

## MS Council Meeting 9.27.23

Welcome from Wendy Fahy, MS Council Chair

Dr. Rachel Kelly, Superintendent

- Please provide feedback on the updated Bronxville Promise language [here](#).. Feedback window closes on Sunday. Dr. Kelly will present to board meeting Oct 19
- Upcoming Board workshops
  - Oct 2: Primer on budget and discussion on our next bond
  - Last Mo of Oct: Hear from other members of leadership team about programs and what makes us distinctive
  - Not televised but public is welcome

Wendy led MS Council Introductions

- Looking for Teen Center volunteers so please reach out to Wendy or any of the Team Center leaders
- We are always looking for volunteers! Please reach out to Wendy or to any of the council members (visit [bronxvillepta.org](http://bronxvillepta.org))
- See Mr. Mercora's Friday info for key info

Tara Holbert, Staff Appreciation Committee

- Upcoming Staff Appreciation Lunch - Please keep an eye out for an email asking you to help sponsor lunch; we'll be providing lunch for ~250-300 staff members
- Thank you for supporting the PTA party - thank you to Deirdre and Mike Doheny

B\*Well

- Stephen Hill of Speak Sobriety will join us Oct. 4 - live and virtual
  - Please RSVP or ask questions here:
  - [The PTA's B\\*Well Committee Welcomes Stephen Hill & his father, Kevin Hill, on Wednesday, October 4th at 7:00 PM - RSVP Here](#)

Brad Ashley, Director of Technology

- Internet Safety - key areas of focus for the students
  - Cybersecurity
    - Focus on password protection - passphrases
  - Digital citizenship
    - Themes: Empathy, how the internet works, understanding user data, digital literacy, digital wellness
    - Use Advisory lessons to reinforce themes + speakers
    - See Wellbeing.google
  - Helpful tips
    - You are the greatest filter
    - Charge devices in central location
    - Establish rules for emails/work for the household

- Carve out low tech/no-tech times to reconnect
    - Subscribe to Commonsense Media
  - Brad recommended books
    - iRules by Janell Burley Hoffman
    - How to Break up with your phone by Catherine Price
    - Program or Be Programmed by Douglas Rushkoff
    - The New Childhood - Raising Kids to Thrive in a Connected World by Jordan Shapiro
- Please feel free to reach out with any questions

Mr. Mercora, Principal

- Our message for the kids: How can we make this year the greatest year?
  - Do your best
  - You're not alone
  - Advocate for yourself - ask for help
  - Be respectful
  - A culture of kindness
- Bravo to our sixth graders
  - Wonderful job transitioning to MS
  - Class bonding through to Sharpe Reservation trip
  - Advisory curriculum focused on the Bronxville Promise
  - Welcomed 24 new families to Bronxville Middle School
  - Tried to have individual meetings with all the new families
- Upcoming events
  - Grade level meetings with the 6th grade
  - Back to school night tomorrow 9/28 7pm
  - Homecoming week - first week of Oct
  - Trips - 7th grade trip to Williamsburg Nov 14-17
  - PTA New Family Welcome Oct 11 6:30 - Field Club
- ADA Laura Forbes coming to speak to students and parents
  - Her work includes Cyber Crimes bureau and internet safety coordinator for Westchester County
  - Oct 16 assembly with students
  - Oct 19 Zoom meeting with parents 7pm
- Thank you to Katie Krieg who has moved to Special Education and a big welcome to Kathleen Matthews!
- Thank you to the Bronxville Foundation for their support of our school
- My door is always open - please reach out if any concerns

MS Back to School Night - tomorrow 9/28 7pm

- Enter at Pondfield and go to your child's homeroom to get class assignments

