




PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE 

Superintendent's Update

March 28, 2024



OEE's Residencies

The Office of Educational Equity (OEE) is conducting residencies at every PSB school, with the aim of understanding each school, its culture, and the strengths and needs of its students and faculty. These residencies will guide OEE's work moving forward, and ensure that the Office is supporting each school and every PSB community member to the best of its ability.

Claire Galloway-Jones (Executive Director of Educational Equity) and **Cristy Hernandez (Assistant Director of Educational Equity)** have completed residencies at BHS, BEEP and Lawrence, and look forward to continuing their residency at FRR in the coming week.

Claire and Cristy would like to recognize the tireless work of all PSB schools' faculty and staff – from custodial and maintenance staff to educators, paraprofessionals, counselors, METCO and Steps advisors, school leaders, and everyone in the school community not listed. It is a privilege to witness their dedication in action. Claire and Cristy would also like to recognize PSB's students, and the families who have raised them. The students are brilliant, kind, strong-minded, and courageous and will create a better world for us all.

DESE's Upcoming Visits

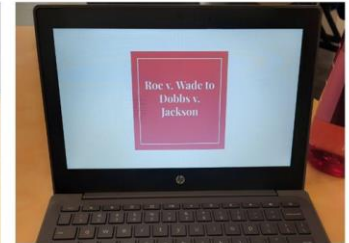
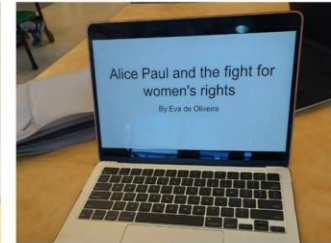
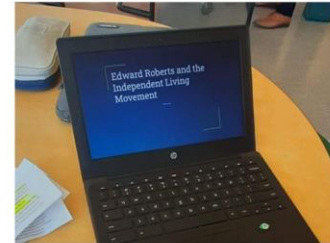
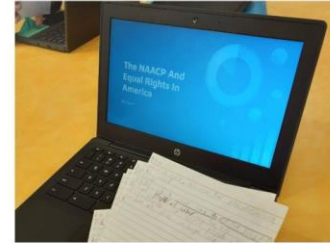
The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Office of Public School Monitoring, schedules visits to charter and district schools every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. During the week of **April 8-12**, the Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review (TFM) of the Public Schools of Brookline. We look forward to feedback in the areas of special education and civil rights.

Parent/guardian outreach is an important part of the review process. On March 19, 2024, parents/guardians of students with disabilities were sent an online survey by the Office of Public School monitoring. These surveys will be reviewed by the PSM after its closing date, **April 3, 2024**.

During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will also interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities will include meetings with district staff, administrators, review of documents and observations.

Equal Rights Presentations at Hayes

Eighth graders at the Roland Hayes school showcased their presentations on equal rights, covering some important and relevant topics.



Sports Analytics Program at MIT

A group of BHS METCO and the African American/Latiné Scholars Program (AALSP) students participated in a Sports Analytics program along with MBA students at MIT's Sloan School of Management. The program, taught by Professor Ben Shields, culminated with a mock NFL Draft. Students were split into teams of five and paired with MBA students, while being tasked with performing the scouting duties for one of the following NFL teams – the Arizona Cardinals, Los Angeles Chargers, New York Giants, Tennessee Titans, or Atlanta Falcons.

In the first two days of this collaborative program, each team of students conducted a thorough data analysis, and compiled a draft board of their top college prospects. They then took part in the first round of a mock NFL draft, where they used their data analysis to determine the value of the prospects and their draft picks.

Sports Analytics Program at MIT



Composting at Hayes



The Roland Hayes school has been working the Department of Public Works to introduce composting during their lunches.

Last week, composting was launched schoolwide, with student council reps volunteering to be compost monitors and teach kids during lunch. Thank you to Mrs. Wheeler, Ms. Shashoua, Ms. Weatherseed (DPW), school custodian Mr. Manganiello and Mr. Patel for leading these efforts.

‘The Little Mermaid’ at Baker

Students of grades 6-8 at the Baker school put up an enthralling performance of *The Little Mermaid*.

A big congratulations to all involved in the production.



BHS Play – ‘The Princess Bride’

The Brookline High School Drama Society’s spring play was the classic tale, *The Princess Bride*, reimagined for the stage. The play was originally scheduled for five shows from March 20 to 23 at the 22 Tappan Theater. However, due to popular demand and sold out shows, a sixth show was added on March 24.

BHS Play – ‘The Princess Bride’



Image credits: BHS Friends of Performing Arts

Upcoming Parent Workshops

The Department of Guidance and Clinical Services has partnered with Massachusetts Partnership for Youth (MPY) to hold the following parent workshops this spring.

Healthy Balance: Screen Time

Data suggests that exposing youth to large amounts of screen time can have negative effects on physical and mental development. This workshop provides tools and vocabulary needed for children and adolescents to make wise choices about balancing daily screen use, while focusing more attention on exercise and nutrition.

About the Author

Cory Mashburn, M.Ed., has over 20 years' expertise in prevention services, and more than 25 years' experience working with youth and people with disabilities. He has overseen prevention programs within communities and schools in New England, including substance use and abuse, bullying, cyber safety, and human rights.



Upcoming Parent Workshops



Social Media's Impact on Mental Health: Optimizing the Connection

Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook foster a culture of peer comparison and entice users to stay online longer than they intend to, which can foster discouraging or negative feelings. Snapchat locations and Instagram stories cause FOMO (Fear of Missing Out), contributing to anxiety, depression, and loneliness. In this workshop, teachers and parents will learn individual and group strategies to optimize students' use of social media.

About the Author

Susan Reynolds, M.Ed., has over 20 years of experience in academic technology and digital wellbeing. In 2007 Susan founded *ABC Legacy: Atoms to Bits Children's Legacy*, which generated the Look Up Foundation, committed to empowering teens and college students to join together to change their relationship to technology.

BA&CE's SmartSummer Theater Arts Program

Brookline Adult & Community Education (BA&CE) is organizing a SmartSummers Theater Arts Program and Theater Arts Jr. from July 8 to August 16.

The program gives students an opportunity to engage in acting, music, art, and dance, and work together to create an original musical based on popular children's stories and movies. This summer, our shows are based on *The Jungle Book*, *The Lion King*, and *Madagascar*.

There three two-week sessions from July 8-August 16, for children of ages 5-13. Tuition assistance is available.