VOL. 19, NO. 7 APRIL 2017

PPO CONNECTIONS

THE QUICK DETAILS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BCA
WWW.ACADEMYPPO.COM

PPO Board Message

As a parent of a senior, I can attest to the crazy, emotional and challenging journey that many of us faced. In senior year, parents are often quiet about their concerns and worries as their children navigate the college process. Once decisions are announced, senior parents emerge and are ready to share their wisdom. At our May 23rd meeting, senior parents will share their personal insights from their journeys through the college application process. Many underclass parents who have attended this meeting in previous years have shared how useful the information was for them. We are confident that those who attend this year will feel the same.

The dialogue around colleges continued as the annual BCTS College Fair was held last week. It is always an excellent opportunity for all underclass students and their families to start or continue their college exploration journey. All grades are welcome to attend this yearly fair so if you missed it be sure to watch for dates next year.

As our seniors are making their final decisions, acceptances for the BCA Class of 2021 were mailed out over the spring break. One of our BCA traditions is to welcome the new class at our Annual PPO Picnic, which will be held on Saturday, May 20th, rain or shine. All PPO members are cordially invited to attend. Please make sure that you sign up on the PPO website, www.academyppo.com. It will greatly assist our picnic planning committee to ensure that we have enough food for everyone. As always, the more volunteers the greater success for the event so if you would like to help grill, set up or clean up please contact our picnic committee. It is a really fun day for all and a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new families while spending time socializing with one another. Make sure to stop by the upper parking lot to get your car cleaned by our Freshmen class as they hold their car washing fundraiser.

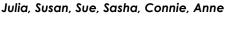
Finally, the last PPO General Meeting of the school year will take place on Monday, May 23rd and will include elections for next year's PPO Board as well as our Senior Parent panels. We hope to see you there.

The PPO Board
Julia Susan Sue Sasha Connie Anne

Calendar Highlights

May 6th	SAT Testing - Off site
May 12th	Junior Prom 7:00-11:00 pm Old Tappan Manor
May 16th	Spring Concert & Chamber Choir Concert 7:30-9:00 pm Auditorium
May 17th	Half Day - Staff Development
May 17th	ACAHAPA Fundraiser Rosa Mexicano at Riverside Square Mall
May 17th	Class of 2021 Induction Ceremony 7:00 pm Auditorium
May 19th	LitMag Music & Poetry Night 5:30-8:30 pm The Grille
May 20th	Annual PPO Picnic 12:00-4:00 Athletic Field
May 20th	Freshmen Car Wash 12:00-4:00 pm BCA Parking Lot
May 23rd	PPO General Meeting - The College Process "How To Do What We Just Did" 7:30 pm Auditorium
May 25th	Half Day - Curriculum Revision/Advisory Boards
May 25th	Career Day (Rescheduled) -

Grades 10-12





Academy Parent Partnership Organization

A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Submit all calendar entries and Fong at bcapponewsletter@gm
2017.

From the Principal's Desk



"Mission Accomplished - Homestays for Global Visitors"

Homestays for Global Visitors

I am proud to say that an initiative we began last April is coming to fruition. In our effort to increase collaboration through Global Exchanges with schools around the world we discovered that some schools found it too expensive to visit BCA mostly due to the high cost of hotels. Many schools asked if we would consider homestays. Following discussions with our Superintendent Dr. Howard Lerner and the Board of Education, we were able to arrange for homestays with BCA families for global visitors. We created a website to allow families to register and I'm happy to report that our first homestay visitors from Greece have arrived! Many thanks to the families that have opened their homes to our visitors. I encourage all families to visit our new Homestay website and register as a BCA Host family for upcoming global exchanges.

https://www.bergen.org/bcahostfamily

Recent NCSSS Board Meeting

I recently returned from the April board meeting of the National Coalition of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) in Washington, D.C. While there, I had the opportunity to discuss educational policy and review educational initiatives with representatives from the STEM Education Coalition, Cyber Patriot, the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Sciences Teachers Association and Apple, Inc. As President of NCSSS, I truly appreciate the efforts of my fellow board members and those in related organizations and corporations who work tirelessly to improve the educational offerings we provide for high school students across the nation. Whether it is providing input on STEM funding initiatives on Capitol Hill or discussing ways to bring coding to more students, I appreciate the passion people bring to the table to promote positive change.

HackBCA IV - A tremendous success

I am proud to report that our HackBCA event was once again a tremendous success. This 24 hour overnight event would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of the student organizers, Mr. Respass, Mr. Isecke and all of the teachers, parents and sponsors who supported the event. Thank you to everyone involved in this successful event!

Please view our Superintendent Dr. Howard Lerner's Message by using this link:

Mr. Nodarse named BCA's "Teacher of the Year"

Congratulations to Carlos Nodarse, selected by his colleagues as BCA's "Teacher of the Year". Carlos has done a great job in the Mechatronics Lab working with students to imagine, design and create prototypes of new inventions. Visitors to Mr. Nodarse's Mechatronics lab will hear him proudly describe the myriad of current projects that his students are working on. From automatic pill dispensers, to autonomous robots, to miniature submarines and so much more. If you would like to learn more about the types of projects his students are working on, you can check out their videos below. Congratulations Carlos! https://www.instructables.com/member/bcamrl/instructables/

Mr. Zurich named BCA's "Educational Services Professional of the Year"

Congratulations to Mr. Ken Zurich, our Lead Teacher in the Guidance Department. Ken is our "Educational Services Professional of the Year." Ken has done an outstanding job working with his fellow counselors and coordinating the services of our School Counseling Department. The Counseling Department offers a wide array of services for our students and families. Ken works diligently to insure that our students get the support they need through wellness and counseling services. The department also arranges for regional college tours, the Bergen County Academies College Fair and the College Exploration Experience (CEE). Congratulations Ken!

Come on out and support BCA's Relay for Life

Friday June 9th is the date of our annual Relay for Life event. This year's theme is "Carnival" and we are looking forward to another successful fundraiser in the fight against cancer. If you have never participated in this event I strongly encourage you to do so. So many people are affected by cancer each year and events like Relay allow us to work together and work towards a cure for cancer. I am extremely proud that since starting Relay for Life several years ago, the BCA Community has raised over \$300K for the American Cancer Society. Please join us at this year's event.

Have a wonderful Spring! Russell Davis Principal

Superintendent Letter April 2017

Class News Updates

Class of 2017

Greetings Class of 2017!

Our sincere gratitude to all who helped make the Senior Fashion Show a success! The models looked amazing as they walked the runway. We would like to thank our teacher advisors and class council as well as the Fashion Show Committee members who volunteered hours of their time to help out with this event! A shout out also goes out to the Junior class parents who helped backstage throughout the evening.

We have many exciting events coming up in June and have begun planning for all of them. Our class trip to Great Adventure will take place on Wednesday, June 7th. Please look out for more details on purchasing discounted tickets for your students. The Yearbook Signing Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, June 14th at the Old Tappan Manor. For those who paid class dues, this event has been covered. We are also finalizing all Senior Prom plans which will take place on Thursday, June 15th at the Rockleigh Country Club. We will be sending out complete details for every event happening in June including ticket information for graduation and requests for help, so watch your inbox!

Each student will receive 4 tickets for the graduation ceremony (your graduate does not need a ticket) which will take place in our auditorium at 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 22nd. They will also receive 2 tickets for those who would like to come to watch the ceremony on a tv screen in the lower cafeteria. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide additional tickets so please plan accordingly. Students will need to arrive early on the night of graduation and if they are signed up for Project Graduation, they will leave on a bus as soon as the graduation ceremony concludes.

Wishing everyone the best during this exciting time! As always, any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Best, D'Arcy Natale & Allison Orecchio bcaclassof2017@gmail.com

Class of 2018

Hello Class of 2018!

Thank you to all who helped with our successful Cabaret. The performances were wonderful and we had a terrific audience! We raffled off almost 60 beautiful baskets, thanks to the generous donations from so many of our class families and local businesses. We would especially like to thank the parents who volunteered so much of their time on our Cabaret committees. We could not have done it without your help.

Our busy year continues: **Junior Prom** is just a few weeks away! It will be held at **The Old Tappan Manor on Friday, May 12.** Tickets go on sale on Monday, April 24 during lunch mods. Tickets will be \$77.00 during this first week of sale. Tickets increase to \$80.00 the week of May 1, and \$82.00 the week of May 8. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

And finally, we will have one more coffee hour before the end of the year. We will send out an email with the date and time.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, ideas or concerns.

Warmly,

Jordana, Rena and Christine

BCAClassof2018@gmail.com

Class of 2020

To the parents of the class of 2020,

We had the college fair last week which was a big success. Thanks to all of the freshman parents for all of their food and drink donations for the college representatives. We could not have done it without all your support. As a reminder, on May 20th at the PPO picnic, the freshman class will have a car wash fundraiser. More details to follow and we look forward to seeing you in your dirty cars.

Renata Ayob, Roxann Castelli, Larry Cline bcaclassof2020@gmail.com

An Added Note:

One goal of our monthly PPO meetings is to feature presentations from relevant outside resources available to the community. It is not, however, a PPO practice to endorse them for your own use. We hope you will use your best judgment deciding whether you choose to utilize their services.



Notable Creative Writing

More writing accolades for our fine BCA writers to crow about!

- An AMST junior won a full scholarship to the nationally recognized Kenyon Review Young Writers Program. She also won a Gold Medal in Poetry from the 2017 NJCTE High School Writing Contest, which also wins her an NJ Governor's Award in Arts Education. She also had a poem selected by Aerie International, a worldwide publication of young writers.
- An ABF junior was a finalist for Bluefire's \$1000 for 1000 words fiction contest.
 She also won a Silver Medal in Short Story from the 2017 NJCTE High School Writing Contest
- An ABF senior won a Silver Medal in Personal Essay from the 2017 NJCTE High School Writing Contest
- An AVPA senior was chosen for production in the 2017 NJ Young Playwrights
 Festival, for which she will also receive an NJ Governor's Award in Arts
 Education. This student also had a play accepted into The Blank Theatre's Young
 Playwrights Festival, which will offer a professional production of her play in Los
 Angeles
- Four students (including two of the students above) were selected as Judge's
 Choices in the first NJ Youth Poet Laureate contest. Five students were selected
 for the contest's Poems of Place category, which will feature their work on an
 interactive map on the contest's website
- Two students were Topical Winners in the Just Poetry! High School Poetry contest

Stunning accomplishments by all!

Richard Weems
Literature and Creative Writing

The 2017 BCA Summer Writing Fiction course is currently full, but seats still remain for the Poetry course!!

Please go to sw.bergen.org for more details and for other Fiction writing options.

Attendees of this program in past years have won the following accolades:

- Finalist in Michelle Obama's Poetry Ambassadors program (x2)
- National medals in the Scholastic Writing Awards
- NJ Governor's Award in the Arts
- Gold medal, NJCTE High School Writing contest
- The Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers
- Bergen High School Writing Contest in short story

Richard Weems
Literature and Creative Writing



BCA Creative Writing Research program invites sophomores to apply for the 2017/2018 school year!!!

The BCA Creative Writing research program allows upperclassman to develop their writing, receive feedback and submit to various contests and writing opportunities. **Applications from current sophomores are due May 22.** Interested sophomores should look for the email and Schoology announcement about application materials or contact Mr. Weems (ricwee@bergen.org).

Richard Weems
Literature and Creative Writing



LitMag Music and Poetry Night—5/19/2017

You are invited to our annual LitMag Music and Poetry Night on **Friday, May 19th from 5:30pm to 9pm** in the BCA Grill, hosted by LitMag, BCA's student literary magazine. Our showcase will feature scheduled performers-- poets, musicians, singers, etc.—and open mic sign-ups that evening! Dinner, including Baked Ziti, salad, drinks and dessert, will be available with purchase of a ticket for \$10.00. It's a magical evening of talent, food, and fun.

Donna Villanova English Department





World Language Department Accolades!

Two Bergen Academy Juniors (class of 2018 – ATCS and AVPA) were accepted to NSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) this year. The NSLI-Y program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Its goals are to encourage the study of strategically critical languages and to promote international relationships. Our students were selected from a national pool of applicants via a rigorous application process. They will spend 7-weeks in China, all expenses paid, studying Mandarin intensively and living with a host family.

费老师

Catherine Fillebrown
World Language Department



BCA Summer Science Program: Nanotechnology Explorations

Session A: June 26th - July 7th

Session B: July 10th - July 20th

This summer, Chemistry Department is offering Nanotechnology Explorations. Students will explore college-level interdisciplinary nanoscience via numerous modules of inquiry-based, group lab activities. Particularly, this year's summer program will focus on the manipulations of atoms to produce interesting nanostructures in the lab through the bottom-up methodologies. Detailed information is available in the following link and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. No pre-requisite necessary!

https://research.bergen.org/2015-04-15-18-27-24/nanotechnology-explorations

Interested in signing up for Nanotechnology Explorations? Please leave your name and email address!!

Dr. Kim, Email: deokim@bergen.org

ATCS - Seeking Projects From YOU!

As the year is heading into the final stretch, planning for next year is in full force. ATCS seniors all create capstone projects to finish off their time here. This is software with a goal of making life better for somebody. This year's projects include a Chrome extension to help dyslexic students (and adults) more easily read web pages, a database to help the Bergen County Department of Veterans Affairs manage their clients, and a drone that will fly ahead of ambulances to deliver medicines earlier than a car can arrive. We are very proud of the projects that our students have created!

Every project is affiliated with an outside, non-technical mentor/client, who guides the students as they make the project useful. At the end of the year, this mentor is then given use of the tool that they have helped bring to fruition.

This is where you come in. We are currently seeking strong projects for 2017-18. Do you have a project that you would like done? Is there some software that could be written that would make your life easier, or expand what you are able to do? You don't need to be a software developer yourself. We bring that expertise to the table. All that you need is, well, a need.

What we ask of our mentors is to stay in regular contact with their group, and to help them shape the project into something that would really be useful. If you have an idea, or might want to mentor a group yourself, please reach out to Ben Isecke or Bryan Respass (benise or bryres, respectively, at bergen.org) directly. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ben Isecke and Bryan Respass Technology Department

Chocolate Competition 2017...Sweet Success!

Filled with creative ideas and excitement, the students of ACAHA were eager to begin this year's chocolate competition in early February. This year, the juniors and seniors used their culinary talents to create their most eye-catching and edible displays using chocolate as the primary ingredient. It is evident that the annual Chocolate Competition only gets better every year. This year's competition was filled with strikingly beautiful and innovative creations.

The students worked as partners to combine their talents and ideas in preparation for the competition. The chocolate competition serves as a great learning experience for each student. Each junior and senior not only practices and utilizes their culinary skills and talent, but also learns time management and teamwork at the same time. Working in collaboration with a partner and an engineering student in a competitive and time sensitive environment truly helps the students to develop time management, problem solving and communication skills that are sure to be extremely useful in the future. This competition also allowed the students to develop and strengthen their artistic culinary skills.

Chocolate competition would not be possible without the work of the visual and engineering academies. Juniors of the engineering academy worked with a culinary group to help build the structure and platform of the cakes. Students in the visual academy assisted with the creative direction and theme of the competition.

This year's competition featured creations inspired by Disney and Pixar movies, cultures, songs, nature, and more. All of the cake creations reflected the passion, creativity, and hard work of the culinary students. The grand prize winner was an amazing Monsters Inc inspired cake that won raves for taste, technique and artistry.

Many thanks to Scott Lang, Bill Pavlu, Peter Guthrie, Joe DeFalco, Mike Liva, and Carlos Nodarse for assisting students enhance their projects. In addition, we owe appreciation to the many teachers and staff that assisted in facilitating the success of the event.

Mary Beth Brace John Branda





BCA SkillsUSA Success!

On April 7th – 8th, students of the BCA Chapter of SkillsUSA traveled to Somerset, New Jersey, eager to compete in the NJ SkillsUSA state competition. The students have worked hard throughout the year to prepare for their challenging competitions. The competitions varied from culinary arts and hospitality to video production and technology display. Each student displayed hard work and effort in their respective competitions.

BCA received <u>24 medals</u> with 8 students qualifying for the National Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. Gold medal winners included Career Pathways-Hospitality, Culinary Arts, Television Video Production, and Technology Display. Silver medals included American Spirit, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Job Skill Demo A. Bronze medalist were Chapter Business Procedures, Community Service, and PDP Portfolio.

In addition to the 24 medals, three ACAHA students represented BCA as NJ SkillsUSA officers. They did an outstanding job facilitating the event. The BCA students demonstrated hard work, leadership, and extraordinary effort.

Also, I am proud to announce that for the second year in a row, the BCA SkillsUSA Chapter was recognized on stage as a *Chapter of Distinction - a model of excellence at the Gold level*. We were once again selected to represent NJ at Nationals and will be recognized in Louisville.

Now on to Kentucky!

Mary Beth Brace SkillsUSA Advisor





WANTED

PPO Board Candidates and Committee Chairs!

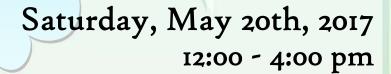
The PPO Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill positions for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are interested in a Board position, Committee Liaison position or would like more information, please contact Sue Tramontana at suetrammail@gmail.com by May 1, 2017. Please note that serving on the board would require some daytime flexibility.

Nominating Committee:

Sue Tramontana Sasha Conte Connie Fong



Annual Bergen County Academies PPO Picnic



Admission is free to all Paid PPO families and families of the Class of 2021

The picnic is held on the Athletic Field behind the school (rain or shine) *

* in the event of rain, the picnic will be in the gym

We hope you can join us in welcoming the Class of 2021!

Lots of fun activities and LIVE MUSIC!

Each family <u>MUST</u> bring a two-liter beverage and a one gallon bottle of water.

Sign up for the picnic online at https://goo.gl/1nxcxB

Questions?

Contact us at bcappopicnic@gmail.com



CHOCOLATE COMPETITION 2017

ACAHA senior and junior students presented their cake masterpiece creations at the annual BCA Chocolate Competition held on March 24. We are very proud of all the students for their efforts and creativity. Please enjoy the pictures showcasing these amazing cakes. Additional pictures available on http://www.northjersey.com/picture-gallery/be-social/2017/03/27/bergen-academies-hosts-2017-chocolate-competition-in-hackensack/99688568/

Also, a huge THANK YOU to our wonderful instructors and mentors, Chefs Brace and Chef Branda, whose guidance and direction helped to make this event a tremendous achievement showcasing the culinary talents of the ACAHA students.

ACAHAPA would also like to thank all the families and businesses who generously donated prizes to help make Chocolate Competition a tremendous success. We appreciate all your support.

Denise and Marta
ACAHAPA





Rosa Mexicano



CHIP IN FOR THE CAUSE!

Bergen County Academies - ACAHAPA and Rosa Mexicano invite you to a dine for dollars fundraising event!

GUAC FOR GOOD

Wednesday, May 17th, 2017
Visit Rosa Mexicano for lunch or dinner and 15%
of your sales will be donated to the cause. Just present
this invitation to your server with your check.

ROSA MEXICANO RIVERSIDE SQUARE MALL

Mary Beth Brace or John Branda
Bergen County Academies
200 Hackensack Ave. Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 343-6000 ext. 2255
marbra@bergen.org • johbra@bergen.org





FDA ALERT: Epi-Pen Auto-Injector Recall

ATTENTION TO ALL: If you rely on the life-saving Epi-pen for severe allergies please follow the link below for more information regarding a recall on specific lot numbers due to a potential defect:

https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm550173.htm?
source=govdelivery&utm medium=email&utm source=govdelivery

Laura Hynes, RN School Nurse

Don't Let Your Graduate Miss Out!

Last Call! PROJECT GRADUATION

It's the event of the graduation season! If you haven't already signed your graduate up for this all-night celebration, there's still time!
But it's running out quickly ...

Send your check TODAY!

Lynn Taylor 559 Colonial Rd. Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

\$225 made payable to PROJECT GRADUATION 2017

Be sure to include:

child's name, academy, parent's name, parent's phone, parent's email

Questions?

Lynn Taylor (551) 206-9481 abbycory@juno.com MariAngela Pepe (201) 687-1399 arc66@verizon.net Wendy Lupo (201) 788-6674 wenlupo@me.com

BCTS HATS



\$15.00

SOLD DURING LUNCH MODS

NEW FIELD DAY DATE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you.

Will Muller, Supervisor of Athletics



The Bergen County Academies will be hosting their annual Field Day on <u>Friday</u>, <u>June</u> <u>2nd</u>, <u>2017</u>. This event has been a tradition at the Academy for many years and provides the students with a day to have good competitive fun and take a well-deserved break from academics. The students will be participating in over 80 events from the traditional sports to three legged races, pie eating, video games, and much more.

On Field Day we also have a free, all school barbeque in the lower lot. The barbeque consists of: hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, cheeseburgers, tossed salad, drinks, and watermelon. The Korean PPO offers a delicious barbeque, as well. This is where we need your help! In order to accommodate 1,100 students, the estimated expenditure is over \$6,000! In addition to donations from the PPO, the majority of the expenses are paid for by generous donations from our Academy families. To make Field Day a success, financial contributions of any size are greatly appreciated! We also need **many** volunteers to assist with the BBQ and make it our best yet. The rain date is **Thursday, June 1**st.

Aside from the monetary contributions the following perishable/non-perishable items are needed for Field Day: Water (large volume), Uno Cards, Nerf Balls, Coolers, Non-carbonated beverages (i.e. ice tea, lemonade, fruit punch), Non-perishable individually wrapped snacks (i.e. chips, pretzels). These items can be dropped off at the school, please label 'Field Day'.

Student Name: Name of Parent: Address:				*	(°.°°)		
MONETARY DONA	<u>.TION:</u>		\$	(enclosed)			
PERISHIBLE/NON PERISHILBE DONATION(s)							
VOLUNTEER (Circle	One): BBQ	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP				
Checks should be made payable to: "Field Day"							
Please mail your donat	Bergen A	uller Academies kensack Avo ack, N.J. 07					