if they like. All the schools will be looking for volunteers to assist with this project in February and again in the spring, so be on the lookout for announcements - or feel free to call your child's principal!

From Mrs. Mayhew:

The Rhode Island Department of Education is currently administering its yearly [SurveyWorks Parent Survey](#), which is an opportunity for parents to provide feedback about our schools and our children's opportunities to learn. **The survey results are most useful when all parents participate**, so we are asking all parents to please join in this year! Parents of students in grades 2-12 are eligible to participate.

Your views on matters like the safety of your child at school, the way students are taught, the condition of your child's school, and how connected you feel to this school are important. By giving us just 20 minutes of your time, you can help our school and district leadership and our parent-teacher organizations to make improvements to our schools. Responses are anonymous and cannot be linked to any individual; no one can tie your responses back to you.

Parents can take the survey online from now through March 31st. To take the survey, just follow 5 easy steps:

Step 1: Visit surveys.panoramaed.com/ride

Step 2: Enter **your school's unique access code**. This will be a school identifying code, followed by the word "family" (all lower case). For example: 12345family. **This code was shared by your school principal.** (Please contact the school if you need your code.)

Step 3: On the Welcome page, your school's survey will be displayed. Click "Start Surveys"

Step 4: You have now accessed the family survey. In the top left hand corner, there is a drop down menu. Select English or Spanish or Portuguese.

Step 5: For each question, select the answers that best apply to your experience and beliefs. Once finished, click "Submit," and you are done!

Thanks in advance for your participation!

From Dr. Sollitto:

Our CTE Programs at Burrillville High School offer students a wealth of opportunity to gain skills and strategies that will serve them in college and career. Burrillville currently offers RIDE- approved pathways in **Environmental Science, Construction Management, and Engineering**; we are excitedly awaiting RIDE approval of five **additional pathways** in **Computer Science, Biomedical Science, Graphics Communications, Child Care, and Criminal Justice**. Check out our informational videos, Pathway Fact Sheets, and applications at the Burrillville High School website:

<https://bhs.bsd-ri.net/academics/cte-programs>

From the Technology Director:

Families of BHS and BMS students will see new descriptors for each class on their child's report card for the second quarter. This descriptor, called *Habits of a Learner* (HL2), will tell you how your child's daily behaviors and actions impact his or her academic grades. Rhode Island's Basic Education Program, the set of regulations for our public education system, requires that students' behavior and effort be reported separately from their academic achievement. This is what we hope to accomplish with the new *Habits of a Learner* descriptor. All learner habits are assessed and scored through the lens of our PBIS language and expectations: RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, and READY TO LEARN. Teachers use a standard rubric and look holistically at the overall presentation of a student across a period of time. The rubric is linked [here](#) for you to see.

Upcoming Events:

- **February 5: BMS/BHS REPORT CARDS POSTED IN SKYWARD**
- **February 11: Superintendent's Coffee Hour, 9:15-10:15**
- **February 18&19: Presidents' Day Long Weekend - No School**
- **March 21: Parent-Teacher Conferences at BMS**
- **March 27: Parent-Teacher Conferences at Austin T. Levy**
- **March 28: Parent-Teacher Conferences at William L. Callahan and Steere Farm**
- **March 29: The next DISTRICT UPDATE!**

District Contact Information

Burrillville School Department Website

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