

Principal's Message



Mr. Joseph Mercora Principal

December 8, 2023

Good Afternoon Bronxville Middle School Families,

I hope this message finds you well. It was wonderful seeing so many of you this past Thursday at our Winter Orchestra Concert. Our students were amazing and performed beautifully. A special thank you to Mr. Matthew Dell for all of his efforts as well as our capable chaperones who did a great job assisting. We look forward to our upcoming Band Concert this coming Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Our school had a very special assembly this week. We welcomed Mr. Christopher Waddell who is a retired paralympic athlete. Mr. Waddell spoke to our students about reaching their potential. The ***Nametags Assembly Program*** focused on four key elements:

1. Resilience - adapting and overcoming obstacles we face in life.
2. Self-Awareness - identifying the genius within each of us.
3. Inclusion - seeing and respecting one another as uniquely genius.
4. Perception - challenging traditional beliefs specific to what being disabled is.

Thank you so much to the PTA's support for this profound assembly.

Our students looked wonderful in their college sweatshirts this past Wednesday. This coming Wednesday we will celebrate friendship in our school. Each student will receive a friendship bracelet as a gift from the school. They are encouraged to take the day to celebrate current friendships and will be challenged to create new ones. It is also pop star Taylor Swifts birthday as I am told so let's have some fun.

Please remind your children that appropriate school behavior and expectations remain the same on our wonderful spirit days!

Two GREAT weeks lie ahead of us before we leave for a long winter break. As mentioned last week, your children still have a tremendous opportunity to be in strong academic standing in the second marking period. Please encourage your children to attend morning assistance as needed.

I look forward to seeing you all in our upcoming concerts. Thank you so much for the gift of working with your children. Please enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph Mercora
Principal

Dogs on Campus:

Please note dogs are not allowed on school property. We continue to see families at arrival and dismissal with dogs. While we love our furry friends they are not allowed on campus. We thank you for adhering to this policy.

Middle School Concert Dates

We look forward to our upcoming Winter Concerts!

Reminder: Concerts are for performers and their families ONLY. Students who are NOT performing may only attend if they are accompanied by and sit with an adult.

Winter:

- **Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00 P.M. - Band**
- **Tuesday, December 19th, 7:00 P.M: 6th and 7th grade Choruses and Choristers**
- **Wednesday, December 20th, 7 pm: 8th grade Chorus and HS chorus**

Spring Concert Date Change:

- **Tuesday, May 28th - Middle School Band Concert**

Clubs:

Please encourage your child to take part in a Middle School Club. Many are given during the school day.

- **M.S. French Club** - lunch in B204 on day 6.
- **M.S. Student Government**- Lunch on Day, 5 room B206.
- **M.S. Chamber Strings** meets during lunch.
- **M.S. Art Club** - Mondays in room B106 from 3-4pm.
- **M.S. Newspaper Club** - Day 2 during lunch.
- **Choristers** - Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 pm
- **M.S. Jazz Band** - Mondays 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- **M.S. Green Club** - Day 3 during lunch.
- **M.S. Play** - To be determined as the event gets closer.
- **M.S. Musical** - To be determined as the event gets closer.
- **M.S. Yearbook** - To be determined. Listen to morning announcements.
- **M.S. Science Olympiad** - 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday starting in 2 weeks until March.
- **M.S. Sign Language** - Day 4 during lunch unless otherwise changed.

Early Morning Assistance:

- 7:45 A.M. - 8:20 A.M. - WE ENCOURAGE EVERY STUDENT TO TAKE PART IN EARLY MORNING ASSISTANCE. NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED. SIMPLY MEET YOUR TEACHER IN THEIR CLASSROOM AND GET THE HELP YOU NEED!

Attendance Procedures:

- Please email MSattendance@bronxvilleschool.org with any attendance needs such as when your child is out sick, arriving late or needs to be dismissed early. For other office matters you can email Kathleen Matthews at Kmatthews@bronxvilleschool.org or call the office at 914-395-0500 x3800.

Looking Ahead For 6th, 7th and 8th Graders!

Trips - Bronxville has a long tradition of wonderful day trips and special overnight trips for 7th and 8th graders. The trips are by no means mandatory but we wanted everyone to mark their calendars in case your child is interested. Please mark your calendars for the following:

- **8th Grade Trip** - Boston, Massachusetts - April 10th - 12th

Just a few reminders:

- Please remember that our students are often involved with many different forms of messaging outside of school. Students can communicate with each other through text message, video games, social media etc. **PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATIONS and CHECK ON IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.** As your children get older they need you more than ever.

A reminder about previous tips regarding the potential sextortion of your child.

How to protect teens.....

Teens don't have to feel helpless if they become targets of sextortion. Here are things parents and teens can do:

- Advise your kids not to engage with anyone who asks for a nude photo or threatens to create fake nudes. Some bad actors coerce teens into sharing their social-media passwords. Make sure your child knows never to share account passwords. They should block anyone who starts requesting nudes or making threats, and flag any incidents to the social-media network.
- Protect their social-media accounts. Snapchat and Instagram have default settings that can make it hard for strangers to find and message accounts whose account holder's age is listed as under 18. Teens should keep their accounts private and only accept friend requests from people they know. Also, they should set up two-factor authentication on all social-media accounts.
- Keep an eye on their online friends. Snapchat, Instagram and Discord. This allows parents to see who their kids are communicating with and following—and who is following them.
- Supervise their payment apps. The criminals behind these extortions usually instruct teens to pay them via peer-to-peer payment apps. You can restrict whom your kids can send money to by creating sponsored accounts for teens on Cash App and Venmo. For teens who use Apple Cash, you can do what the Massachusetts mom did: Set up Apple Cash Family for money limits and transaction notifications.

Other items to consider....

- Cold, Flu, Virus and many other seasons are upon us. **A reminder to PLEASE keep your children home if they are showing**

symptoms of sickness. The work they miss can always be made up and they will NEVER be penalized for being sick. Thank you for continuing to keep us all safe.

- **THANK YOU for all of YOUR efforts in helping us make our students more responsible for bringing their materials to school.** We understand parents need to drop off materials that students forget but it is not necessary to do so. We always have extra pieces of technology, books etc. for students to borrow. Part of learning responsibility is sometimes having to deal with forgetting materials. It will build positive habits and strategies for life that will lead to being better organized. These life skills are critical to long term success which is what we all want for your child.

Bronxville 7th Grade Girl Scout Troop 2955 asks for the community's help!

We are arranging a mid December holiday event for children living in a migrant shelter in the Bronx. We are bringing a hot meal and in addition would appreciate donations to help in this effort to provide to those in need this winter.

We are in need of:

- Gently used hats, gloves, long underwear, socks, winter boots (kids to teenagers), toiletries - small soap/shampoo/new toothbrushes in packages, chap sticks - ALL FOR CHILDREN.

In addition we are looking for stocking stuffers to provide some holiday joy (please as much reusable/pre-loved toys as possible!).

Examples:

- Playing cards
- Small dolls
- Small stuffed animals,
- Matchbox cars
- Yo-yos,
- fidget toys
- Action figures
- Any other small toys/games
- Comic books/ small picture books
- \$5 Gift cards to Dunkin Donuts, Burger King
- Crayons/colored pencils, small notebooks
- Candy canes/holiday candies

A collection bin will be at the canopy entrance from December 4th through December 14th.

Happy Holidays!

The Bronxville High School Earth club will be running a holiday light recycling drive from December 11-22 before break and then January 8-12 after break. Please bring any broken lights to one of the collection bins located at either the canopy, atrium, or flagpole entrance so we can properly recycle them!

Feel free to reach out to antoniot24@bronxvilleschool.org or juliap24@bronxvilleschool.org if you have any questions!

Regards,

The Bronxville High School Earth Club



Bronxville Celebrates the Joy of Giving with Westhab!

The Bronxville Youth Council celebrates the Joy of Giving with children from Westhab, Westchester's leading provider of low-income housing and social services.

Westhab children will receive donated gifts from the Bronxville community, wrapped by Bronxville students. They'll have the chance to select gifts for their families and learn the importance of giving!

This holiday party is staffed and organized by students from our High School and Middle School (through the PTA's Middle School Character and Community Committee) who work together to make this a special day for these children.

How can YOU partake in this magical day?

Purchase a gift for children:

[Link to Wishlist for Westhab Gift Donations](#)

Send or drop to
Frannie Krause
8 Vine Street by Dec 12th

www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/360U7F5N6PHBL?share=false

Bronxville Union Free School District Food and Nutrition News

December 2023

Dinning in December 2023

While the temperatures drop outside, the Bronxville Dining Services team is turning up the heat! Fresh and delicious lunch options, a variety of beverages, and assortment of snacks are available for middle and high school students as well as faculty. Come warm up with a bowl of soup, rotating daily.

Want to save time and skip the line? Pre-order a customized salad, sandwich, or hot entrée on Nutrislice!

Elementary school students can pick up their individual lunch and snacks in the cafeteria. Please see the menu online at [Nutrislice](#) to order. See you in the café! Happy Holidays!



Catering Available:

Attention Bronxville District!

Need Catering? We have you covered!

We have a talented Chef and eager foodservice department able to meet your catering needs. Thank you to our many partners in the district who have utilized the catering program so far.

To place an order or for questions, please contact David DiNuzzo , Director of Food and Nutrition Services at David.DiNuzzo@compass-USA.com



David DiNuzzo
Director of Dining Services
(914) 395-0500 x1206
David.DiNuzzo@Compass-USA.com

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The Bronxville PTA Arts Council, in collaboration with the BHS Arts Society, is excited to announce an evening of lively discussion with professionals who have successful careers in the fine and performing arts!

Come hear the stories of their journey to college and beyond.

CAREERS IN THE ARTS!

**List of speakers
and registration
information
coming soon**

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 11, 2024

7PM

Bronxville Public Library
Yeager Room

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE

- Insights on career paths in various creative professions
- Takeaway resource guide to help students to get started now on their way to a career in the arts
- Opportunities to connect with local art professionals
- Free raffle where students can win a special real world experience in an artistic field



You are cordially invited to

NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Presents

WONKA **A Viewing Party** **for Pediatrics**

This opening-weekend screening of *Wonka*, starring Timothée Chalamet and Hugh Grant, will benefit the NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Department of Pediatrics.

This movie is rated PG.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

9:00 a.m. Doors Open for Registration and Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Movie Screening

THE PICTURE HOUSE

84 Kraft Avenue | Bronxville, New York

Enjoy complimentary breakfast, popcorn, fun activities, and goody bags.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, December 8

Yes, I would like to attend.

No, I am unable to attend.

For more information or if you have accessibility needs,
please contact Lucia Falco-Sardana at 917.374.6604 or lsardana@nyp.org

Please share your photos!

#nypwestchester #amazingwestchester #WonkaMovie

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DO YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF **LEGOS**
YOU NO LONGER NEED?

DONATE THEM!

**STARTING JAN 15TH
THE PTA'S SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE WILL COLLECT
LEGOS TO RECYCLE/DONATE**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW
AFTER BREAK



Bronxville Union Free School District
Food and Nutrition News

December 2023

Join us

December 13th, 2023

For December's **Discovery Kitchen** recipe
tasting event:



Our team will have tastings of **Pernil**. Recipe cards and
nutrition education will be provided.

Through December's **Spice It Up Theme** we're showing students
that spices & herbs can transform ingredients to create a
flavorful meal or regional experience without sacrificing the
nutritious qualities of food.

Where: HS/MS Cafeteria

When: All lunch periods



David DiNuzzo
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