



The District Update

Burrillville School Department

March, 2019

News Worth Celebrating:

- Congratulations to our district nominees for **Outstanding Teacher of the Year!** **Mrs. Patricia Rendine** (Speech-Language Pathologist, A.T.Levy), **Mrs. Kimberly Gould** (Grade 4, Steere Farm), **Mr. Kyle Wilson** (6th Grade Math, BMS), and **Mr. Ryan McNulty** (Science, BHS) were all chosen by their colleagues as representatives of excellence this year! The Teacher of the Year finalist will be selected during the month of April and recognized (along with all the nominees) at the School Committee Meeting in May.
- Congratulations to **Mrs. Mandy LeComte**, Social Worker at Burrillville High School and Steere Farm Elementary School, who received the **2019 Ally Empowerment Award** from the TGI Network of RI for her advocacy of and commitment to the well-being of transgender students in our schools.

Spotlight On:

Elementary Schools

- Kindergarten Registration is coming soon! Please see our [flyer](#) for more details, and feel free to share!
- We're so excited about our first annual **Elementary ROBOTICS NIGHT!** Our Robotics Teams from each school have been building and testing their awesome 'bots over the past 6 weeks. The Austin T. Levy team will show off its Coderpillar, and the Callahan and Steere Farm teams will meet in a showdown on April 24th! The event will be held at the Burrillville High School from 6-8pm, and is open to all members of the robotics teams and their families. You'll get a chance to preview our Middle School and High School Robotics classes who will have some of their work on display, as well as our other CTE programs. We hope to see you there!

From Mrs. Mayhew:

Over the last two years, we have been doing a lot of work in collaboration with the department of education to evaluate the quality of our curriculum materials and make decisions about what needs to change for our students. This work resulted in the shift to Eureka Math at the elementary level during the current school year, and it has informed our decision to shift to Open Up at the middle school next year. We want parents to have as much information as possible about these changes, so we will be hosting a **MATH NIGHT** for any interested parents on **Wednesday, April 10th**, at the Burrillville Middle School. Parents of students in grades pre-K-4 are invited to join us at 5:00, and parents of students in grades 5-8 are invited to join us at 6:00. We look forward to seeing you there!

From Dr. Sollitto:

State Testing is upon us! Over the next two months, our students in grades 3-8 will be participating in the RICAS Assessments of English Language Arts and Math. Students in grades 10 and 11 will be taking the PSAT and SAT. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be taking the NGSA Science Assessment. Here are a few things parents should be aware of:

- State testing does not impact students' grades or promotion to the next grade level. **HOWEVER**, it does give us valuable feedback about how well we are teaching and how well students are learning, and it informs our decisions about curriculum and instruction. **Please encourage your child to give the assessment his or her very best efforts.**

- Testing performance can be impacted by many factors. Please be sure that your child gets a good night's sleep ahead of testing, and that s/he eats a good breakfast! If your child isn't feeling well on test day, consider keeping him/her home and making the test up later.
- Talk to your child ahead of time. Let him/her know that there will be parts of the test that are challenging. There may even be some questions that s/he doesn't know or hasn't learned yet, and that is OK! The most important thing is to try. Encourage your child to show as much as s/he does know. There's no harm in guessing. If a question is left blank, it's definitely wrong - but if s/he tries an answer, it might be right!
- The best test-takers are confident, committed, and at ease. Even if you are nervous about your child's performance, be wary of transferring that concern to your child. If you think your child is likely to get nervous, practice a few relaxation techniques, such as counting from one to ten or taking deep breaths, which can help your child relieve tension during the test and feel more empowered to persevere.

Upcoming Events:

- **April 8: Parent Coffee Hour with the Superintendent, 9:15-10:15**
- **April 8&9: RICAS ELA Testing, BMS**
- **April 8&10: KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION at Austin T. Levy, 4-8pm**
- **April 9: PSAT and SAT Testing, BHS**
- **April 9&10: RICAS ELA Testing, Elementary, Grades 3-5**
- **April 10: Math Night at BMS 5:00 Parents of grades K-4 and 6:00 Parents of grades 5-7**
- **April 11: Parent-Teacher Conferences at BHS**
- **April 15-19: VACATION WEEK**
- **April 23-24: RICAS Math Testing, Elementary Grades 3-5 and BMS**
- **April 30 & May 1: NGSA Science Testing, Grade 5**
- **May 3: Elementary Progress Reports Posted in Skyward**
- **May 14&15: NGSA Science Testing, Grades 8 and 11**
- **May 27: Memorial Day, No School**
- **May 31: The next DISTRICT UPDATE!**

District Contact Information

Burrillville School Department Website

<http://www.bsd-ri.net/>

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