



The District Update

Burrillville School Department

November, 2017

News Worth Celebrating:

- Congratulations to Joan Surprenant, First Grade Teacher at Austin T. Levy School, who is this month's recipient of the Golden Apple Award! Joan was surprised this morning by Patrice Wood of NBC-10 along with the Commissioner of Education, Ken Wagner. Be sure to tune in to the news on Channel 10 **November 30th at 6:00 p.m.** to see Joan receive her award! After the 30th it will be online at turnto10.com/station/golden-apple

Spotlight On:

- **The William L. Callahan School!** Our elementary students at Callahan are carrying on a long tradition of community service learning. This year, as in years past, they are forging connections between school and community by visiting Zambarano Hospital and Overlook Nursing Home. These visits reinforce curriculum standards in ELA and social studies - and support social/emotional learning as well.

Career and Technology Program Updates:

- There's been a lot of talk recently at the state level about giving students more choice and better preparing them for post-graduation careers through Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway offerings in high school. Most people associate CTE programs with alternative school placements and may not be aware that our own Burrillville High School currently offers TEN CTE Pathway choices! Our Environmental Science & Green Technology pathway has already received RIDE approval, and our Biomedical Science, Engineering & Manufacturing, and Construction Management pathway approvals are pending. Other pathways under development include Graphics, Automotive Technologies, Child Care, Criminal Justice, and Business & Finance.

From the Superintendent's Office:

- Keeping students safe helping them learn how to make good decisions is an important part of the work we do in the Burrillville School Department. One way that we reinforce the importance of healthy choices is through participation in Red Ribbon Week each October. This year, our elementary students participated in a Red Ribbon parade, informational visits by the Burrillville Police Department, special assemblies and daily announcements. Our secondary students wore red wristbands and participated in door-decorating contests and a variety of other activities all aimed at keeping kids substance-free.

From the Curriculum Director:

- Members of our Teacher Leadership Team participated in their first instructional rounds this month! Instructional rounds are modeled on the medical rounds that doctors conduct to increase their ability to observe and learn. This year, the Teacher Leadership Team is engaging in instructional rounds facilitated by building principals. During rounds, small groups of teachers visit classrooms for about 10 minutes at a time in the space of a half-hour. These visits are highly focused - the entire team spends time ahead of the rounds talking about the practices they hope to see in action, based on questions brought forward to the team by the building's lead teachers. It's an exciting learning experience to see the work that is happening in classrooms throughout the district, and we are looking forward to expanding this work to all teachers in the coming years.

Technology Update:

- Last year, Burrillville concluded two years of Blended Learning work in collaboration with FUSE RI and the Highlander Institute. While we continue to build out our implementation of Blended Learning, we are very excited to be supporting our colleagues in other districts as they embark on Blended Learning work. This month, teachers from Scituate will be coming to observe the Blended Learning models established in some of our middle school classrooms!

Upcoming District Events:

- **The Next District Update will be posted on December 21st - Best wishes for safe travels and a very Happy Thanksgiving to all!**