



NBPS Newsflash

June 2022

Greetings Team NBPS,

As we wrap up a very productive school year and much different one than the year before, we should all be proud of what we have been able to accomplish. We've continued to navigate the ever-changing challenges presented by 28 months of a global pandemic and in the words of Stephen Hawking, "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change." We have an incredible, highly intelligent team!

The start of June marks the culmination of the school year and celebrates the start of Pride Month. The exuberant colors of the rainbow symbolize the differences and the many perspectives that we have as individuals. We must continue to broaden our own mindset to be more understanding and compassionate – to truly embrace diversity.

This time of year we always find ourselves competing with the warmer weather, beautiful sunshine – most days, and the eagerness to start the summer break as we work to hold ourselves and our students to be fully engaged in the teaching and learning process. While the days grow longer and summer beckons, these few remaining days are more precious as we close out this school year.

Sadly, I must acknowledge, once again, that although some challenges in our society can seem insurmountable – they are not. It has been an emotional challenge to process these latest mass shootings, but we have the collective power to make a difference. The safety of our students and staff is always top of mind for me and is an area of ongoing review. Our work to ensure that all schools are equipped with necessary safety measures is a priority. We have routine discussions with the New Bedford Police Department regarding officers assigned to our schools and other issues that may impact the community.

Remember, our community is ALL of America and it is the least of our duty to combat hatred and eliminate bigotry. As we further New Bedford Public Schools' commitment to equity, inclusion and belonging, I am grateful to all who share in this commitment.

I thank you for being an UPSTANDER, and not a BYstander ignoring biases, harassment, inequities, and bigotry. This further heightens our need as individuals to be more compassionate and understanding of others. I appreciate the collective dedication to making our community a better place for everyone.

Summer programming is also planned to help students enrich their thinking before our return in the fall. Please see page 4 for more information about summer programming.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent



"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Employee Spotlight



Tracie McCarty

Paraprofessional
Chas. S. Ashley Elementary School



Tracie McCarty was hired at Ashley School as a Building Based Substitute a couple of years ago. She quickly realized she really wanted to work with our special education students in a substantially separate classroom. She resigned as Building Based Substitute and took a paraprofessional position with our ASD students. Ms. McCarty works exceptionally well with this population. She is extremely patient, attuned to each individual student's needs, and has high expectations for every student. Every morning, Ms. McCarty greets every single bus student as they arrive at Ashley and helps them get off the bus and to their assigned location/staff. In the classroom teacher's absence, Ms. McCarty can efficiently run the classroom with the support of other paraprofessionals in the room. She has applied for the JET program and wants her own classroom once she completes her coursework. Tracie McCarty is truly an invaluable member of the Ashley Staff.

– Christine M. Pugliese, Principal



Collin DaCosta

Paraprofessional
Sgt. William Carney Academy



“Once a Carney kid, always a Carney kid!” Collin DaCosta, now a paraprofessional for NBPS, is a product of Carney Academy himself. Collin started as a student in preschool in the intensive program at Carney and has worked his way through New Bedford Schools. Since graduating, he has become a paraprofessional in a substantially separate K/1 at Carney. Collin assists students who face similar challenges to the ones he faced as a child. Collin's compassion, understanding and kindness makes him an asset to the team. He goes the extra mile for his students everyday. The Carney team, many of whom remember Collin as a student, are so proud of the amazing person that Collin has become.

– Sarah Medeiros, Special Education Supervisor of ASD Programs

Mentoring and Induction Program Celebration



Mentors and mentees were treated recently to an early dinner by *On The Go Catering* and raffle prize giveaways during their final meeting of the year.

The **Mentoring and Induction Program** was designed to provide structured, purposeful, and systemic support to all new teachers by providing a certified mentor throughout their first year of teaching. The program is committed to developing and retaining high quality teachers to meet the needs of our diverse population.

– Sara Mello, M.Ed., Instrumental Music Teacher
Mentoring and Induction Program Coordinator



Student Spotlight



Michael Lewis

Grade 8

Roosevelt Middle School



"Not many 14-year-olds can claim they have a black belt in taekwondo and have traveled to Mexico to train with the Olympic National Team. Back in December **Michael Lewis** was privileged to have that chance when his Master, Jong-hyun Yi, took him and six other top ranked students from Evolution Martial Arts in Westborough for a week to train in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

"I thought I was the best kid," Lewis said. "But once I went, wow like, there were a bunch of good kids there."

But that only motivated Lewis to train harder. "Every time there's someone above me. I always say I got to get better than them." Lewis has been training for the past 10 years with Evolution.

Invited by the coach of the Jamaican Olympic Team, Master Tony Byon, the students were introduced to the national team and trained by the coach of the Mexican Olympic team, Master Young Bang and World Poomsae team coach of Mexico, Master Kang Lee.

The eighth-grader from Roosevelt Middle School was ranked No. 1 seed in the United States as a red belt. In 2018, Lewis successfully earned his black belt.

"I just kept on training, training, training until I was at the top. And then my master finally told me I was ready," he said. With over 30 medals, Lewis has competed locally as well as in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Utah and Minneapolis.

Next, he wants to attend the Las Vegas U.S. Open, a four-day competition, so he can receive a worldwide rank on his black belt. He plans to test for his second degree black belt in the summer. He hopes to be good enough to join the U.S. National Team in the near future.

"I love helping kids," he added. "When I get old enough, and I get my master's degree, I would open up my own school." Lewis says he tells anyone who is interested in learning Taekwondo that it's fun, but hard work to get to the top. "Always push yourself, have perseverance and never give up on yourself," he added.

"If you fall, always get up and get back on the mat, never quit. Keep on going."

— New Bedford Standard-Times



Summer Programming is available for all grades

Programs will run: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 5, through Friday, July 29.

Students will be receiving invitations, but parents can inquire about availability at their child's school. Programming will include English Language Arts, Math, and Enrichment classes. *Students will be provided breakfast and lunch.*



Food & Nutrition Services **UPDATE!**

Robert Shaheen, Director, ext. 14257
rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org



JUNE IS NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH!

FNS Awarded New England Dairy Grant for Smoothies!

Have you seen these cows *moo-ving* into the elementary school cafeterias? FNS received these fun lunchroom decorations as part of a grant to help celebrate National Dairy Month in June!

The Food and Nutrition Services department applied for and was awarded a smoothie equipment grant from **New England Dairy**. The grant provided (13) 16-inch immersion stick blenders and (26) 20-quart food service buckets with lids. This equipment upgrade will allow us to offer smoothies district-wide! The 16-inch stick blenders and food prep buckets allow for large quantity smoothie preparation that wouldn't otherwise be possible with countertop blender models and staffing/time constraints.

In recognition of June's Harvest of the Month being **strawberries**, we will have a pre-k through grade 8 smoothie kickoff on Wednesday, June 7th at lunch, offering strawberry smoothies to all students! Smoothies have been offered weekly at breakfast at New Bedford High since the start of this school year and have been a big hit with students.



Hay-Mac Field Day with Pat Patriot and Fuel Up to Play 60!

New England Dairy additionally offered a unique opportunity for Hayden McFadden Elementary in which they sent the New England Patriots mascot - Pat Patriot and the Fuel Up to Play 60 truck to Hayden McFadden's field day on June 1st! Pat Patriot will be available to shake students' hands, take selfies with them, show off his super bowl rings, and hand out auto-graphed pictures. The Fuel Up to Play 60 truck will be parked outside with

giveaways, nutrition education resources and physical activities like ball toss and relay!

Community Recipe Collaboration

Food and Nutrition Services continues to collaborate with the **Mujeres Victoriosas** community group. In May two members of the group, **Isabel** (left) and **Alicia** (right), came to the Normandin Middle School kitchen to show two techniques for making chicken tacos and elotes - a Central American-style and a Mexican-style! Mi Tierra corn tortillas were used in the recipe. These authentic corn tortillas are made in Massachusetts with corn grown in Massachusetts. The tacos were stuffed with a seasoned, pulled chicken. The Central American-style (shown in

top tray of photo) was topped with marinara sauce, shredded lettuce and parmesan cheese, while the Mexican-style (shown in bottom tray of photo) was topped with shredded lettuce, parmesan cheese and sour cream. This recipe will

be made and served to the Normandin students during June!



Congratulations!



NBPS recognized for financial leadership

The Finance and Operations team is the recipient of the 2022 Donald D. Johnson Operational and Cost Efficiency Award, which “recognizes school districts for their efforts in developing replicable, cost efficient approaches that address operational challenges commonly burdening districts.” The prestigious award was presented by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) at its FY22 Annual Institute, May 18-20. The award comes with \$2,500 for NBPS scholarships!

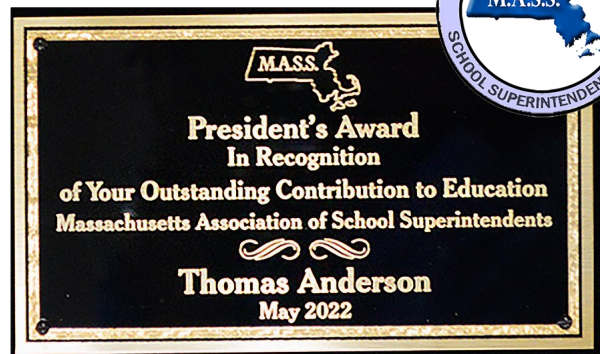
Leslie Lopes completes her rounds

Ordinarily, NBPS *News-flash* does not cover retirements, but we would be remiss if we didn't note the retirement of **Leslie Lopes**, NBPS' much appreciated as “The Mail Lady,” as many students and staff fondly call her. After 17 years delivering interoffice correspondence and mail to 33 school buildings, plus City Hall, the Post Office and School Committee members, everybody knows her! Ms. Lopes' 35 years of service started with her work in the RISE program in 1985 at Normandin and Roosevelt. She doesn't plan to stop moving. “I'll relax and enjoy life a little more, but I'll keep going to the gym, staying healthy and walking every morning— only it'll be around Buttonwood Park!”



Thank you, Leslie the Mail Lady!

M.A.S.S. President's Award to Superintendent Anderson



Superintendent Thomas Anderson has received the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) President's Award for “his leadership, notably in the districts he has served in the statewide role around policy and support for his colleagues.” M.A.S.S. noted Superintendent Anderson “represents superintendents on the M.A.S.S. Legislative Committee, Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, and Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Directors. In addition, he is serving as co-facilitator for the Urban Superintendents Network.”

Thank you to our Partners!

To NBPS' many great partners: THANK YOU for making SY21-22 an exciting, enriching and supportive experience for all our students. We couldn't do it without you! — NBPS Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships



And the winners of the Spring Step Challenge are . . .

New Bedford Public Schools would like to recognize and congratulate all employees that participated in the Spring Step Challenge. We would also like to take this time to announce top ranking teams for this year.

1st: Fast Feet 2nd: Carney 3rd: PRAB

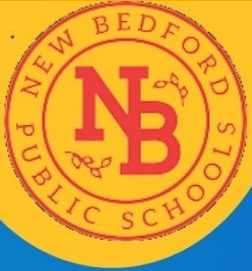
Congratulations to **Tanya Viera** for being our TOP STEPPER for the Spring Challenge with **3,302,727** steps!

Gift Certificates will be sent to all that completed the challenge at their respective schools.

We look forward to your participation in upcoming wellness events.



Save the Date — June 7



NBPS WRAPAROUND
SERVICES AND FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS:



DR. KAREN MAPP

Karen L. Mapp, Ed.D., is a senior lecturer on education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, a founding member of the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement between many other things and author of various books on this topic.



Tuesday, June 7th
3-4:15
Keith Middle
School
Auditorium

Completely FREE
Workshop for NBPS Staff
and NBPS Families




A partnership between United Way of Greater Fall River,
United Way of Greater New Bedford, and United Way of Plymouth County

NEW BEDFORD FOLK FESTIVAL

We are looking for energetic volunteers to help assist us with a variety of tasks during the two days of the festival. Volunteers will receive free admission as well as a New Bedford Folk Festival T-shirt.

From food street carts to the food court, and the award-winning restaurants in and around the festival, you can sample some of the tasty cuisine the area has to offer, all in New Bedford's beautiful historic downtown.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS
 18 AND OLDER
 IS FAMILY FRIENDLY
 IS OUTDOORS
 IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
 DESIGNATED REST & RESET AREA FOR VOLUNTEER STAFF ON UNION ST.
 BE PREPARED TO BE OUTSIDE FOR YOUR SHIFT

WWW.NEWBEDFORDFOLKFESTIVAL.COM/INFORMATION/VOLUNTEER



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is planting trees at no charge to residents in New Bedford to increase energy savings by reducing the urban heat island effect.

To request a free tree (or two), students can ask parents or grandparents to call:

617-455-2331

Todd Gildersleeve, Urban Forester
 Greening the Gateway Cities
www.maurbancanopy.org



Telehealth is a quick and easy way to see if Paxlovid, a COVID-19 treatment pill taken by mouth, is right for you.

If it is, we'll arrange for pickup at your local pharmacy or free overnight delivery (if the prescription is written before 5 p.m. Monday - Friday).

This is a new service provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FREE TELEHEALTH FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT WITH PAXLOVID



- Massachusetts has launched a new free telehealth program to help residents easily access COVID-19 treatment
- The COVID-19 telehealth program is a quick, easy & free way for individuals to see if Paxlovid is an appropriate treatment for them. Paxlovid is a COVID-19 treatment pill taken orally that can reduce the risk for severe symptoms & hospitalization by nearly 90 percent
- This program is available to all COVID-19 positive Massachusetts residents 18 years or older who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- The telehealth visit consists of a short health intake survey and, if eligible, a video consultation with a health care clinician. During the telehealth visit, the clinician will review symptoms and risk factors, & determine if Paxlovid treatment is appropriate.
- If an individual is eligible for the treatment, the clinician will send a prescription to a local pharmacy or, if necessary, arrange for free overnight delivery to the resident's home.
- This program can be accessed at mass.gov/COVIDtelehealth and is available in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese

Mercy Meals & More

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you're an early riser and would like to meet new people, make friends and perform acts of kindness to those in need, **Mercy Meals & More** would love to hear from you. There are a variety of tasks performed by many volunteers every day to make our program run smoothly. You could volunteer as little as a few early morning hours occasionally lending a hand to fill in the schedule gaps or a few hours one or more days per week ranging from Monday through Saturday. Whatever time you have to offer is greatly appreciated.

Mercy Meals & More is also a Partner Agency with the [Senior Community Service Employment Program](#) through Coastline Elderly Services. **Mercy Meals & More** also offers opportunities to those looking for a program to fulfill community service obligations.

For more info please call Program Director David Motta at **(508) 264-8183**.

Call for Summer School Programs That Are Seeking Student Meals This Summer!



Are you planning to provide school programming throughout the summer?

If so, the Food and Nutrition Services department may be able to provide meals!

If you are interested in making meals available at your school summer program, please contact **FNS Director Rob Shaheen, ext. 14257** as soon as possible so that MA DESE "sites" can be established before the approaching deadlines.

Voices on committing, and commencing

"Until one is committed there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves, too.

"All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which none could have dreamt would have come their way. I have learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets:

**Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it.
Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."**

— William Hutchison Murray, *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition*, 1951

