

Our Member Districts

- ◇ Attleboro
- ◇ Bellingham
- ◇ Blackstone
- ◇ Easton
- ◇ Foxborough
- ◇ Franklin
- ◇ Hopedale
- ◇ Mansfield
- ◇ Milford
- ◇ Millville
- ◇ Norfolk
- ◇ Norton
- ◇ North Attleboro
- ◇ Plainville
- ◇ Swansea
- ◇ Tri-County
- ◇ Uxbridge
- ◇ Walpole
- ◇ Wrentham



Bi-County Collaborative
Making It Possible

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Letter from Our Executive Director

As BICO closes out the 2018-2019 school year, we can look back and be proud of many accomplishments. We opened the Elementary Learning Center and broke ground for a new playground at the Bi-County Regional Education Center in Walpole; we enrolled 234 students, the highest enrollment ever at BICO; and we held more events for family and community engagement than ever before.

In November, at our Life Roles Education Program in Norfolk, students, staff, parents and community members gathered together for a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil BICO's second eye gaze technology system donated by the MTEAM and CAPA International. This technology is fascinating to our students. The use of this technology provides them with a means of communication for the very first time. You can view the details of this wonderful event and amazing technology on the home page of BICO's web-site at www.bicounty.org.

In May the programs at Summit teamed together to host an Art and Talent Show. This

event brought staff, community members, parents and students together to celebrate art, music, role playing, singing, dance, and more. This event included participation of students from elementary ages through high school. The dedication of staff truly shines brightly at events like this when all members of the BICO community join together to celebrate the talents of our students.

In June, at our Life Roles Education Program in Norton, our middle school students held a Cultural Day showcasing the diversity of our community. Those in attendance visited, learned, and tasted the delights of Pakistan, Ireland, Colombia, Scotland, Germany, Italy, and England. Students participated in cooking groups to prepare international cuisine. This was a great opportunity to try foods from other countries that their classmates might eat at home but wouldn't get the chance to cook in class. It also allowed the students to work on choice-making and basic research. Students took a trip to the Norton Public Library to check out books about



each of the countries, and a trip to the grocery store to purchase items for an English cookie recipe.

In addition, a Science Fair was held at BICO's Specialized Language Based Program at the Martin School in North Attleboro. Rachel Carpenter's students presented on a range of science projects including Magnetricity, Crystals, a Marbel Track, a Lava Lamp and more.

As the year drew to a close graduation ceremonies from preschool through high school were enjoyed. Each event celebrated the growth of students from across BICO's many programs.

~Arlene



Bi-County Spring Graduates!

Haseef Shaik

Life Roles

Transition

Center

Walpole

On May 24th the Life Roles Transition Center was pleased to host a graduation ceremony for Haseef Shaik. It was a special graduation as Haseef had been with BICO for his high school and transition years. Haseef had several family members and friends present at his graduation. It was a lovely ceremony with Nancy Regan, Director of Student Services and Ben Giuffrida, Program Director, sharing fond and funny

memories of Haseef's time at BICO. Valerie Jones created a fabulous slideshow highlighting Haseef's academic, vocational and community experiences which was enjoyed by all. The ceremony was capped off with a reception. Family, friends, staff and students shared pizza brought by Haseef's family, as well as snacks, cake and drinks. We wish Haseef the best of luck as he transitions to new adventures!



Cooper

Learning

Center

Blackstone

On June 10th the Learning Center Program held a graduation ceremony. Families, friends and staff were on hand to see Cooper and Derek accept their diplomas. Mr. Drake shared some witty and wise words about the current graduates. Dr.

Grubert also spoke and presented the graduates with the book *The Missing Piece* by Shel Silverstein. A reception was held after the ceremony for the graduates, their guests and staff. We wish our graduates the best of luck!

Derek

Learning

Center

Blackstone

Breaking Ground on our New Playground



In June the site prep for BICO's new playground began. We hope to have the play area completed by late July so that our elementary and middle school students can enjoy this new outdoor play space. Several parent donations along with support from our Board of Director's will soon make this playground a reality.

SEAP: Wood School, Plainville~5 Wits Trip



Students Pictured: Benjamin Laren, Michael Cicerone, Nicholas Roberts, and Sean Kane

Over the course of the school year the students at SEAP have earned many community outings. The students have used a Super-flex game board in earning each activity. The students earn spaces on the game board

by showing ways to beat the Unthinkable Characters that challenge us each and every day that we learn about in Social Skills groups. Our last trip was to 5 Wits at Patriot Place where the students had to work together to solve the clues presented to them to beat the challenge. This field trip really helped to incorporate the skills learned throughout the year with teamwork and collaboration.

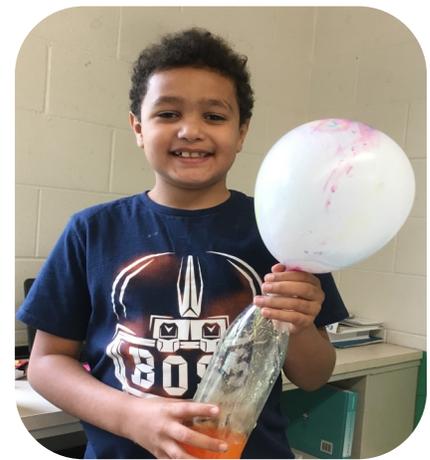
SLBP: Martin School, North Attleboro~Annual Science Fair

We have had a fantastic year of learning at the Martin School in North Attleboro. Students have made a great deal of progress in all areas. One of the highlights of our Spring has been developing friendships with our neighboring classroom. Students have joined us twice a week for various activities. For the past several months, we have been focusing on science activities during this time. Our class is currently preparing for a

science fair that we will share with our parents and friends from our neighboring class. It will be a great ending to a terrific year at the Martin School.



Izzy with a peer mentor



Kawan practicing his science project

PDLP and EDLP: Jordan Jackson, Mansfield~Sweetheart Dance

Staff, students and their families enjoyed a sweet celebration at their Candyland-themed "special someone" after-school dance in April. Students voted for the theme, and worked hard to help make decorations, including life size candy! Everyone was dressed to impress, while participating in dancing, games, and mingling. The best part of the night was a surprise cotton candy machine, which each student was able to enjoy a taste of!



Lukas Palermo and Family

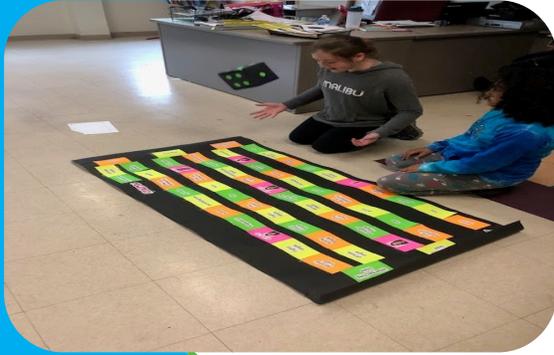


TEAP: Wood School, Plainville ~ Math Games

The TEAP at Wood School started a "reverse inclusion" program. Sixth grade students from Wood school join our class once a week for a STEM activity. The students have done a nice job working together and creating some great projects. Some activi-

ties we have created were making a bridge to hold pennies, building shelters that could withstand water, an egg drop and building roller coasters. This program was enjoyed by all students and staff. It really was a great time to practice social skills

in a large group setting. Our class has also made large scale games from our GO Math program. On Fridays, at the end of math, we have game centers with these games. Our parents came in and students will be teaching their parents how to play these games.



TEAP: Millville ~ Celebrating Our Parents

We have had a great year and wanted to end it by celebrating our parents who have also worked hard to help make it a successful year. Today we held our first Parent Appreciation Day with an "Out of This World" theme. We invited families in for a light breakfast and then a morning filled with activities. There was a S'mores

station, a candy bar buffet, flower pot painting and planting station, the space themed photo booth, and I can't forget everyone's favorite-the Space Ball Blaster. The challenge of the day was our coping skills Escape Room, which was challenging, but everyone made it out with lots of smiles and laughs. The

students and their families had such a great time and we look forward to doing something special next year too.



AMS: Franklin ~ Annual Science Fair

Our Alternative Middle School program at Keller-Sullivan Middle School in Franklin held its annual science fair in late February. All the students were well-prepared to present their projects to the many parents and staff who attended the fair.



SMS: Walpole~A Year In Review



Our classrooms operate like a true community. Throughout this year, we completed reading and analyzing four novels with reports to follow. In addition, students completed two GO MATH Assessments. During the fall, we orchestrated a Friendsgiving, complete with a whole turkey and the fixings. Every Thursday is ice skating at Rodman Arena, where kids can learn to skate and see their favorite staff fall down on the ice. Sounds like a blast right? Every Friday brings the opportunity to go to the YMCA.

There, students can play any number of activities. For other students, Friday means L.A.R.P. time! Live action role-playing, or L.A.R.Ping (organized by Mr. Brennan), has become a hit amongst our fantasy-and-video-game community. To support and nurture this degree of creativity, Art and Music classes are held weekly. At the end of the year, Mr. Jackson organizes and presents a talent show for the entire school, showcasing the students' very special talents. And that's not all - we go on many community outings to Special Olympics events (bowling and a field day at Attleboro High School). Recently, Walpole Police Officer Ryan joined our students for a game of basketball. We are proud to illustrate an environment of patience and encouragement for our students!

TEP: Foxboro~ Showing Off Our Creative Side

Throughout this school year, Therapeutic Educational Program students were fortunate to participate in weekly art classes. It was great to see their creative sides come alive. Some projects they worked on were handmade window clings, tile coasters, wooden napkin holders that they designed and wood burned, tie-dye shirts, volcanoes, crayon art, water bottle cars, mini foosball tables, paper-mache, ceramic

bowls, marshmallow structures, fabric dog toys, handmade wooden rubix cubes and paracord bracelets to name a few. The students excelled at these projects and truly worked hard. They were proud to bring them home and share them with family members.



LREP: Norton ~ Art Gallery

Back in February, Life Roles Education Program hosted an Art Gallery for family and friends to attend! Staff chose different artists or techniques to teach the students about, which included Picasso, Matisse, Pollock, Pointillism, Sculpture, and Folk Art. Students watched educational videos and read stories

about each artist or technique before creating their own artwork! Their artwork was placed on display to represent different "exhibits." Then, each student was assigned to an exhibit and presented information to their friends and family, demonstrating what they have learned.

ATP: Walpole~ Harbor One Seminar Series



Lyndon Berube calculates the cost of buying auto insurance .

Adult Transition Program (ATP) students have participated in a series of seminars presented by HarborOne Bank in Mansfield this school year. The seminars are designed to educate students on money management and employment skills. Topics included: "Personal Money Management", which focused on the importance of

saving money and being a smart shopper; "Protecting Your Identity", which focused on protecting personal information; "Effective Interview Skills and Employer Expectations", which focused on preparing for a job interview and employability skills; "Mock Interviews", students practiced their job interview skills with bank employees; "Balancing Act", which focused on managing a budget and making smart financial decisions. The culminating activity was the "Credit for Life Fair", which is a fun,

interactive activity where students role-play a young adult with a simulated job, salary and expenses. Students visit various booths, staffed by bank employees and make "real-life" financial choices. Students track their expenses and learn to balance their budget. Some students from STAP, Summit High School and the Learning Center programs have also participated in these seminars. Thank you to Sheila and Maureen and the staff at HarborOne Bank, Mansfield!

LRTC and STAP: Walpole~A Night to Remember

This year the LRTC (Life Roles Transition Center), and the STAP (Secondary Therapeutic Alternative High School) program participated in the annual BiCounty Collaborative Spring Prom. The event was hosted at Lake Pearl Luci-

ano's and proved to be another festive event. Throughout the year our students work tirelessly to improve themselves and show progress within an academic setting. School events such as prom provide

our students the opportunity to grow socially and celebrate themselves and their peers. It was with great pleasure that both teachers and staff had the chance to observe our students as they experienced prom. That

evening our of our STAP students shined. You could see in each of them a sense of pride as they entered the facility dressed to impress and looking their best. It was a time for students to get together, talk, laugh, and of course dance!



SHS: Walpole ~High Expectations in Academics

Debbie Winston, English and History:

Through both our English and history classes, we've engaged in discussions and activities about identity. Students considered who they are; what they want; and how they're going to get it. Students expanded their ability to analyze and evaluate these messages with the Big 5 Tools of: audience/purpose; content/theme; tone/mood; stylistic devices; and structure. Furthermore, they established ideas about culture and society, so that when they complain about an issue or situation they begin to reflect upon what they can do. In other words, they determine whether they are part of the solution or part of the problem, since we are the individuals that make up a culture and society.

As members of the Summit High School culture and our American society, students

began to understand that they are the change they want to see, which is done by examining values, goals, and beliefs regularly. Their ability to self-reflect upon their identity and an awareness of the influences upon it helped them understand their purpose, achieve greater happiness, and provided a foundation for them to thrive.

Joel Hoffman, Math: All Summit math classes (Algebra-1, Geometry, Algebra-2, Financial Literacy) did a unit on Data Analysis and became more proficient in reading, interpreting, and creating various charts and graphs. A fourth quarter activity included charting Mr. Hoffman's weight loss and doing various calculations on the data.

In addition, selected students periodically used the online platform of IXL to review previously learned mathematics at their own level and pace. This invention allowed these students to increase their math skills .

Our seniors took Financial Literacy for their math course. Through accessing selected lessons from online resources, such as Khan Academy, Next Gen Personal Finance, and Banzai, the students learned about budgets, pay stubs, credit cards, health insurance, housing and car expenses, taxes, how to pay for college, interest, debt, investments, and retirement. In the fall three seniors were assisted in utilizing some of their math time in studying for the math portion of the SAT.

Extended School Year Summer Dates

Middle and High School Therapeutic Programs

Location: Bi-County Regional Education Center (Summit)

4 Days: Monday-Thursday

Time: 8:30-1:30

Elementary Therapeutic Programs

Location: Anna Ware Jackson School, Plainville

5 Days: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:30-1:30

Middle and High School Intensive Programs

Location: Bi-County Campus School

Mansion Drive, Walpole

5 Days: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:30-1:30

Elementary Intensive Programs

Location: Jordan Jackson School, Mansfield

5 Days: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:40-3:00

July 1st – August 10th