



# NBPS Newsflash

## December 2023

Dear Families and Staff,

This past month I've been taking the time to drop in and visit many of our schools. I've led a handful of state visits, but I've mostly had the pleasure of informal drop-ins where I get to see different classes in action, can have a quick chat with our amazing students, see different classroom setups and teaching styles, sample a healthy school lunch, watch support staff and systems and generally get a sense of the vibrant culture you strive to create for your school community.


Highlights and small moments of joy? This week, I brought a housing policy group from state and city to stop by DeValles and Hay-Mac to talk about transit, schools, and growth. Things quickly went off script as department heads high-fived or hugged their former principals and shared their enduring bond with their former teachers. I think the state officials got a lesson in what a school-centered neighborhood can really mean.

I know there are so many special moments in our buildings daily. From hearing the music lessons echo in the hallway, to the memorable smell of classic school paint as we pass the busy art room, to watching educators balance a differentiated lesson in elementary classroom centers, to our middle schoolers in math mastering the proportions, slopes and percentages I struggled with as a school business manager. Your newcomer classrooms are a state model, and I get jealous seeing Pacheco students in their matching red bulldog sweatshirts as they sit in their new literacy lounge. And top marks to our food service staff for the best Chicken Alfredo I've had all year!

I am constantly reminded schools and classrooms are where we see all our efforts play out for the benefit of our city's young people. In a large comprehensive district, there is so much happening, which means there is so much good happening, and the good work is fostered by so many good people. The trick is to find, accentuate and build on the right work so all are clear on what and which is the work that matters.

I've enjoyed these visits so much, and I want to do more! So, here's a fun idea. Teachers and schools, how about inviting me over for a short visit to your class? It could be for 10-15 minutes, or even a whole lesson!

This could be a great chance for me to see all the vital work you do every day. And yes, I want to learn what you need or how we as a district can support you better. If you're up for this, please email me at [superintendent@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:superintendent@newbedfordschools.org) with times and ideas for what you'd like to share during a possible visit.

  
Andrew O'Leary  
Interim Superintendent

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**



**“Keep your  
face always  
toward the  
sunshine, and  
shadows will  
fall behind  
you.”**

- *Walt Whitman*

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# Employee Spotlight



## Maegan DaRosa

Substantially Separate Special Education Teacher  
Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School



“I nominate Maegan DaRosa for a Staff Spotlight. Maegan is a Substantially Separate Special Education Teacher at Gomes Elementary. Maegan always puts the best interest of students first. She spearheads our ‘Gomes Grinds’, where students run an internal coffee shop business for staff. Maegan also partners with our Grade 3 team to lead the “Reading Buddies” program where students engage in various literacy and reading lessons with one another to accelerate literacy growth and achievement as well as have some fun teaching their peers. Maegan is also the co-treasurer of our PTO as well as the co-facilitator of our 21st Century CCLC afterschool programming. All in all, Mrs. DaRosa is a true professional and just an all-round phenomenal educator.”

– Ellyn Gallant, Principal, Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School



## Daniel Sallom

Para-educator  
Sgt. William H. Carney Academy



“Danny Sallom is in his second year as a Para-Educator at Carney Academy. Danny embodies the **#Carney100** motto through his willingness to support students each and every day. Mr. Danny's positive mindset and supportive attitude encourage students as well as fellow staff. He is willing to support wherever and however he can, and with his classroom teacher, he has created an inclusive environment that both students and staff are excited to be a part of. We are so appreciative of the work that Mr. Danny does for our students every day and his support extends beyond the classroom to his work on the Carney website. Thank you, Mr. Danny for being a part of the Carney Academy team and for believing that here at Carney, everyone matters and everyone succeeds!

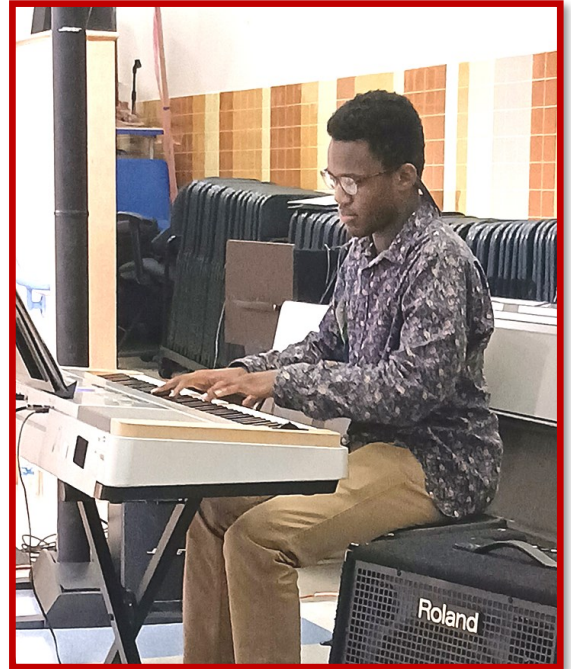
– Mary Carvalho, Manager, Educator Quality, Sgt. Carney Academy



# Student Spotlight

## CONGRATULATIONS to NBHS Sophomore Elliot Talley

New Bedford High School sophomore Elliot Talley was chosen **Arts/Learning's 2023 Outstanding Student Advocate, Champions of Arts Education Award** "For outstanding support of art education, and for providing artistic and educational leadership in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." In her nomination, NBHS Principal Bernadette Coelho wrote, "Elliott's greatest advocacy for the arts is through his summer backyard concerts. Since 2020, he has held an annual concert in his back yard, where he plays the piano and sings, inviting the neighborhood to attend. For the past two years, he has collected donations for the South Coast Children's Chorus. Elliot is extremely involved in his school community, serving for the second consecutive year as the chairperson of the Student Advisory Committee as well as the student representative on the New Bedford School Committee. He was recently elected chairperson of the Southeast Regional Student Advisory Committee."



Elliot and Ms. Kerri-Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent, Bourne Public Schools.



Ms. Lynn Souza, NBPS Director of Fine Arts; Mr. Austin Burns, Elliott's vocal coach; Elliot, and Mr. Tianxu Zhou, Director, SouthCoast Children's Chorus (of which Elliott is a member).



# Around Our Schools

## Thanksgiving Lunch — November 16, 2023





# NBPS Wellness Fair Highlights

November 16



Updates and information  
from your Human Capital  
Services Team...

Update  
your  
Information!



## Updating Your Employee Record

AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING ACCURATE RECORDS AND ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF OUR EMPLOYEES, WE KINDLY REMIND YOU TO REVIEW AND UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IN OUR RECORDS. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VERIFY AND, IF NECESSARY, UPDATE YOUR:

1. **PHONE NUMBER:** ENSURE WE CAN REACH YOU PROMPTLY FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES!
2. **ADDRESS:** KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CURRENT FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.
3. **EMERGENCY CONTACTS:** IN CASE OF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVING ACCURATE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION IS CRUCIAL.

TO MAKE THESE UPDATES, PLEASE SUBMIT A COMPLETED **EMPLOYEE INFORMATION CHANGE FORM** TO HUMAN CAPITAL SERVICES DIRECTLY. YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED IN HELPING US MAINTAIN A SAFE AND EFFICIENT WORK ENVIRONMENT.

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Life comes with challenges.

Your Assistance Program is here to help.  
Your Assistance Program can help you reduce stress,  
improve mental health, and make life easier by connecting  
you to the right information, resources, and referrals.

All services are free, confidential, and available to you and  
your family members.

Contact AllOne Health

Call: 800-451-1834

Visit: AllOneHealthEap.com

Use This Code When Creating Your Account: **newbedford**

**ALLONE**<sup>®</sup>  
HEALTH



## Updates and information from your Human Capital Services Team...



As a reminder, HCS is no longer managing staff COVID cases as the emergency order has been lifted by the state of MA.

- If you test positive for COVID-19 you are not permitted to report to work until your isolation period ends.
- Staff are NOT required to notify their supervisor or HCS of their medical status if they test COVID positive.
- Staff ARE required to utilize Frontline AESOP whenever they are out sick or are caring for a sick family member. There are no COVID sick time absence reasons available in Frontline AESOP for staff.

Below please find the guidelines from the MA Dept of Health.

### **If staff test positive for COVID-19 they are required to:**

- Stay home and isolate for at least the first 5 days;
- If you never had symptoms or symptoms are improving,\* you may end your isolation on day 6
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days (including in the household). You may remove your mask prior to day 11, if you have had two negative tests taken 48 hours apart.

*\*Note: If you have or develop symptoms, continue to stay home, until you have not had a fever for 24-hours without the use of fever reducing medicine and your other symptoms are improving. If you were severely ill (were hospitalized) or have a weakened immune system, you should consult your healthcare provider before leaving isolation.*

### **The Massachusetts Department of Public Health provides the additional guidance on isolation:**

Days to Isolate

**Day 0**, first day of symptoms OR day the positive test was taken, whichever is earlier

**Days 1-4**, continue to isolate

**Day 5**, last day of isolation if asymptomatic or symptoms are improving

**Day 6**, leave isolation (if you are able to wear a mask at all times when around other people, including in your household, through day 10). You may remove your mask prior to day 10, if you have had two negative tests taken 48 hours apart.

**After you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen**, restart your isolation at day 0.

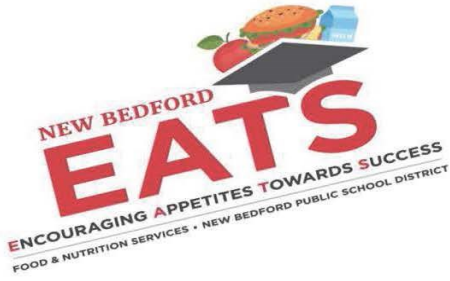
# *Around the District*

## *Adult Learning Center Annual Family Literacy Day!*

Students of all ages enjoyed a lot of fun activities including reading Thanksgiving stories, sing-alongs, word search puzzles, games and arts and crafts. They even had a visit from a “real-life human scarecrow”! Everyone was given 2 books to bring home to continue their reading enjoyment.







## NBPS Succeeding in Efforts to Reduce Waste



Lynsey Medeiros, Food Services Manager, shows the new reusable meal trays at RMS.

New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) is doing its part to reduce waste. The School District has eliminated the use of Styrofoam meal trays, and several schools are diverting food waste from the trash.

### Eliminating 1.6 Million Styrofoam Meal Trays!

The City of New Bedford was awarded a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in 2019 to implement a program to reduce the use of Styrofoam trays in NBPS. Starting in the 2022-23 school year, the school district eliminated the use of Styrofoam meal

trays. Robert Shaheen, Food Services Director at NBPS, said, "Health concerns over using Styrofoam, and knowing that we need to reduce what is going to the landfill, made this a welcomed partnership to eliminate Styrofoam lunch trays."

The project was a collaboration between the City of New Bedford, NBPS, and the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District (GNBRRMD). The City purchased six dishwashers for three elementary schools - Gomes Elementary School, Carney Academy, and Hayden McFadden Elementary School. The project was funded by a School Recycling Assistance grant from MassDEP of \$95,000; \$24,000 from Recycling Dividend Program funds which is another grant program from MassDEP; and in-kind funding from NBPS for dishwasher installation and the purchase of 4,000 reusable trays. NBPS funded an additional four dishwashers to ensure all the dishwashers at the three schools were functional. Separate from this project, NBPS replaced or repaired many other dishwashers at additional schools.

Staff from the GNBRRMD applied for the grant, drafted and submitted required reports, and gave recycling and waste reduction educational presentations to approximately 2,000 students throughout the two and half years of the project.

During the 2018-19 school year, the baseline for the program, NBPS purchased 1,627,980 Styrofoam lunch trays. In 2021-22, 16,250 Styrofoam lunch trays were purchased, and in 2022-23 no Styrofoam lunch trays were purchased.



# FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES UPDATE



## *Reducing Food Waste Going in the Trash*



Lynsey Medeiros, Food Services Manager, monitors usage of in the food waste carts at RMS.

The NBPS are diverting food waste from the trash at Jacobs Elementary School, Keith Middle School, Normandin Middle School, Roosevelt Middle School, and New Bedford High School.

“These projects directly result in reduced volumes of waste going into our local landfill. They are great examples of various groups working together to accomplish significant goals. Excellent teamwork!” said Jennifer Vieira, Director of Facilities & Fleet Management.

Black Earth Compost collects food scraps and composts the material. Compost is nutrient-rich soil amendment. It is vital to return nutrients to the soil to continue to grow nutritious food.

Black Earth Compost delivered carts to these schools. School staff places food waste such as trimmings from vegetables, and food that was not eaten in time, into the designated carts.

Staff from Black Earth Compost empties the carts and composts the material, which keeps it out of the Crapo Hill Landfill.

Black Earth Compost delivered carts to these schools. School staff places food waste such as trimmings from vegetables, and food that was not eaten in time, into the designated carts.





The New Bedford High School Drama Club  
presents



the  
CRUCIBLE

By Arthur Miller

December 1 & 2 at 7pm

December 3 at 2pm

Tickets & Info:



[our.show/nbhscrucible](https://our.show/nbhscrucible)


THE CRUCIBLE is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

# NBHS Winter Concert

Tues. December 12th, 2023

7PM-9PM



Featuring: Concert  
Band, Symphonic Band  
Chorus, Show Choir,  
SSA Choir, Jazz Band,  
Jazz Combo, Orchestra,  
and the NBHS Staff  
Chorus! 

New Bedford High  
School's  
Bronspiegel Auditorium

Donations Welcome 



New Bedford Public Schools  
presents

# DISTRICT WIDE CHORAL FESTIVAL

December 19, 2023  
7pm

NBHS Bronspiegel Auditorium  
230 Hathaway Boulevard

For more information, contact:  
Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts  
[lsouza@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:lsouza@newbedfordschools.org)  
508-997-4511 ext. 14104



NBPS

# December

## BUCKET LIST



**11/30**  
5PM-6PM



Bookland Reading Club- learn about Hanukkah! (Howland Green)

Bookland Reading Club- read Give a Mouse a Cookie! (Main Street)



**12/7**  
5PM-6PM

**12/8**  
4:30-7PM



Holiday Crafts with Miss Gissete at Gomes!

Haymac Holiday Extravaganza!



**12/8**  
4:30PM-6:30PM

**12/9**  
10AM-2PM

Fill a Bus at Target in Dartmouth!



Lincoln Christmas around the World Event!



**12/9**  
8AM-10AM

**12/14**  
5PM-6PM



Bookland Reading Club- read with the Grinch! (Howland Green)

Keith Holiday Movie Night



**12/14**  
5PM-7PM

**12/14**  
5PM-7PM



Carney Winter Wonderland Event

Jacobs Holiday Pajama Night!



**12/19**  
5PM-7PM

**12/20**  
4PM-6PM



Normandin Cookie Decorating Contest!



**WRAPAROUND SERVICES**

Family Engagement = Student Success



# Winter Weather Notifications

Cancellations and Early Dismissals will be posted on NBPS Facebook, Twitter, [newbedfordschools.org](http://newbedfordschools.org) and sent to the following media outlets:

- *Boston Globe*
- *NB Cable Access*
- *New Bedford Guide*
- *New Bedford Light*
- *Standard-Times*
- *WBSM-1420 AM*
- *WBZ-1030 AM Boston*
- *WBZ-TV4 Boston*
- *WCVB-TV5 Boston*
- *WFHN-FUN107 FM*
- *WFXT-TV25 Boston*
- *WHDH-TV7 Boston*
- *WJAR-TV10 Providence*
- *WJFD-97.3 FM*
- *WLNE-TV6 Providence*
- *WNPN-89.3 FM*
- *WPRI-TV12 Providence*
- *WSAR-1480 AM*

Wishing you  
Happy Holidays! Happy Winter!



And a Healthy and Happy New Year!

NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HUMAN CAPITAL SERVICES