

PPO CONNECTIONS

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

President's Message

Just when we thought we had turned the corner to spring, Mother Nature showed us who is in charge. The early dismissal on our first day of spring was cause to move the Chocolate Competition to Monday, **March 23rd**. We would like to recognize Chef B and Chef J for the countless hours of their time that they dedicate to motivate, inspire and nurture the talents of our children. The culinary creations never fail to amaze all who are fortunate enough to receive the "golden ticket" to Chocolate Comp. Congratulations to all of the Culinary students!

Spring is thankfully here and if you thought the school year has gone by quickly, these next few months will pass with the blink of an eye. For seniors, college decisions are slowly and sometimes painfully, sometimes joyfully coming in. Having heard back from many alumni, we are confident and hopeful that our seniors will look back at the process and realize that despite an occasional rejection letter, they have chosen the college that is the perfect fit for them and one in which they will thrive and excel. Best of luck to all our seniors!

April is busy for our rising classes as well. **April 20th** is the annual College Fair. Ask our seniors and their families, it is never too early to take part in the college exploration process. Students can attend the Fair to meet college representatives, ask questions or pick up brochures. Thank you to Ms. Jen Redlitz and the guidance department for organizing this amazing event for our students.

In addition to the Fair, Thursday, **April 23rd** will be the Junior class – Senior Experience Internship meeting. Our Junior families will be receiving more information on the meeting from Ms. Heather Lawler. The Senior Internship is an opportunity for students to participate in an area of study they are interested in pursuing, all under the guidance of a professional mentor. The meeting in April will feature over 50 mentors sharing information about their internship.

If you were not able to attend our March meeting, Mr. Zhang gave an overview of the National Honor Society application process. Applications will become available in June and the deadline for return is **September 18, 2015**. The NHS website, bcanh.sherokuapp.com, will have more information on the process. Thank you to Mr. Zhang for taking time out of his busy schedule to share information on the process. Nicole Iannucci, from Catalyst Prep, also provided an overview of the changes to the SAT

effective for the March 2016 test. Her power point will be posted on the PPO website in the near future.

Finally, we encourage you to attend the events planned by our class parent liaisons and specialty groups. They are always beautifully executed and are fun opportunities to socialize with other families in the BCA community. The Senior Class Fashion show, scheduled for Thursday, **March 26**, is sold out and we would like to thank Lisa Caron, Donna Tittensor and their hard working volunteers for what we know will be a truly magical evening. Also, mark your calendars for the Junior Class Cabaret on **April 15th**, where you can win great prizes and see talented students, from all grades, as well as Mr. Davis and his band perform on stage.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the many events planned over the next month and wish you a restful, warm April break!

Best regards,

Cathy, Susan, Sasha, May, Sue & Julia

Calendar Highlights

Mar. 26 th	Class of 2015 Fashion Show – 6:30 pm Ramsey Country Club
Mar. 28 th -29 th	HackBCA – 3:00 pm Saturday – 3:00 pm Sunday
Apr. 3 rd	School Closed – Good Friday
Apr. 6 th -10 th	School Closed – Spring Recess
Apr. 15 th	BCA Cabaret – 6:30 pm Auditorium
Apr. 18 th	ACT Testing – Off Site
Apr. 20 th	College Fair – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm BCA Gym
Apr. 21 st	Glow In The Dark Zumba – 6:00 pm Auditorium
Apr. 22 nd	PPO Newsletter Available
Apr. 23 rd	Senior Experience Meeting for Juniors & Parents – 7:00 pm Auditorium



Academy Parent Partnership Organization
A New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation

Our next issue will be published on April 22nd. Please submit all March calendar entries and all articles to Sue Katz at SueKatz@gmail.com by April 16th, 2015. Thank You.



From the Principal's Desk

"BCA is a remarkable model to study"

Some recent correspondence..

Being recognized as a top school often comes with increased requests to visit BCA. We are often willing to share our story of how our campus has changed over the years to suit the needs of the county and to provide students with high levels of academic and career and technical instruction. Over the past few months we have hosted the North Star Academy of Newark as well as representatives from Uncommon schools, a nonprofit network of charter schools in Boston, New York City, Newark, Rochester and Troy. I'd like to share this correspondence following their latest visit.

"Dear Mr. Davis, thank you once again for hosting me and my colleagues from North Star and Uncommon Schools. You have been uniquely generous with your time. This visit was even more interesting than my last, which is

saying a lot. As I mentioned before, I have spent quite a bit of time over the last ten years visiting high-performing high schools, but I have never found a place with such passionate educators who are able to thrive in an environment designed to reward their passion. The entire ecosystem is obviously designed to facilitate deep learning at every turn. It is a remarkable

model for the rest of us to study. Thank you for being so willing to share your approach. Your openness makes it possible for students whom you will never meet to benefit from you and your students' success.

Thanks again for a great visit. We will be talking about BCA all spring as we dive into our strategic planning."

*Michael Mann, Head of School
North Star Academy*

It is truly gratifying to read Mr. Mann's comments. While many visitors marvel at our state of the art labs and technology, it is our talented and dedicated teachers and students that truly make this school special. I am proud to share our knowledge with others in the hopes that we can continue to improve education on a wider scale.

BCA Student at the White House

In September, I told our students during our school's convocation that it was our goal to get to the White House this year. Specifically, I was referring to the White House Science Fair. I am happy to report that one of our students was

invited as a special guest to attend the fair and will be at the White House in the near future.. You can read more about this story on our website.

Update on Officer Jim

Unfortunately, on a recent Saturday morning, our Security Guard, Jim Florio was struck by a vehicle in our school parking lot. As I'm sure you are aware, our school is always abuzz with various activities and events. Please use caution when entering or exiting our lot. I'm glad to report that Jim suffered no broken bones and is looking forward to returning to BCA very soon.

Update on PARCC

The recent implementation of PARCC went extremely well with teachers, administrators and our technology staff working together to make it happen. Approximately 98% of our students sat for the PARCC and we appreciate their efforts. The final round of assessments will take place April 21-23rd and once again we encourage all students to sit for the assessments. Special thanks to Mr. Lynch, Ms. Cusano, Mr. Madden and all of our proctors and technology staff.

Follow me on Twitter!

To access information on pertinent school news I encourage you to follow me on Twitter @DavisBCA

Enjoy the Spring!

Sincerely,
Russell Davis
Principal

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

http://www.academyppto.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/11170958/superintendent_letter_3-2015.pdf

Junior Parent Senior Experience Meeting

This meeting is for all BCA junior parents and BCA juniors. The Senior Experience Coordinator will speak on preparing for Senior Experience. A group of seniors and current mentors will speak and answer questions about internships. This is a great chance to network.

Junior Parent Senior Experience Meeting
Bergen County Academies Auditorium
Thursday, April 23, 2015
7:00 pm

Further information will be sent to Junior families.

Heather Lawler
Senior Experience Coordinator

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.



BCA Jazz Band

Coming April 23, The BCA Jazz Band will give a performance at Trumpets Jazz Club and Restaurant (Montclair, NJ). This special performance only comes up once every 2 years. The Jazz Band will perform 2 sets of music and will feature individual musicians in jazz solos and duets. The event will run from 6:30-8:00pm and a full dinner/dessert menu is available, making this evening truly special and authentic. Funds from the \$15 music fee support the BCA music program. Hope to see you there: www.trumpetsjazz.com

Michael Lemma
Music Department

Thank You - Chocolate Competition 2015

Thank you to all for donating prizes for the juniors and seniors who competed in the 17th Annual Chocolate Competition on Monday, March 23rd. Your generous support of the Academy for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Administration helped to make this year's competition an extraordinarily successful event.

The ACAHAPA Board
Carol, Heidi, and Dawn

BCA CONTINUES TO REAP IN THE WRITING AWARDS

Winter turned out to be a fine season for BCA writers. Here is a quick overview of the most recent accolades:

- Three AVPA juniors won in The Theater Project's Thirteenth Annual Young Playwrights Competition: two honorable mentions and 3rd place.
- An ABF senior was a finalist in the Gotham Invent a Word Contest, which involved writing a memoir in 91 words or less.
- An AAST senior won Gannon University's national high school poetry contest.
- The same poem that won Gannon has also been accepted into *The Orange Island Arts Review*.
- An AMST junior has been accepted into the New England Young Writers Conference.
- BCA dominated the Youth division of the 2015 OdysseyCon Odd Contest—an AMST junior won 1st place, an ABF senior took 2nd, and an ABF junior won honorable mention.
- And an AVPA won a Silver medal in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards!

Congratulations to everyone for their spectacular achievements!

Richard Weems
Literature and Creative Writing

ACAHA STUDENTS TAKE HOME HOSPITALITY GOLD!

The Academy for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Administration recently completed another successful competition. This past February, six ACAHA students participated in the New Jersey Restaurant Association's Annual ProStart Competition and brought home a gold medal! Each student took home scholarships totaling more than \$18,000.00. After this win they will move onto the National ProStart Competition which takes place at the end of April. This competition is challenging and involves many components. First, the students had to create a restaurant concept that corresponded to the demographic described in the guidelines. After defining this concept, they created a menu, recipe worksheets, interior design, layout, and methods of advertising for their restaurant. For the competition, the students needed to present a binder, PowerPoint presentation, and poster detailing their concept, as well as answer critical thinking questions in relation to possible scenarios that could occur at their restaurant.



Our seniors developed a restaurant called Barnyard Kitchen, which is modeled as a quick-casual diner in a modern styled atmosphere. Barnyard Kitchen serves healthy, farm-to-table focused, American cuisine in an environment suitable for guests of all ages. The students want this restaurant to modernize the traditional diner experience with a fresh new twist. The students drew much inspiration from the ProStart curriculum that they have been learning in their hospitality classes at BCA, as well as from the students' various food service industry experiences.

The seniors will continue to focus on this project until they reach the National ProStart Competition, which will take place next month in Disneyland, California. With their hard work and assistance from several teachers and mentors, the students will put all of their efforts towards bringing home a second medal.

Mary Beth Brace and John Branda
Academy for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Administration

BCA's Academy for Business & Finance

It gives us great pleasure to announce that BCA's Academy for Business and Finance was selected as a 2015 winner of the "CTE Excellence in Action" award.

In granting this award, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium recognizes and honors high schools from around the nation that offer superior Career Technical Education programs of study. In making its selections, the Consortium considers those programs that exemplify excellence in the implementation of Career Cluster-based programs of study that have a meaningful impact on student achievement and success.

Important elements of our application were our IB Diploma program, our business/industry partnerships, collaboration with educational institutions and industry associations, our cross-disciplinary projects, Senior Experience and Career Day events, successful team-based competitions, educational trips and state-of-the-art financial markets technology as well as letters of support from alumni and industry partners.

This year fifteen high-school programs from across the nation (two in New Jersey) were selected to receive this award. We are very proud to be a recipient of this award and gratified that the Consortium has recognized the excellent program of study offered to ABF students at BCA.

Michelle Pinke
Puneet Sawhney
Steven Schwimmer
Academy for Business and Finance



Bergen County Technical Schools THE KNIGHTS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The Bergen County Academies will be hosting their annual Field Day on Friday, June 19th, 2015. The students will participate in over 80 fun competitive events. These events include everything from traditional athletic sports to pie eating and dance contests, three legged races, gamer competitions, and much more. Teams are split up by four colors.

You are also invited to volunteer at the BBQ, which will be held in the BCA lower lot and free to all students and faculty. We will offer hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, veggie burgers, tossed salads, watermelon, chips and refreshments. The day will conclude in the BCA auditorium.

In order for this event to be a success, we are seeking volunteers and monetary donations. Volunteers are asked to serve, grill, set up, and clean up. Monetary donations will go towards the purchase of food and refreshments for the event. Cases of water and individually wrapped snacks can also be donated. Please make checks payable to: Field Day and send to the attention of Mr. Will Muller, Supervisor of Athletics. If you would like to volunteer please email me at wilmul@bergen.org

Please help us make this a memorable and fun day with your gift of time or monetary donation. The rain date will be Monday, June 22nd.

Thank You,

Will Muller
Athletic Department

Class News Updates....

Class of 2015

Happy spring!!! We look forward to celebrating the new season at the Class of 2015 Fashion Show tomorrow night at the Ramsey Country Club. The response has been wonderful! There are over 100 student models, 80+ Raffle Baskets and a full house for dinner. Not able to make the show...you can still try your luck with the baskets. The baskets are set up in the hall outside the gym through the end of the day TODAY! We are so fortunate to have a Grand Prize Raffle for a 7 night vacation rental in sunny Florida. Stop by and check it out. A HUGE thank you to all of you who helped make this event possible. We appreciate your time, ideas and talents shared, not to mention the incredible generosity that created the over 80 raffle baskets. In addition to the support of our Class of 2015 families, we also received amazing support from a variety of local businesses providing the outfits to be modeled and items for our baskets. We hope you will support them in return!

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Six Flags request. We are sure to have a great time! Next up is Prom! Details will be coming out soon, so for now, save the date of Thursday, June 11th and start getting ready. As Graduation gets closer, don't forget to purchase your senior sign to congratulate your student on a job well done. The deadline to order is May 1, 2015. See the PPO website for the order form.

As always please feel free to contact us with any questions at BCAClass2015@gmail.com.
Lisa & Donna

Class of 2016

We hope all of you have been receiving our emails. It is a very busy time of the year and we are trying to keep everyone informed. Therefore, this will be brief.

Cabaret is only three weeks away and we still need a tremendous amount of help. It is never too late to volunteer.

Hopefully, you have all reviewed our email about Jprom, Friday, May 8th, 6:30-11 at the Old Tappan Manor. Please encourage your child to attend. In order to insure a reasonable ticket price, we had to guarantee the venue 200 students (we have 249 in our class). Let's make this a memorable evening!

We appreciate all of your support!

Any questions please feel free to email or call us.

Warmest regards.
Maria and Laina

Maria Jasionowski mariqjasionowski@yahoo.com
Laina DeRose msdr21@yahoo.com

Class of 2017

Dear Class of 2017,

Wishing everyone a HAPPY SPRING! We had a very successful Soph/Frosh Dance at PowerHouse Studios in Paramus with over 200 students in attendance! We would like to thank our 2017 & 2018 class councils and teacher advisors as well as all of our parent volunteers. We are happy to report that we received very positive feedback and our students made us proud and represented us well! All in all, a much needed break and fun had by all.

Believe it or not, our class council is now working on their plans for the Junior Prom which will be held on Friday, May 13th, 2016. We are in the process of considering venues and will be in touch with the council's final decision as soon as we know!

A friendly reminder that we will be hosting a coffee social at 9 am at Panera on Rt. 4W in Paramus on Tuesday, March 24th. We hope you will be able to join us! For those students who signed up for the PSAT, mark your calendars for Saturday morning, April 25th.

Great news! We have sold out of our Class of 2017 hoodies with the exception of size small. We are offering these hoodies at a discount of \$20 since they run small and would be a nice gift for a younger sibling. Please email us if you are interested in purchasing one.

Lastly, we encourage those who have not done so to kindly mail your one time class dues payment of \$200. We have several expenses for all of our students over the course of their four years at BCA and we hope that everyone will assist to lessen the burden. Checks should be mailed to BCA, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601 Attention: Class of 2017 payable to "BCA Class of 2017" with class dues listed in the memo line.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or suggestions!

Warm Regards,
D'Arcy Natale & Allison Orecchio
Bcaaclassof2017@gmail.com

Class News Updates Continued....

Class of 2018

Hope you are all well, and we hope spring weather is around the corner. Our next and final class coffee will be in May with details to follow. We are thrilled to have met so many of you thus far, and we look forward to building the relationships in the coming years. It takes a village, right? :-)

The Freshman-designed long, sleeved crew neck sweatshirts are in and can be picked up during the students' free mods in room 46 (basement level). Student Advisor, Danielle Kouefati, has already notified the students via email to pick them up, but please help remind your student.

If your Freshman attended the Soph/Frosh Semi-Formal Dance, we would love to get feedback on the event since we will be running it next year. Sounds like they enjoyed themselves at the PowerHouse Studios!

Next month is the annual **College Fair** and each class is asked to participate in different ways. It is tradition for the Freshman class to provide dessert, and a couple of volunteers for the event. Please look out for an email next week with a link to donate/volunteer on SignUpGenius.

The **freshman car wash** will be held the day of the BCA Picnic on Saturday, May 16th. We will need your help with this student-run fundraiser and more details will be coming as we get closer to the date. Upperclassmen have said this is a fun event, enjoyed by both students and parents.

Remember if you have not done so already, the one-time class dues need to be paid. Please go online to academyppo.com where you can click on the PayPal link or send your checks for \$200 (made out to "Academy Class Dues 2018") to the main office and mark the envelope "class dues 2018." Dues forms can be found on the PPO website. Keep in mind this payment will be used to offset some of the cost associated with senior year expenses.

See you soon!

Warm regards,

Rena Moy-Chang, Christine Nicholas, & Gwen Sullivan

**::SAVE THE DATE BCA
COMMUNITY::**

BCA'S 2ND ANNUAL

GLOW IN THE DARK ZUMBA

**WEAR WHITE OR NEON COLORS
APRIL 21, TUESDAY @ 6:00 PM**

**\$10 @ BCA AUDITORIUM
** DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AS
WE WELCOME THE SPRING****

**HOLD THE DATE
FOR THE
2015 PPO ANNUAL
PICNIC**

May 16, 2015

12:00 noon - 4:00p.m.

Help us welcome the Class of 2019!

*This is a wonderful day of great food, fun,
music
and BCA friends - old and new!*
**More information to follow next month and
many fun ways to volunteer.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!
The 2015 PPO Picnic Committee**



Parents And Patrons of the Arts

With any luck this winter is finally behind us and we can turn our attention to warmer days and the wonderful spring activities just around the corner at AVPA.

If you haven't ordered your **Kiss Me Kate** DVD, there's still time! DVD's are available at

http://www.academyppo.com/uploads/1/1/1/7/11170958/kmkdvd_order_form.pdf

Here are links to two short highlight videos to remind you about how much you want to add this DVD to your collection. Enjoy! <https://vimeo.com/121479757> <https://vimeo.com/121479758>

Please mark your calendars for the May PAPA meeting, which will follow the PPO meeting on **Tuesday, May 12th**. It will feature breakout sessions for each AVPA academy with a panel of seniors talking about "How to do What I Just Did" – namely, to get accepted to college in their various concentrations. We'll have a panel of students going to college for *Visual Arts*, a panel for *Music* and a panel for *Theatre*. ***You will never get a better, more honest perspective on the college application/audition/interview/portfolio process.***

Other important dates to mark on your calendars now are the **One Act Play Festival** – Fri., May 15 @ 7:30 pm, Sat., May 16 @ 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, and Sun., May 17 @ 7:30 pm; **Spring Choir Concert** on May 19th @ 7:30 pm, and the **Spring Play** – Sat., May 30 @ 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, and Sun., May 31 @ 2:30 pm. We'll have lots of opportunities for you to get involved in these two events so keep an eye on your email and the PAPA Facebook page.

Key June dates include the **Spring Instrumental Concert** on June 2nd @ 7:00 pm, **Groove Out** on June 5th and the **Choir Banquet** on June 9th.

We're still looking to fill a few spots on the PAPA Executive Committee for 2015-2016 so please reach out to Gloria or Eileen if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone who helped out at **Kiss Me Kate**. We wouldn't have been nearly as successful in our fundraising and support of the show if not for the tremendous group of PAPA volunteers.

Gloria Ling Chau
Pcgl7@optonline.net

and
Co-Presidents

Eileen Gabriele
eileen@gabrielegroup.com

Remember to LIKE us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PAPAatBCA>

Announcing BCA's 2nd Annual...

GLOW ZUMBA

TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST 6:30 PM



REGISTRATION @ Auditorium

\$10 -6:00 PM SHARP-

**** GLOW BRACELETS &
PROPS PROVIDED****

♪ **Sponsored by Girl UP** ♪

Dear Parents and Guardians,

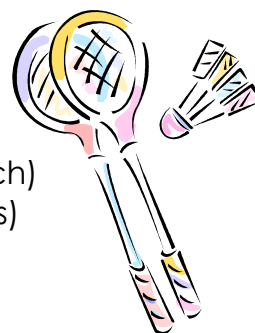


The Bergen County Academies will be hosting their annual Field Day on Friday, June 19, 2015. This event has been a tradition at the Academy for many years and provides the students with a day to have good competitive fun and take a well-deserved break from academics. The students will be participating 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. This is where we need your help! In order to accommodate 1,100 students, the estimated expenditure is over \$6,000! The majority of the expenses are paid for by generous donations from our Academy families. Financial contributions of any size are greatly appreciated to make Field Day a success! We also need **many** volunteers to assist with the BBQ and make it our best yet. The rain date is Monday, June 22nd.

Aside from the monetary contributions the following is 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)



Thank you. Let's think Field Day!

Student Name: _____

Name of Parent: _____

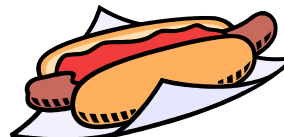
Address: _____

Checks should be made payable to: "Field Day"
Please mail your donations to:

P.S. Any items donated can be brought to the school at your convenience. Please email wilmul@bergen.org if you would like to volunteer or call at 201-343-6000 ext. 2277



Will Muller
Bergen Academies
200 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, N.J. 07601





Save the Date

Monday, April 20th, 2015

6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Bergen County Technical School District



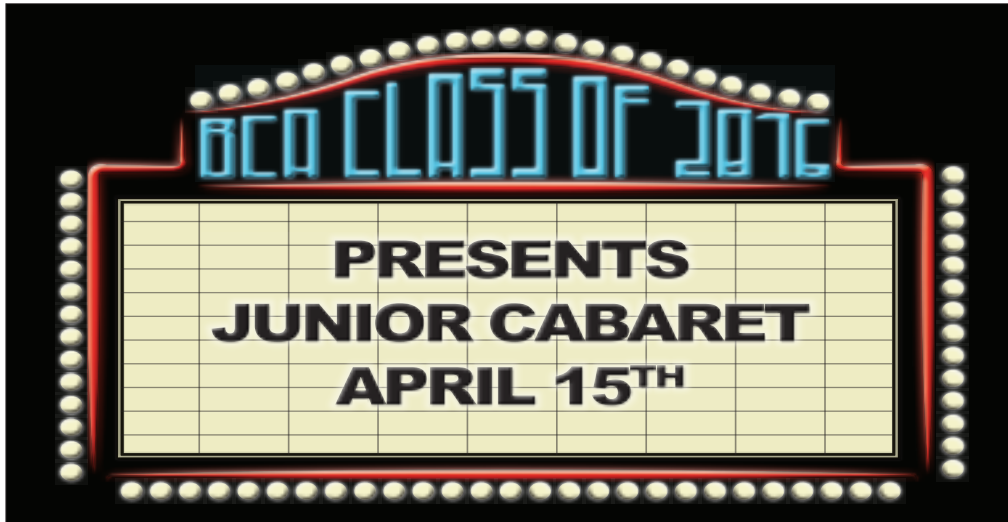
**Don't miss out on this great opportunity
to visit with many great colleges and
universities from all over the country!**

College Fair Location:

Bergen County Academies

200 Hackensack Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601

For more information about this event,
please contact Ms. Redlitz at jenred@bergen.org



**6:30 PM
BCA AUDITORIUM**

**General Admission - \$12
BCA Students/Faculty/ Children under 12 - \$8
Class of 2019 - \$6**

*Join us for an evening showcasing many talented BCA students and faculty!
Enjoy light desserts, refreshments and amazing raffle baskets!*

****PRE-ORDER RAFFLE TICKETS NOW****

*All orders will be available at the ticket window on the evening of the event.
Pre-printed labels included if order received by 4/10/15*

**\$20 VALUE PACKAGE (\$25 in tickets...15 white, 3 black & 1 gold!)
\$40 VALUE PACKAGE (\$50 in tickets...25 white, 9 black and 2 gold!)**

Questions: Contact BCAClassof2016@gmail.com

***Detach and mail to: Pam Caine, 14 Pilgrim Court Tenafly, NJ 07670
Checks: Student Activities Fund Class of 2016***

Name	_____	Email	_____
Cell phone#	_____	Gen. Admission Tickets	_____
Student/Faculty/Children Tickets	_____	\$40 Value Package(s)	_____
\$20 Value Package(s)	_____		
TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____		

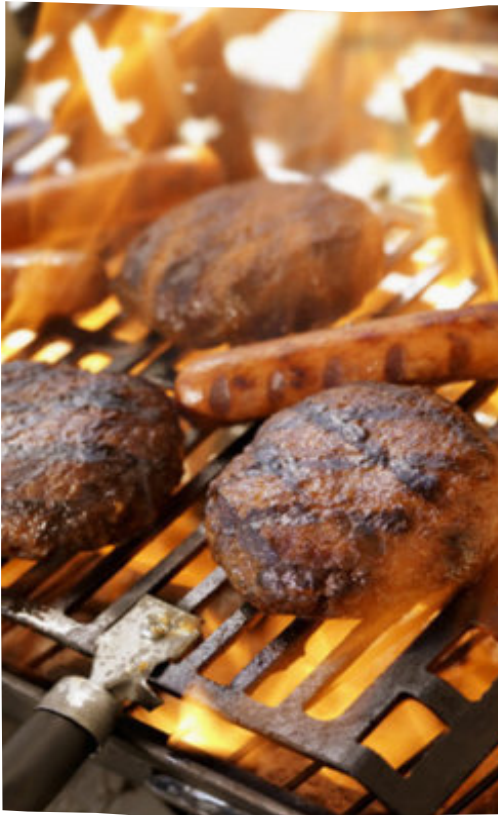
You're invited to the 22nd

Annual PPO Picnic



Bergen County Academies

Help us welcome the Class of 2019



Saturday, May 16th, 2015

12:00 - 4:00pm

**Admission is free to all
paid PPO families
& families of the
Class of 2019**

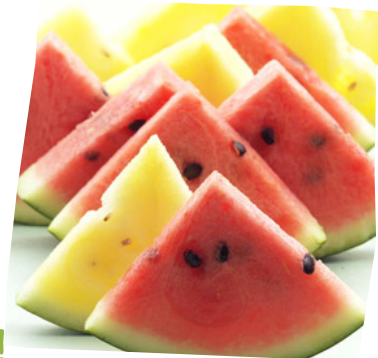
**On the Athletic Field
Behind the School
(Rain or Shine)***

*In the event of rain, picnic will be in the Gym

RSVP Online at <http://bit.ly/1HyE86a>
and click on the Picnic RSVP Form

Questions? Contact us at
bcappopicnic@gmail.com

**Each family MUST bring a
two-liter beverage and a one
gallon bottle of water**



We hope you can join us!

Lots of fun activities and LIVE Music!!

