VOL. 18, NO. 2 OCTOBER 2015

PPO CONNECTIONS

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

PPO Board Message

October is a beautiful time of year with all the vibrant colors of the leaves as they turn from green to yellow, orange, red and shades in between. The diversity of the trees and leaf colors in autumn reminds us of the great diversity we have here at BCA. Our students live in many towns that make up Bergen County and a variety of interests are evident in our seven Academies and the abundance of clubs and extracurricular activities. Our many different cultural backgrounds came together at our annual International Tasting, **Small Bites from Around the World**, which was an amazing evening. We would like to thank all those who helped to make this event such a success - the custodial staff, the regional committees, Mr. Lemma and the student performers and all our gracious volunteers. We enjoyed delicious food from over 27 different countries and fabulous displays of cultural artifacts, costumes and other items showcasing the beauty of each region of the world. We believe that our lives are enriched through the diversity of the families here at BCA.

Our well-attended October meeting featured Bill Rabbitt and Matt Carpenter from College Funding Services. Their presentation enlightened us on how to navigate the sometimes daunting and complicated financial aid process and helped us think about how to plan for college expenses and our many funding options. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18th and will feature an informative overview and demo of the Naviance system given by Mr Anthony Natelli from our amazing Guidance Department.

The school year is in full swing with many events in the works not the least of which is the BCA fall production of **Our Town**. Our award winning theater department will put on a show you won't want to miss so be sure to buy your tickets early! You can find out about other events by looking at our Calendar page on the PPO website, www.academyppo.com.

Speaking of the PPO, our current membership is at 582 families. If you haven't joined yet it is not too late! Your membership supports many activities that directly affect your children. In addition to the International Tasting, the PPO Picnic and the school directory the PPO provides grants to support DECA, Skills USA, NHS Induction, Math Team, HOSA, Choir Competitions, Science Olympiad, and Senior Awards just to name a few. Membership forms are available online on our website. After joining, we will deliver a directory to your family!

We hope you enjoy these beautiful autumn days and we'll see you at our next meeting in November!

Warm regards,

Susan, Sasha, Julia, May, Sue, Connie

Academy Parent Partnership Organization

A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Calendar Highlights

Oct. 23 rd	HALF DAY – Staff Development
Oct. 23 rd	Homecoming – 7:00-10:30 pm
Oct. 24 th	ACT Testing – Off site
Oct. 25 th	Open House and Junior Class Bake Sale
	11:00 am and 2:00 pm
Oct. 29 th	Froshmore Fright Night Movie 6:30-8:30 pm
Nov. 1 st	Open House and Sophomore Class Bake Sale 11:00 am and 2:00 pm
Nov. 3 rd	KPPO Meeting – 11:30 am - Poonglim Restaurant
Nov. 5 th -6 th	NO SCHOOL – NJEA Convention
Nov. 7 th	SAT Testing – Off site
Nov. 9 th	Deadline for Yearbook Ads
Nov. 11 th	E-PA Meet & Greet - 7:00 pm - 1 st Floor Cafeteria
Nov. 12 th	Our Town – Fall Play 7:30 pm Auditorium
Nov. 13 th	Our Town – Fall Play 7:30 pm Auditorium
Nov. 14 th	Our Town – Fall Play
	2:30 pm and 7:30 pm Auditorium
Nov. 16 th	HALF DAY – Curriculum
Nov. 17 th	Music Student Presentation – 4:30-6:15 pm Room 5
Nov. 17 th	PAPA General Meeting –7:00 pm Room 216
Nov. 18 th	PPO General Meeting –Naviance Overview
	7:00 pm Auditorium
Nov. 19 th	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7:00 pm Auditorium
Nov. 20 th	Tri-Music Honor Society Induction &
	Reception 2:00-4:10 pm Auditorium
Nov. 24 th	Autumn Instrumental Concert – 7:00 pm Auditorium
Nov. 25 th	End of Trimester 1
Nov. 25 th	HALF DAY – Thanksgiving Recess
Nov. 26 th -27 th	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess

Our next issue will be published on November 18th. Please submit all November calendar entries and all articles to Sue Katz at SueLKatz@gmail.com by November 12, 2015.

ALUMNI PARENT "I'M SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THIS AMAZING SCHOOL"

From the Principal's Desk

BCA recognized as 2015 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Since the early days of the Academy we have worked under the mantra to "never rest on our laurels." With that in mind I met with our Leadership Team and said we would once again apply for recognition as a Blue Ribbon School. I must say that as I looked over our first application from 2006, when we last won the award, I was impressed with the strides we have taken as a school. Increased access to higher level classes for students, increased opportunities in research, as well as curricular improvements in each of our individual academy programs. The application process was grueling but well worth the effort once Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announed that BCA was being recognized. It is my continued honor to represent this school as its Principal and I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of everyone involved - adminsitrators, teachers, staff, students and parents who continue to make this one of the best high schools in the nation. Thank you for all that you do!

International Tasting Event

I commend our PPO for always looking to try new and innovative ways to improve our International Dinner. This year featured a "tastings" format complete with a new layout featuring high top tables which allowed guests to mingle throughout the course of the evening. The food is always delcious and many countries showed off their cultures through a variety of ways. Congratulations to everyone involved on a successful event!

Sharing our knowledge with others

Upon recognizing BCA along with other schools across the country, Education Sectretary Arne Duncan challenged all Blue Ribbon Schools to share their knowledge so that other schools can benefit from their success. We have always opened our doors to local, state, national and international schools and will continue to do so. I believe that the very fact that four out of the top five schools in the country in Newsweek's rankings are in New Jersey is a testament to our District's willingness to share our ideas. Each of the New Jersey schools listed in Newsweek's Top 5 have visited BCA at some point during the formation of their schools. We are

always happy and willing to share our success so that others may succeed as well.

Mr. Lynch honored by NAACP

I'm happy to report that BCA Supervisor Vic Lynch was recently nominated by BCA Alum Mackenzie Foy for an NAACP award. Mr. Lynch was recognized for his efforts in revamping our International Day of Acceptance to include community speakers on a variety of important topics regarding diversity and acceptance. While I have always enjoyed the cultural performances of our Tolerance Assembly, the new format which seeks to inform and educate students with a message of acceptance really seemed to really bring the message home. Please join me in congratulating Vic Lynch on this noteworthy recognition.

Our first Alumni Parent Meeting

We recently held our first ever BCA Alumni Parent Meeting and it was wonderful to see the interest and enthusiasm from parents whose children have graduated BCA yet wish to remain "all in" with supporting our school community. One parent commented after the meeting "I'm so grateful to have been part of this amazing school" while another commented, "Both my son and my daughter graduated from BCA, and were deepened as thinkers and as human beings by the magnificent quality of the education they received during their high school years." We are confident that with the support of our alumni and alumni parents we will be able to reach even higher heights as a school community! If you or someone you know is interested in becoming more involved please reach out to Heather Lawler at headaw@bergen.org

Open House Season arrives

What a thrill it is to see the number of people who are interested in attending BCA. Once again we expect to see approximately 6,000 guests during our Open House sessions. This is always a team effort with parents, students and teachers pitching in to showcase our amazing school. Best wishes to all of our applicants for the BCA "Class of 2020"

– Make it a Great Day!

Russell Davis, Principal

Please view our Superintendent Dr. Howard Lerner's Message by using this link: http://www.academyppo.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/11170958/superintendent_letter_10_2015.pdf

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.

Our Town in Our Time

Why is Thornton Wilder's American classic play, *Our Town*, one of the most frequently produced plays of all time? Why did Edward Albee name it the BEST American play? In order to answer these questions I challenged the *Our Town* company to dig into the text this summer and explore the relevancy of this piece, written in 1938, for our community and our time.

Near the end of the first act the principle character, the Stage Manager, discusses the items that have been chosen to go in the cornerstone of the new bank in Grover's Corners in 1901. Our group considered items we might put in a cornerstone or time capsule in 2015 – items that would represent the present and help people understand our time a hundred or a thousand years from now.

In Act Three, the Stage Manager says, "Now there are some things we all know but we don't take'em out and look at'em very often." We spent time in the beginning rehearsals reflecting upon that weighty question.

It has been said that in the play Wilder finds value above all price for the smallest events in daily life and so we made lists of the small things that are special to us in our lives.

We invite you to become a part of our community and share in our discoveries. You will sit on the stage, arena-style, and surround our telling of this tale of George Gibbs and Emily Webb and their every day lives, in a small New Hampshire village at the turn of the 20th Century. Come celebrate both the marvel of everyday existence and "the something way down deep that is eternal about every human being."

Our Town is a wonderful play for ALL AGES.

Performances are **Thursday**, **Friday November 12**, **13 at 7:30 pm and Saturday**, **November 14 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm**. Seating is limited and can be purchased online; https://search.seatyourself.biz/webstore/webstore.html?event=.&domain=bergen

Adults \$12, Students & Senior Citizens \$10.

Rebecca Strum, Director

Creative Writing Program Updates

The Creative Writing research program at BCA has expanded this year, so Mr. Kaplan has also joined the mix. And with creative writing opportunities during project time, electives and clubs, as well as IB Literature and Language & Literature, we hope to have a stellar year full of accolades to applaud.



And this year is off to a fine start already. Here's the latest:

- An AVPA senior was accepted into *The Orange Island Review*, a national publication of high school writing
- The same AVPA senior, as well as an ABF senior and an AMST junior were all Topical winners in the latest Just Poetry!! high school writing contest

And please keep an eye out for an announcement about the dates for the 2016 BCA Summer Writing program Poetry and Fiction courses!

Richard K. Weems and Stephen Kaplan Literature and Creative Writing

ACAHA Alumni wins Chopped

On Thursday evening, September 24th, ACAHA hosted a viewing party to cheer on Max Aronson, BCA 2015, to victory while competing on the Food Network's Teen Chopped Redemption. Max competed against 3 other teenage Chopped finalists by preparing an appetizer, entrée and dessert out of "unusual" ingredients in his mystery basket for a panel of judges that consists of celebrity chefs.

When he first competed on Chopped, he was awarded second place. In hopes of winning in his redemption round, a crowd of students, their families, and faculty gathered in the second floor cafeteria to watch the show (and to video chat with Max during and after) in order to show their support. ACAHA-PA generously provided snacks and beverages to all of the viewers.

Last Spring Max earned the SkillsUSA Gold Medal for Culinary Arts, so everyone was really hopeful for this victory. To make it more interesting, he was competing against a fellow SkillsUSA member and officer, who also earned a Gold Medal for Job Skill Demonstration! After creating three very interesting courses, everyone was ecstatic to hear that Max was victorious in the end! It was so amazing to see one of our alumni win such a big honor.

Thank you to Mr. Davis and the Administration, Frank Fuchs, Scott Lang and the custodial staff. It was an evening of camaraderie that brought together students, families, friends, alumni, and staff.

We are so proud of Max for his accomplishments and for having big dreams!

Mary Beth Brace ACAHA/SkillsUSA





Our music room now has 2 brand new sound isolation rooms (soundproof practice rooms). Six years ago, I proposed the project to administration and I'm glad to see the project come to fruition. Students now have a large and medium size room to practice while adding additional space and function to our music facility. We will soon be outfitting the spaces with Kawai Pianos.

There is a lot going on simultaneously-students practicing for Bergen County Band auditions, preparation for the Autumn Concert, Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, and

students in smaller groups building musical instruments (drums, theremins, ukuleles and digital metronomes). The maker-movement has really taken off on campus and there are great opportunities for passionate music students to explore this dimension of music!

Please mark your calendars for these important dates:

Tuesday, November 17 is our Student Presentation event that runs each trimester. Here, students in Guitar 1 will give a brief performance. Musicians Workshop students will give a presentation on their progress building drums. The highlight of the event will be academic lectures given by seniors in AVPA-Music. They will present topics in music theory, performance, and more. The event runs from 4:30-6:15 in room 5, all are welcome.

On **Friday, November 20** is the Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Although the ceremony takes place during school hours, parents are more than welcome to attend. We start off with a luncheon for the inductees and then move on to the ceremony in the auditorium. With a record number of inductees this year, please check-in for the exact start time as we get closer- it is currently scheduled for 2:00pm-4:10 in the auditorium.

The Autumn Concert will take place on **Tuesday, November 24 @ 7:00pm**. The concert features all the instrumental ensembles at BCA, ranging from large orchestras to smaller chamber ensembles. Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Guitar & Mandolin Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble and Wind Quintet will each perform a mini set of music. Held in the BCA auditorium with a \$5 donation at the door.

Michael Lemma Music Department

Class News Updates....

Class of 2016

We would like to thank all of you who contributed to our bake sale on Sunday, October 18th and a special thank you to those who stood outside all day with us! Senior year is in full swing. We hope you all received our recent Class Update email, which outlined our entire year of activities. Senior year will be a very busy time for our children and we are looking forward to providing them with a very memorable finale after four years of hard work, so let the festivities begin! Our next major event is the Senior Fashion Show on March 31st. Save the date! We will be holding our first planning meeting on November 12th at 7pm in the first floor cafeteria. We are looking for a dedicated group of volunteers to ensure a fun, prosperous evening for all. Even if you are not interested in chairing a section, there are many opportunities to be involved. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

If you should have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

Warmest regards. Maria and Laina

Maria Jasionowski <u>mariajasionowski@yahoo.com</u> Laina DeRose <u>msdr21@yahoo.com</u>

Class News Continued.....

Class of 2017

Greetings Class of 2017!

We hope everyone is doing well! It was great to see some of our parents this morning at our October Coffee Social! We look forward to working with all of you on some of our key events this year including Cabaret in the spring!

Our student council is already off to a great start planning many exciting events for their class. They have asked us to assist in their first bake sale fundraiser which will take place after school on Thursday, October 29th (not to be confused with our BCA Open House bake sale scheduled for Sunday, October 25th). We ask you that please send in baked goods with your son/daughter that morning. Please have your student drop items off to Mrs. Marain's room #142. They greatly appreciate our help!

Kindly mark your calendars for our next PPO meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th at 7 pm. The following evening, November 19th, we will have the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 7 pm. The NHS committee has completed its review of all applications and your student should have received notification from the committee this week. If s/he has not yet received notification, please send an email to Heather Lawler, head of the 2015 NHS review committee. In the event your student was not able to complete an NHS application by the deadline or if s/he did not qualify this year, your student may reapply in the fall of senior year.

As you are probably very aware by now, Junior year can seem daunting for our students and for us! There's a lot going on this year with our children starting to think about colleges, SAT's, ACT's, clubs, sports, and school in general. It's important that we're supportive and that we keep the lines of communication open. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

All the best, D'Arcy Natale & Allison Orecchio bcaclassof2017@gmail.com

Class of 2018

Hello to all Class of 2018 Families!

We hope you're enjoying the school year so far!

Our first Coffee Hour will be on Friday, October 23rd at 8:45 a.m. We will be meeting at the indoor seating area in the front of Whole Foods in Bergen Town Center Mall in Paramus. We will have several tables reserved for us. Come and hear about all of the exciting things we have planned for this year!

The Sophomore Class Council has been working very hard to plan the Class of 2018 Fright Night! This

Freshman/Sophomore movie night will be on Thursday, October 29th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The class has chosen "The Ring" for this year's feature. Tickets are on sale for \$7.00 and include free popcorn! Water and Pizza will be available to purchase. A sign-up genius will be sent out shortly requesting parent chaperones as well as donations of popcorn and cases of water. This is a class fundraiser, so your support is appreciated!

The Sophomore class will be holding a bake sale during the BCA Open House on Sunday, November 1st. Please look for an e-mail requesting parent volunteers and baked goods. This is another great way to raise funds for our class. We'd really appreciate your help!

As always, thank you all for your help and support! We look forward to a great year!

Your Class Parents -Christine, Rena and Cathy

Class of 2019

Fall is here and we hope your children are feeling at home at BCA! We had a wonderful time at the Freshman Potluck Dinner and thank all of you who made it, who brought food and drinks, and who volunteered to help set-up and clean-up. We also want to thank our freshman class advisors, Jennifer Redlitz and Katherine Blake, for joining us! Elections for Freshman Class Council will be held within the next week. The positions are for one year and will be filled on an overall grade level basis and by individual representatives for each academy. What does the Freshman Council do? The class council serve as representatives for the entire freshman class in school-wide gatherings/meetings. They help come up with ideas for events for their fellow freshman and run fundraisers for the Class of 2019. Ms. Redlitz and Ms. Blake, our class advisors, will meet weekly with the elected class officers. As class parents, we will meet regularly with the class-advisors and help facilitate those events. Already on the calendar is the Sophomore/ Freshman Fright Night movie night on Thursday, Oct. 29th. There will be other events, so stay tuned. We will also be starting up a monthly informal "parent coffee" meeting. These get togethers will be an opportunity for us to provide you with information regarding upcoming events for our class, in addition to being a great way for the parents to continue to get to know one another! Our first one will be held at the Panera Bread on Route 4 in Paramus, on November 12th at 9 AM. Going forward, we will vary the meeting times so that everyone has an opportunity to join us! To keep yourself informed about what is happening at BCA, attend the monthly PPO meetings when you can, read all emails, log on to the website and of course join the PPO if you haven't already done so.

As always if you have any questions, suggestions, ideas and concerns email us.

Pamela Adelman, Pamela Casey and Amy Chan bcaclassof2019@gmail.com



Upcoming Events:

Friday, October 23 – Theatre Day
Saturday, October 31 – Paint/Sew Day for Our Town
Thursday, November 12 – Rehearsal dinner for Our Town
Thursday/Friday/Saturday, November 12-14 – Our Town
Tuesday, November 17 – PAPA General Meeting
Friday, November 20 – Tri-M Honor Society Induction Ceremony
Tuesday, November 24 – Fall Instrumental Concert

While the cast and crew have been hard at work on Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning American classic, *Our Town*, the behind-the-scenes teams have also been hard at work. We've already had several Sewing/Costuming sessions for parent volunteers and there will be more scheduled. Please stop by and help with the costume production. It's a wonderful way to meet other parents, help out and even learn to sew. No sewing experience necessary.

If sewing's not your thing, don't worry. In the next few weeks, we'll be looking for volunteers to work at the *Our Town* rehearsal dinner; to help sell refreshments, flowers, and Kisses For the Cast; and to work the box office during the 4-performance run of the show from November 12th through 14th. And, if all else fails, just be sure to come to the show. Tickets are available now for sale online on the BCA website. http://bergen.seatyourself.biz

Mark your calendars now for the next PAPA meeting on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 pm in Room 216 /ThArts. Join us to hear some of the music from our winter musical, *Evita*, and learn more about the show from Ms. Pero. We'll also hear from our Playbill Committee as they kick off the *Evita* playbill-selling season. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year so we'll need everyone's help on this one!

Still not a member of PAPA? You can print a membership form by clicking here: http://www.academyppo.com/papa.html. Dues are still only \$10 and if you are the parent of a BCA senior, your student will automatically be entered into a drawing for a scholarship at the end of this school year.

Be sure to Like Us on Facebook to get the most up-to-date information at PAPA at BCA. https://www.facebook.com/PAPAatBCA

Please reach out with any questions or suggestions. We'd love to hear from you! Eileen Gabriele (<u>Eileen@gabrielegroup.com</u>), PAPA President



EXCITING E-PA (Engineering Parents Group) NEWS...

Our first E-PA meeting on 10/7 was a huge success!! It was attended by Mr. DeFalco and Mr. Liva, the E-PA Board, and approximately 55 parents!!

Mark your calendar: our next meeting - a Meet & Greet - will be held on Wednesday November 11th at 7pm, in the 1st floor cafeteria. Don't miss on the opportunity to meet other parents, talk to teachers and chat with Guidance.

E-PA's plans for the year include a Meet & Greet in November, an Alumni Panel in January, a Senior Students Panel in May, Field Trips, and so much more!

Don't forget to join our E-PA Facebook group at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ 1649612991978796/ where you can find updates, recourses, parents/students surveys, and more, not to mention the opportunity to communicate with other E-PA members!

Not a member yet? It is never too late to join our vibrant group... for a **membership form** visit our E-PA page on the PPO website (http://www.academyppo.com/e-pa.html) or click here http://www.academyppo.com/uploads/1/1/7/11170958/e-pa_flyer_6.15 .pdf

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Tal Millet at talmillet@hotmail.com

There will be a KPPO Meeting held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 11:30am at Poonglim Restaurant in Fort Lee.

There will be a guest speaker, Eunhee Kang, that day who will talk about college preparation and financial planning. Please join us!

> Eunyung Han KPPO President

Reminder...

BCA 2015-2016 Yearbook Orders & Senior Yearbook Ads due by November 9th. See the attached flyers. (All check payments made out to Academy Yearbook.)

> Evelyn Rios Yearbook Advisor

Our Town needs your donations!

Dear BCA Families, we are hard at work on the costumes for the Fall MainStage production of **Our Town**, presented in the round this November 12, 13 and 14. The show is set in the early 1900's and we are in need of some donations. Please don't send in anything you would need back because the clothes will likely be painted or altered in some way.

We need: high-necked, Victoria lacy blouses in black or white/offwhite. Straw boater hats. Hightop lace-up boots (men's and women's) in any color. Lace trims in any color. Costume jewelry most especially with stones (these are for a different project).









Please drop any donations in the main office or send in with your child. Please let the main office know the donations are for Victoria Pero and thank you!

Victoria Pero Costume Design & Fashion

Capture the memories of the year!



Order your full color yearbook **today!**

BCA 2015-2016 Yearbook

Yearbooks are on sale for \$95.00

Order now, before it's too late!

Yearbooks will be delivered in June 2016

Two Easy Ways to Order:

DEADLINE:October 30,2015

- Go to Balfour.com and type-our school name.
 Purchase a Yearbook on-line using a credit or debit card.
- 2 Complete the form and send it to the Main Office

Hurry! Buy your yearbook now!

If you have a great picture please share it with ...

See Mrs. Min in room 140

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	Questions? Contact:	1
	MRS. RIOS	
	everio@bergen.org	١
	201-343-6000x2323	1
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Student Name			Grade	
Parent/Guardian Name		Phone		
# of Yearbooks	x \$	=	Total Cost	
Payment Method	ck 🗌 Cash 🔲	Money Order		halfana

balfour.



Deadline Nov. 9th Please print this for

Please print this form and complete by hand. Mail in with your payment

PARENT NAME:								
Our staff will be designing the parent ads for the BCA YEARBOOK. Please check the box below which corresponds to the type of ad you will be purchasing. If you will be purchasing more than one ad, please submit one order form per ad.								
OPTIONS & COST								
E								
words eximum								
HOW TO SUBMIT								
EMAIL: You can email us your digital images (300 dpi/JPG) & text to: miymin@bergen.org Please include the text you want to use in your ad(type text into email body or attach as Word document) Put the graduate's name as the subject of the email, and mail the completed form & check. Send only one email per ad. Once your ad content (images and text) are submitted, mail in this order form and check MAIL: You can mail digital images (300 dpi/JPG) & text in CD or USB with your payment/order sheet. CD or USB will not be returned. Please make sure you have backup of photos.								
MAIL PAYMENT AD PACKET TO:								
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