**SUPERINTENDENT’S SPRING UPDATE**

**Dr. Christopher M. Manno, Superintendent of Schools**

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**The Power of Social Media**

BCSSSD’s refreshed Facebook page has made a big splash!

During the first week of this effort:

- BCSS page likes increased 61%  
- NEW PAGE LIKES increased 20,000%  
- TOTAL REACH of our posts increased over 11,000%  
- POST REACH increased over 61,000%  
- TOTAL ENGAGEMENT – the most important number - increased nearly 11,000%.

While the increases have leveled off, the upward trend continues. During the last week in March, 2014, Post reach increased over 200%, and Total reached up over 40%.

The credit of this effort belongs to all the wonderful staff members who have sent Dr. Manno pictures of events to post. Please keep them coming. Just email your pictures with a “blurb” about the pics to Dr. Manno. Please make sure all students in the pics have clearance to have their pictures posted.

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**A Field Trip to Dr. Manno’s Office!**

Mrs. Brogan’s 4th and 5th grade elementary students, along with Mrs. Hess and Mrs. Torio, visited Dr. Manno’s office to recognize World Down Syndrome Day! They presented Dr. Manno with a T-Shirt, a pin, and some brochures which are now available for visitors in the Superintendent’s lobby! The students, AND Dr. Manno, had a great time! Thank you to Mrs. Brogan, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Torio and the students for a wonderful visit.

Consider taking a field trip to the Superintendent’s Office! You are welcome. The students brighten the day of everyone in the Central Offices. Just email Dr. Manno or Mrs. Stevenson to schedule a visit.
Dr. Manno’s Student Art Gallery!

We in the Central Offices are so excited about our new student Art Gallery. The student’s work is magnificent and brightens our work space. It is a reminder of why we all come to work each and every day! Please keep the great work coming. Please come and visit - bring your students to see the outstanding work! Thank you to all the staff and students who contributed to the Gallery!

See our Facebook page to view many pictures of the Gallery.

Administrative Personnel Changes

We are pleased to welcome our Interim Curriculum and Instruction Team – Dr. Jane Plenge and Mrs. Lorraine Gilch. Jane and Lorraine come to us with a wealth of C and I knowledge and experience. Their primary focus has been ensuring compliance with the TEACH NJ Act/ACHIEVE NJ NJDoE Initiative, which is the teacher/principal evaluation and tenure reform law.

We also welcome Interim Director of Special Education, Mrs. Ellen McHenry. Ellen has served as a Superintendent of Schools, Director of Special Education, LDTC, and teacher.

Dr. Maryann Banks, a seasoned school administrator, has joined us as Acting High School Principal, as Mrs. Eileen Price serves the district as Interim Lumberton Principal. We welcome Ms. Melissa Shinn as the new Elementary Principal.
Dr. Manno Provides BoE with “100-Day Report”

A report was provided to the BoE regarding the Superintendent’s transition/entry to the district. The report concluded with key areas of attention and evaluation, which include:

- Marketing, Branding, and Advertising of our Programs for both districts.
- Evaluation and refinement of leadership structures.
- Training in and adherence to Policies and Regulations, which the BoE approved in Dec 2013.
- Review of written and implemented curriculum/programs.
- Evaluation and improvement of safety and security.
- Compliance with the new teacher and principal evaluation/tenure reform law and requirements.

BCSS Teachers of the Year and Teacher Assistants of the Year

BCSS honors its TOY’s and TAOY’s!

Teachers of the Year:
Linda Koch - Lumberton/VQ/Capital Academy (DISTRICT TOY)
Candace Meekins - JrSr High School
Elizabeth Carrington - Elementary
Nancy Mason - High School
Angela Presner - PASC

Teacher Assistants of the Year:
John Herron - Lumberton/VQ/Capital Academy
Chenita Davis - JrSr High School
Judith Newfeld - Elementary
Ryan Marshall - High School
Daniel Artale - PASC (DISTRICT TAOY)

Safety and Security

BCSS conducted its first round of Safety and Security Task Force meetings. There are SS Task Forces for BCIT West and BCSS Lumberton. These groups consist of school/district personnel, police, fire, EMS, and County OEM. These required groups are very important to planning for a safe and secure school environment. The Task Forces discuss issues and initiatives related to ensure a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

BCSS Aquatics Program

Our new teacher, Alyssa Amodio, and our Aquatics Director, Dawn Willers (YMCA), are making outstanding progress preparing to provide the highest quality aquatics instructional and therapeutic program in the safest environment for our students.

- Y staff have been trained regarding our students and their needs. Our staff have been trained regarding new policies and procedures.
- We are preparing to assess students and staff for their aquatics readiness.
- New curriculum has been created and lesson plans are being prepared.
- The pool office has been completely renovated.
- Pool storage areas have been renovated.
- Supplies have been replaced and new supplies procured to meet student needs.
- The diving board has been removed.
- The Y has taken over scheduling and managing outside pool users and the pools are guarded with 2 guards at all times.
- Updated our swim permission forms for children, and created a medical clearance form, which was reviewed by our District physician and nurses.
- Scheduled a site visit to an established program to affirm that we are doing all the right things, and to get some new ideas.
- Finally, we are planning free swimming lessons for staff to help anyone who wishes to become more comfortable in the water.

We are very pleased with the progress. We should have students in the pool soon.
**Spring Calendar Events**

April brings us various events, recognitions, and celebrations that can be integrated within your instruction.

**National Poetry Month:** For more information contact the Children’s Book Council, web site: www.cbcbooks.org

**April 1st - April Fools’ Day:** Always observed on April 1. A day for pranks and placing people in situations that make them look like an “April Fool.”

**April 2nd - International Children’s Book Day:** Celebrated on Hans Christian Andersen’s birthday to help children develop an understanding of other cultures through literature. Each year a different national section of the International Board on Books for Young People sponsors the day, chooses a theme, invites an author to write a message, and invites an illustrator to design a poster. These materials promote books and reading around the world. Web sites: www.usbby.org; www.ibby.org.

**April 7th - World Health Day:** Celebrated on this date each year to emphasize significant issues in public health of worldwide concern. Web site: www.who.int/world-health-day/en/.

**April 7th - Holocaust Remembrance Day** (Yom Hashoah): Begins at sunset, April 6th. Honors the memory of 6 million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished in Nazi Holocaust.

**April 12th - Anniversary of the First Man in Space:** Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on this date in 1961, when he made a 1 hour, 29-minute voyage, orbiting Earth in spacecraft Vostok I, launched by the USSR.

**April 13th - Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday** (1743 to 1826): This date honors Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the USA. He is also the author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom, and founder of the University of Virginia.

**Week of April 13th – 19th National Environmental Education Week:** This week encourages students to have a positive environmental impact in their schools, homes, and communities. Web site: www.eeweek.org.

**National Library Week:** This week is dedicated to promote the use and support of all types of libraries. Web site: www.ala.org.

**April 15th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Titanic:** On this date in 1912, the “unsinkable” ship Titanic sank on its first voyage after colliding with an iceberg; approximately 1,500 of the estimated 2,200 people on board died.
**Patriot’s Day**: Always observed the third Monday in April in Maine and Massachusetts to commemorate the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which began the Revolutionary War in 1775. Observed on April 19th in some states.

**National Library Workers Day**: is celebrated the Tuesday of National Library Week.

**April 18th - Anniversary of Paul Revere’s Ride**: The “midnight ride” of Paul Revere started at about 10 p.m. on this day in 1775.

**Week of April 21st – 25th Administrative Professionals Week and Day**: This is celebrated a full week in April with Administrative Professionals Day falling on the Wednesday of that week. Observed to recognize the contributions of administrative support staff in the workplace and to encourage professional development. Web site: www.iaap-hq.org/APW/apwiindex.htm.

**National Coin Week**: This week is designated to promote coin collecting and to emphasize its educational aspects. Web site: www.money.org.

**National Student Leadership Week**: Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage and recognize the many student leadership activities in our nation’s secondary schools. Web site: www.principals.org.

**National Volunteer Week**: By presidential proclamation, a week to recognize and celebrate the important work that volunteers do every day and to explore ways to help others in need. Web site: www.handsonnetwork.org.

**Public School Volunteer Week**: To encourage parents and citizens to volunteer in their public schools; observed the third week of April. Web site: www.projectappleseed.org.

You can now access our District Policies on our Website. Select “Bylaws and Policies” under “Our District.”
April 22nd - **Earth Day: Observed** on this day each year to acknowledge our responsibility for the environment and to make a stronger commitment to take action for the coming year. Web site: www.earthday.net.

April 23rd - **William Shakespeare’s Birthday:** (1564 – 1616): William Shakespeare, poet and dramatist in Elizabethan England, was born on this date in 1564 and also died on this date in 1616.

April 24th
**Commemoration of Armenian Genocide:** A day to remember the Armenians who were tortured, killed, and deported against their will by the Young Turks and Turkish Nationalists during 1915-1918 and 1920-1923. Web site: www.armenian-genocide.org.

**Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day:** Celebrated the fourth Thursday in April. This program encourages parents and other adults to bring girls and boys to work with them and show them the wide range of jobs available to them. Web site: www.daughtersandsonstowork.org.

April 25th - **National Arbor Day:** This date is designated to encourage people to plant and care for trees. Web site: www.arborday.org.

April 29th - **International Dance Day:** Celebrated on the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet, to unite the cultures of the world with the common entity of dance. Every year the dance committee of the UNESCO International Theatre Institute selects a message from an outstanding choreographer or dance to promote dance throughout the world. Web site: www.unesco.org.
Open House
Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 7 – 9 p.m.
Burlington County Special Services School District
20 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton, NJ 08060

Why Burlington County Special Services?
Your child will be provided:
- with a comprehensive CST offering expansive services
- comprehensive vocational and transitional programs
- an intimate, individualized experience
- access to: psychiatric services, therapy, counseling, and aquatics
- a comprehensive educational and therapeutic education
- special activities, field trips, and programs focused specifically for children with special needs

Evening includes brief general informational presentation followed by break-out sessions with teaching staff and tour of facility.

Maximize Your Child’s Potential at Burlington County Special Services School District

Attendance is encouraged for parents and students. Supervised care will be provided for every student, ages 3 - 21.

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