

## Our Member Districts

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

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Bi-County Collaborative  
Making It Possible

FALL\WINTER 2019

## Letter from Our Executive Director

As we welcome 2019, Bi-County has a lot to be grateful for and celebrate! With the opening of new programs this year including the Specialized Language Based program at the Martin School in North Attleboro and the Summit Elementary Learning Center in Walpole, we have seen a significant increase in referrals and enrollment. We presently have 232 students enrolled in BICO programs which speaks to the quality, dedication and commitment of our outstanding organization.

The quality of educational programming at BICO is

strengthened by our staff's commitment to learning together in our 11 established PLCs or Professional Learning Communities. We are devoting much of our early release time and professional development this year to build our culture of evaluating student work and assessment data and using that data to make determinations regarding instruction to improve student learning. Because our population is so diverse in learning levels, challenges and ability, this is not an easy task. However, through the leadership of our Program Directors and very talented teacher leaders we, at BICO,

are supporting this initiative with enthusiasm and commitment.

All of our staff including leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers are making it part of the culture at BICO to examine student work and use that work to reach even higher to improve achievement results for all of our students. Working in our PLCs keeps us all on the same page when it comes to student learning.

I could not be prouder when it comes to the excellence in teamwork at BICO!

Arlene

## Eye Gaze Technology Allows Students to Communicate for the First Time

In November, BICO's King Philip Middle School Program was honored to accept a generous donation of the Tobii PCEye Plus, from the MTeam (a Best Buddies challenge team, who's Chief Motivating Officer is our very own Meredith Lewis). John Christian, M Team Captain and CAPA President and CEO gifted this technology before staff, families and the news media during a special ribbon ceremony.

This is the second donation of this incredible software. The first was donated last spring to our Mansfield Preschool and Elementary Programs. This assistive technology works through eye-tracking software, allowing students to control a mouse on a screen with their eyes. It provides many new opportunities for non-verbal students who have difficulty controlling

their body's movements. A few of our students showed off their skills on the new device. We call them celebrities now, since it was even televised that evening on the New England News Network!



## Bi-County December Graduates



On Tuesday, December 11, 2018, a graduation celebration was held at the Life Roles Transition Center in Walpole for Robert Goff and Bradley Drapeau. Throughout their BiCo career, both worked hard on learning academic and vocational skills, including attending job sites at the Big Y, Franklin Housing Authority, and Pond Home. Robert began to attend the May Institute for Adult Services a week after his graduation from BiCo. Bradley worked very hard

during his years at BiCo, and has become a "right hand" to his teachers. Bradley's observant nature has lead to success at his job sites. Bradley's post-graduate plans are undetermined as of yet.

On Friday, December 21, 2018, a graduation celebration was held at Summit High School for senior Keishe Diaz. Keishe attended Summit for several years and accomplished many of her academic and career development goals. While at Summit, Keishe taught Spanish and

American Sign Language classes to younger students and frequently volunteered as a secretary. Keishe plans on attending college and pursue a degree in Animal Sciences.



## BICO Opens New Elementary Program in Walpole

On August 23, 2018 Summit Elementary Learning Center held an open house. This event culminated many hours of planning for Bi-County Collaborative's first ever public day program for elementary students. The open house offered parents, districts and staff an opportunity to see the physical space located on

the lower level of the Bi-County Regional Education Center in Walpole, which also houses our Summit Middle and High School Programs. It was also an opportunity to share information about how the program would support the educational, therapeutic and behavioral needs of elementary students whose current

needs are not met in a less restrictive environment.

The program opened on August 29, 2018 with twelve students and five staff split into two rooms—an upper elementary classroom and a lower elementary classroom

The open central space offers the students room to explore and find favorite

spots. The open gym space offers students a place to release energy; the therapy room provides a quiet sensory space; and the time out space allows students a cool down area.

In the spring we are breaking ground on a new playground! We are off to an exciting first year! We can't wait to see our students soar!



Peer mentors visiting Ms. Masseur's classroom

## Peer Mentors Establish Positive Relationships ~TEAP Millville

Our peer mentor program started three years ago and has since been a success! The goal has always been for our students to establish positive relationships by engaging with select fourth and fifth

grade students of Millville Elementary as they provide support, encouragement, and guidance with school-work and social interactions. This allows for our students to increase social connectedness, self-esteem, improve social skills, and sense of community. The Mentors

come 2-3 times each week for about 30 minutes. These times may be during academic periods or during unstructured breaks that are scheduled throughout the school day. Our students look forward to the days in which mentors come into the classroom.

## Thankful Summit Middle School Students Celebrate Friendsgiving



Students from Mrs. Messier's Class and Mrs. Sousa's class celebrated Friendsgiving. Students wrote up what they were thankful for and shared before they ate. All the food was donated by the Franklin Food Pantry.

"I am thankful for my mom. She cooks for me and puts a roof over my head. I am thankful for my papa. He makes me dinner, is a really good cook and lets me sleep there every weekend. I am thankful for food. I like tacos, nachos, and lasagna. I am thankful for BICO, all the staff and students. I am also thankful for my best friend Z, she has been in my class for the last six years. We met in BICO at the Olive Day school in first grade." Vincent M.

"I'm thankful for my loving family. I'm also thankful for my friends that keep me going every single day. I'm thankful for life...I am also thankful for my sisters. I am thankful for animals because they keep me calm. I am thankful for my large family at Summit Middle School...I am thankful for my mom's brand new car. Lastly, I am thankful for all of you for being there for me, just know I will be there for you too. Thank you! ." Emma A.

## LARPing Takes Over Video Games at Summit Middle School

Live-Action Role Playing, or LARPing, offers our students the opportunity to play an imaginative part in an ancient world of warriors, competing against each other in a tournament of true champions.

"It's fun. It helps us relieve stress," says Gavin Dudley, Mrs. Sousa's class, Grade 8.

"You actually have to use your own creativity. It can be really

interesting to create your own story in your head," Kevin Graveson, Mrs. Sousa's class, Grade 7.

Students who have earned Friday Activity and agreed to the written rules are able to imagine their own character and backstory and plunge into a world of medieval fantasy. Students may craft their own tools to do respectable battle with their peers, and enjoy the spoils of victory! We hope to continue LARPing and other the-

atrical activities to promote teamwork, sportsmanship and community throughout the school year!

"You actually have to use your own creativity. It can be really interesting to create your own story in your head"



## Foxboro Police Invited to TEP Foxboro for Lunch

### By Jake Charette, Grade 6

On November 27, 2018, I asked Ms. Guarino if I could write a nice letter to the school police officers to invite them to my classroom for lunch. I delivered the letter to Officer Frank on Tuesday. He was with Officer William, and they were both sweet to me. Officer Frank said if I had a great week, they would both come to my classroom on Friday to have lunch with me.

On November 30, 2018, both Officer Frank & Officer William came to my classroom and ate lunch with me and my peers. The two peer mentors also joined us.

During lunch, we sat in a big circle. The officers ate pizza and FroYo, while telling us why and how they became police officers. It was cool that they showed us their gear. We got to see the handcuffs, the pep-

per spray, and the tasers. I thought the gear was scary and loud for my ears.

Overall, it was a great experience! I hope they can come some other time, too.



Jake Charette with Foxboro Police Officers Will and Frank

# Bi-County Opens New Classroom in Life Roles Program



As our Life Roles Program continues to grow, we have opened another classroom at Mansion Drive in Walpole. The classroom is a bright and airy space on the third floor of our building. We are having a soft opening of this space for now: groups of students are rotating through the space for small group instruction, morning meeting, MCAS assignments and other activities. We are also pleased to announce that Miss Shannon

Tuffy will be staying on as a teacher in the program.

We have also created a sensory room adjacent to this classroom. In consultation with our BCBA and our Occupational Therapist, this space has been purposefully designed to allow students access to a quiet space to take a break and/or to utilize aspects of their sensory diets.

We look forward to hosting an Open House in March. For more information regarding the upcoming Open House, email Lisa Sleboda, Program Director at [lisleboda@bicounty.org](mailto:lisleboda@bicounty.org).

(Left) New Classroom

(Below) New Sensory Room



## Professional Development Offerings

### Lesley University

#### Lesley Institute for Trauma Sensitivity

Course One: The Impact of Trauma on Learning

Starting Monday, January 14, 2019; (8wk, hybrid course)

Time: 4:30-7:30

Cost: \$500

PDPs: 67.5

### Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) Course

Wednesdays

Begins February 27, 2019 (9 face to face and 4 online sessions)

Time: 4:00-7:00

Cost: \$400 member districts/\$500 non-member districts

PDPs: 40

### SEI Full Teacher Endorsement

Tuesdays

Starting March 5, 2019 (13 sessions)

Time: 4:00-7:00

Cost: \$450/optional \$225 for course credit

PDPs: 67.5

### SEI Administrator Endorsement

Tuesdays

Starting March 12, 2019 (5 sessions)

Time: 4:00-7:00

Cost: \$300 member districts/\$350 non-member districts

PDPs: 15/22.5 optional 1 graduate credit

Visit Our Website for More Information

# You're Invited!

## To BICO Norton's Art Gallery

Our students have begun learning about different artists and techniques! We will be displaying our artwork around the classroom along with a slideshow presentation.



**When:** February 15th from 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

\*Slideshow will begin at 1:30\*

**Where:** Norton classroom

**Who:** Family and Friends!

\*Please let us know if you'll be attending  
and how many people to expect\*