

High School Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2017

The minutes from the November 7, 2017 High School Council meeting were approved.

Guest Speaker-Bill Meyer, Mindfulness Fellowship & Study Skills Discussion

Thanks to the generous support of the Bronxville School Foundation, the Mindfulness Fellowship was created. Through a foundation grant written by Bill, a group of 12 teachers attended a mindfulness institute program last August. Building upon the work that Bill has begun, by incorporating meditation in classes and leading mindfulness practices throughout the school, the summer institute program allowed the teachers an opportunity to participate in various training sessions and book discussions to better understand how self reflection and mindfulness foster one's service, leadership, compassion and empathy.

Consistent mindfulness practices increase our capacity for attentiveness, presence, awareness and emotional regulation, and generally provide a more open, relaxed, less reactive and more flexible and resilient state of mind. The Fellowship seeks to create a fuller and richer experience within the school and community by helping students connect within themselves and with teachers through mindfulness practices across all 3 schools.

With the huge success of the summer institute program, the Mindfulness Fellowship has grown to 18 teachers! An evening program to include parents is in the works for February/March.

Also, this fall Bill conducted a Study Skills Workshop with our 9th graders. The workshop focused on teaching students how to better manage time, organize work, and build relationships with their teachers. Feedback from the workshop has been extremely positive amongst the students.

Roy Montesano-Superintendent's Report

Roy asks that you please let the high school office know if you did not receive the K-12 alert during the emergency dismissal procedure prior to Thanksgiving break.

The preliminary bond referendum has been sent to the state. As soon as the district receives notification of the state aide dollar amount, the bond referendum vote will take place 45 days later.

The library commons project has been sent out to bid. Expected renovations should start after February break.

Ann Meyer-Principal

As part of the Challenge Success feedback, several faculty members have shadowed students to get a better understanding of what student experiences are throughout the day. As an example, some teachers have reported that sitting for entire 80 minute class can be difficult and suggested that getting up and stretching during the class would help ease any pain or discomfort a student might have.

On Thursday morning, December 7th, the Junior and Senior class will attend a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in the auditorium. Area veterans are invited to attend the ceremony, which will include student speeches from representatives in Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe. A band concert will be followed by a flag raising ceremony on the front lawn, which will include a Bronxville School 3rd grader, who is a descendent of FDR.

Please complete the pilot program survey that was emailed last week regarding the extra help shift to the morning. Many people have submitted their surveys, and feedback is balanced between positive and negative.

Thanks to the generous support of the Bronxville School Foundation, Ann along with several staff members attended the Harvard Design Thinking Workshop. This 2-day program is geared towards developing new approaches to finding solutions for organizational design challenges. An example of this work is by implementing an idea, requesting feedback and continuing to refine and make better the idea.

Anne Abbatecola-Guidance Department

Grade 9-counselors continue to check in with students to discuss class experiences. The freshman attended Bill Meyer's Study Skills Presentation-feedback was very positive!

The annual Andrus Children's Holiday Party is on Wednesday, December 6th in the cafeteria 3:30-6:30

Grade 10-results for the PSAT's will be released online December 12th.

Grade 11-following the post HS kick-off meeting, guidance counselors will begin meeting with juniors and parents for a family meeting to discuss course selections for next year, to compile a list of prospective colleges together at that time and to plan for all those tasks that can be completed in the spring to make the college application process less stressful.

Grade 12-first quarter grades have been sent to colleges. Please keep the guidance department informed of application results as rolling admission results are starting to come in.

On Thursday, December 21st there will be a reception for students to meet with 2016/2017 alumni to discuss post high school experiences. A short survey will be given to the alumni regarding their first year college experience.

Guest Speaker-Greg Brown, OC21

Greg explained that Bronxville High School is part of a 7 high school consortium program organized by Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES where our students have the opportunity to take online courses through OC21 (Online Courses For The 21st Century).

The OC21 program offers unique elective courses, taught by high school teachers, that participating districts don't offer on their own. An online course allows a student to collaborate with students from other area high schools while learning in a different format. Since many college courses are taught online, this is an opportunity to become more familiar with the format.

The courses are for one semester and begin with an orientation at BOCES with the teacher and other students in the class (maximum 25 students per class). Mid-way through the semester students participate in a field experience related to the course (examples: meeting with corporate CEO, working with an anthropologist). Students receive feedback throughout the semester, and grades are included on their transcripts.

For spring semester course information, please login to: <http://pnwboces.org/oc/> Please contact the guidance department with questions. Spring registration is open through February.

Karen Peterson-Athletic Department

- Winter sports kicks off this week including squash, ice hockey, swimming and basketball.
- The Bill Green Holiday tournament will be on December 14-16
- Harlem Wizards will return in March
- The athletic council is working on a Spring Spirit week, which will include theme days, Bronco Day and food truck vendors.

Jennifer Thomas-Bronxville School Foundation

As noted earlier, the Mindfulness Fellowship grant and the Harvard Design Thinking Workshop grant exemplify how important the success of the foundation is for our school community. Thank you to those who have supported the foundation and if you have not already done so, please consider donating-every dollar counts!

A big THANK YOU to the Katie Welling Run held over Thanksgiving Day weekend- all proceeds were donated back to the foundation!!

GRADE REPORTS

Grade 9- thank you for your support of the dessert sale. Proceeds from the sale go toward purchasing gifts for the children from Andrus Children's Center, which will be given to them at the annual Andrus Children's Holiday Party in the Bronxville School cafeteria on Wednesday, December 6th.

Grade 10- citrus sale fruit will be ready for pick up on Friday, December 8th between 1-4 in the atrium lobby.

Grade 11- the poinsettia sale was a success and many thanks to all the student volunteers who helped run the deliveries so smoothly. In addition, 34 plants were purchased and donated to the Andrus Children's Center.

Grade 12- senior week planning continues. Save the Date for white dresses being sent shortly.

SFL

SFL Day will be on Monday, January 29th. This year's theme is "Finding Your Passion". Volunteer parents will conduct workshops based on 7 categories grouped by TV series themes, such as Law and Order, Project Runway, etc.

Please Save The Date: Monday, January 22nd, Challenge Success founder Denise Pope will be here speaking with teachers and students during the day while parents are invited to an evening presentation....more details to follow.

The next High School Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 8:30 am in the Auditorium Lobby