



NBPS Newsflash February 2024

Greetings New Bedford Public Schools Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and reflect on Black History Month. It is vital that we do so because Black history reminds us “the half has never been told.” We become better educators when we recognize that Black history and culture offer a rich and historically overlooked seam of cultural, social, and historical wealth. In New Bedford, we do more than simply acknowledge the designation of Black History Month. New Bedford, as much if not more than any other American city, holds and memorializes the history of agency, agitation, and abolition that shaped so much progress in our nation.

Our school names are one measure of this legacy. We have recognized one of the greatest American military heroes in our naming of Sgt. William H. Carney Memorial Academy. We can be proud of our naming of the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School in honor of one of the great leaders of the Progressive Era Suffrage movements. Attorney Alfred J. Gomes is memorialized, too, as just one testament to an enduring legacy and outsized contributions of Cape Verde to our city and nation.

Last month we were the beneficiaries of a visit of the Drumline Live event made up of graduates of many of the great Historically Black Colleges and Universities. These performers and graduates met with our students and families and inspired all. Indeed, HBCUs are a model for the district we aspire to create. Too often, we focus on a school system as a functional organization. HBCUs remind us of the importance of culture, legacy and community.

Our district has a unique legacy and identity as an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming community. We must work every day to maintain these values.

As I have been invited to visit classrooms, I see Black history and culture present as part of deep and meaningful learning. Brooks, Carney, Gomes and New Bedford High, are but a few examples. Please feel free to invite me to your classroom or share any of your great work with me any time.

Remember, you can drop by this weekend at the New Bedford Historical Society’s 21st Annual Frederick Douglass Read-a-Thon, Sunday, February 4 (2-6 PM) at First Unitarian Church, New Bedford.

Sincerely,

Andrew O’Leary
Superintendent



Hold fast to
your dreams,
for if dreams
die, life is a
broken
winged bird
that cannot
fly.

- Langston Hughes

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Employee Spotlight:	2
SCEC Opportunities:	3
SEI Course Offerings:	4
BSU Reg. Center:	5
Community Corner:	6 & 7
School Counselors :	8
Food Services Update :	9
NBPS: History:	10
Notices:	11 & 12

Employee Spotlight



Gina Salsinha

Third Grade Teacher
William H Taylor School



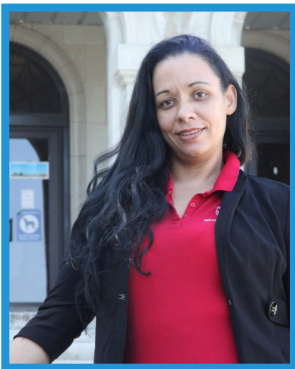
Mrs. Salsinha, a veteran 3rd-grade teacher with over two decades of dedicated service at NBPS, embodies the essence of an exceptional educator. With a wealth of experience, she consistently sets high expectations for her students, fostering an environment of academic excellence. Mrs. Salsinha is committed to ensuring that her students not only meet but exceed these expectations through her skillful and engaging instructional methods. Her caring and nurturing demeanor create a positive and supportive classroom atmosphere, where students feel valued and motivated to succeed. Mrs. Salsinha takes immense pride in her students' accomplishments, a testament to her unwavering dedication to their growth and development. Her enduring impact on the educational journey of countless students is a reflection of her passion and commitment to the teaching profession. In addition, she has served as a mentor to many new teachers as well as supervisor practitioner to several hopeful student teachers.

– Rafaela DeFigueiredo, Principal, William H. Taylor School



Eliany Grace

Wraparound Coordinator
PRAB



Eliany is a valuable member of the NBPS Wraparound and Family Engagement team. In her recent transition to Wraparound Coordinator, she supports families with emerging bilingual students at Carney Academy and Gomes School. Eliany has been with the district for 15 years and is fluent in four languages. She is passionate about her work and committed to building bridges between home and school. Eliany is always looking for ways to provide the best possible support to the families she works with. An avid reader, she brings creativity to life in the types of engagement opportunities she develops, such as “Tacos with Dad”, Cooking Classes, and Parent Cafés. She engages community partners and regularly includes them in her school-to-family interactions. Passionate about working with migrant and emerging bilingual families, she frequently goes the extra mile to make sure they feel valued and seen. A dedicated and caring employee, she is committed to making a difference in the lives of the students and families she serves. We are grateful to have her on our team! Since the 2021 school year she has worked with over 700 families and hosted 162 family engagement opportunities. To watch her work a crowd and make families comfortable is magic. She is a real asset and wellspring of knowledge for our department.

- Nicole Ferreira, Wraparound Manager, PRAB



South Coast Educational Collaborative

2201 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA 02777-3924,

Telephone: 508.379.1180, Fax: 508.379.1231,

www.scecoll.org

MISSION: To provide students, families, educators, school districts, and agencies high quality, cost-effective, value-added, and sustainable education, professional development, technical assistance, and resources that are informed by an enduring commitment to deep learning and deep learning and that are grounded in our core values, appropriate research-based content, and best-practice.

To: SCEC Staff and Partnering Districts
From: Dr. Carolyn McKearney
Date: 12/01/2023
RE: Professional Development Opportunities

South Coast Educational Collaborative (SCEC) is partnering once again with Bridgewater State University to offer several Degree and Credentialing programs:

1. **Bachelor's in Special Education:** <https://www.bridgew.edu/department/special-education/academic-programs>
2. **Master's in Special Education:** <https://www.bridgew.edu/graduate/special-education>
3. **Master's in Ed. Leadership:** <https://www.bridgew.edu/academics/programs-graduate/educational-leadership>
4. **SEL Credential:** <https://www.bridgew.edu/graduate/social-emotional-learning-graduate-certificate>
5. **ASD Credential** <https://www.bridgew.edu/graduate/autism-endorsement>
6. **Transition Credential:** <https://www.bridgew.edu/graduate/transition-specialist-endorsement-graduate-certificate>

If enough interest is generated, then SCEC will move forward with the planning process. If you are interested in learning more about any of these programs or wish to be on a list to receive additional information, please contact Dr. Carolyn McKearney at either 508-922-6213 or cmckearney@scecoll.org.

FRENCH RIVER EDUCATION CENTER

SEI Endorsement Course Offerings – Winter/Spring 2024

please note: Online Synchronous Zoom Class - you must have the required technology to participate in all sessions (including computer audio and video). Also, you must be able to attend via Zoom all sessions at their prescribed dates and times.

ADMIN (15-hour class time plus weekly online assignments)

*(no classes over school breaks)

Tuesdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	03/05/24 to 04/02/24*	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Olga Escalera
Thursdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	04/25/24 to 05/23/24*	4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Olga Escalera

FULL TEACHER COURSE (45-hour class time plus weekly online assignments)

*(no classes over school breaks)

Mondays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	02/05/24 to 05/20/24*	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Gail Arsenault
Mondays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	02/05/24 to 05/20/24*	4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Edna Wilson
Tuesdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	02/06/24 to 05/21/24*	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Gail Arsenault
Tuesdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	03/05/24 to 06/18/24*	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Nicholas Bettencourt
Wednesdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	02/07/24 to 05/29/24*	4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Irene Logan
Wednesdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	03/06/24 to 06/19/24*	4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Maria Colon
Thursdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	02/08/24 to 05/30/24*	4:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Edna Wilson
Saturdays	Online Synchronous Zoom Class	01/27/24 to 06/01/24*	9:00 am to 12:00 noon	Hope Oliveras

ESL Licensure MTEL Prep Course

**** Take the ESL MTEL Prep Course to prepare you to pass the ESL teacher exam to become a licensed ESL teacher****

Having an ESL License would eliminate your need to have the SEI Endorsement:

Next Prep Course: Consecutive Mondays: March 4, 11, 18, 25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22: 4-7pm via Zoom

(register at: <https://frec.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=5472>)

To register for a course, please visit:

<https://frec.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse>

Contact Ricci Hall for more information: 508-987-0219 Ext 101 or rhall@frec.org



BSU Regional Center for Emergency License Holders

Bridgewater State University has been awarded substantial grant funding from the Department of Early and Secondary Education allowing educators possessing an emergency license to have the opportunity to earn an initial teaching license at no cost in one of the following fields.

- **Special Education, Moderate Disabilities PreK-8 or 5-12 (cohort model)**
- **Secondary Education (Biology, Chemistry, Dance, Earth and Space Science, English, History, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Spanish, Theater, Visual Arts)**
- **Early Childhood and Elementary Education**
- **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages**

After completion of their licensure coursework and teaching practicum, candidates can move seamlessly into one of our MEd programs at BSU.

Candidates will take part in the following throughout their program:

- **Proactive and Appreciative advising for each participant**
- **Access to free MTEL preparation opportunities at BSU and free MTEL test vouchers**
- **Coursework leading to initial teaching license**
- **Participants will be able to use coursework towards their applicable MEd at BSU**

**For more
information:**



Community Corner

Volunteers are needed throughout our community*



PLAYSPACE PROGRAM

Volunteer to support children experiencing homelessness in New Bedford



The Playspace Program is looking for volunteers to play with children experiencing homelessness in your community for just two hours each week. Please visit horizonschildren.org/playspace or scan the QR code below to learn more.



**HORIZONS
FOR HOMELESS
CHILDREN®**



*NBPS District Goal #4—"Increase awareness of staff to the benefits, partnerships and opportunities to become a bigger part of the greater New Bedford Community."

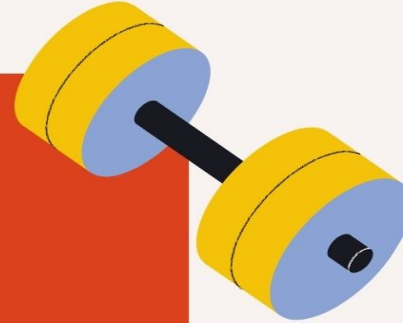
Community Corner

Volunteers are needed throughout our community*



NBPS STAFF

JOIN THE NBPS WELLNESS COMMITTEE



We are looking for dedicated volunteers to share their voice regarding the NBPS Wellness Policy and more!

FEB 12TH
MARCH 11TH

MAY 13TH
3-4 PM

**NEW BEDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL**

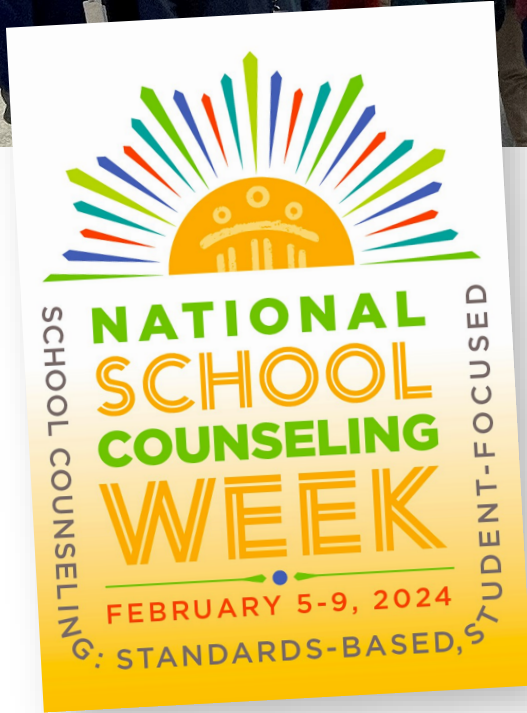
230 Hathaway Blvd.
New Bedford, MA
02740

MORE INFO + RSVP:

ewestgate@newbedfordschools.org



*NBPS District Goal #4—"Increase awareness of staff to the benefits, partnerships and opportunities to become a bigger part of the greater New Bedford Community."



NBPS School Counselors Celebrate National School Counseling Week, Feb. 5–9

“School counselors are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents and work in partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today’s world. School counselors focus on positive ways to enhance students’ academic, career and social/emotional development; and work with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves. School counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master’s degree in the counseling field. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.” – *schoolcounselor.org*.

Thank you for all you do!

Winter Weather Notifications

Cancellations and Early Dismissals will be posted on NBPS Facebook, Twitter/X, newbedfordschools.org and sent to the following media outlets:

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

Food & Nutrition Services Update



Plant-Based Taste Test

February 27, 2024

We will be hosting a plant-based taste test during lunch shifts Tan House, New Bedford High School

The tasting will consist of plant based Mexican vegan nachos and Italian vegan nachos. We are happy to start Phase One of the process to get plant-based/vegetarian/vegan foods on the menu.

NBHS Staff are invited to taste test, too!

Plant-based or plant-forward eating patterns focus on foods primarily from plants. This includes not only fruits and vegetables, but also nuts, seeds, oils, whole grains, legumes, and beans.

We look forward to seeing you!



Robert Shaheen, Director x14257

rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org

Sgt. William H. Carney

1840-1908



William Harvey Carney was born into slavery in Norfolk, Virginia on February 29, 1840. As a youth he was eager to learn and secretly got involved in academics, despite laws and restrictions that banned blacks from learning to read and write. Eventually, his family gained their freedom and moved to Massachusetts.

Carney had wanted to pursue a career in the church, but when the Civil War broke out, he decided the best way he could serve God was by serving in the military to help free the oppressed.

In March 1863, Carney joined the Union Army, attached to Company C, 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. The 54th was first official black unit recruited for the Union in the North. Forty other black men served with Carney, including two sons of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, formerly of New Bedford.

Within a few months, Carney's training would be put to the ultimate test during the unit's first major combat mission at Charleston, South Carolina.

On July 18, 1863, the soldiers of Carney's regiment led the charge on Fort Wagner. During the battle, the unit's color guard was shot. Just a few feet away, Carney scrambled to catch the falling flag.

Despite suffering several serious gunshot wounds himself, Carney kept the symbol of the Union held high as he crawled up the hill to the walls of Fort Wagner, urging his fellow troops to follow him. He planted the flag in the sand at the base of the fort

and held it upright until he was rescued nearly lifeless.

Even then, though, he didn't give up the colors. Witnesses related how Carney refused to give the flag to his rescuers, holding onto it tighter until, with assistance, he made it to the Union's temporary barracks.

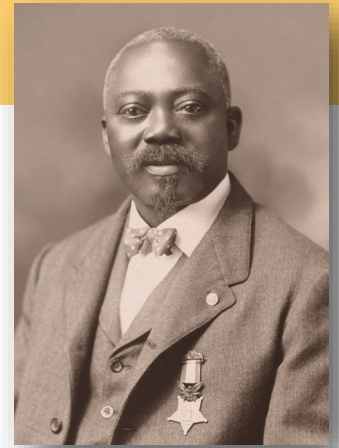
Carney had lost a lot of blood and nearly died, but not once did he allow the flag to touch the ground. His heroic actions that day inspired his comrades and it was acknowledged as crucial to the North securing victory at Fort Wagner. Carney was promoted to the rank of sergeant for his actions.

For his bravery, Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor on May 23, 1900, the first soldier of color to do so. For many years, he resided at 128 Mill Street in New Bedford. Carney died in 1908 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in the city.

In 1939, Elizabeth Carter Brooks bought the Carney homestead. She then sold the house to the Martha Briggs Educational Club, which continues as steward of the house to this day.

Sergeant William H. Carney Memorial Academy was dedicated in his honor in 1977.

Of Carney, Francis Magurn, Brigadier General of the Massachusetts National Guard said, "he will go down in our nation's history as someone who fought for a new way of life and a new image of America" (Carney Academy, March 22, 2023).



FYI

NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar

February 2024



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!




Wraparound
Department-
455 County Street,
New Bedford, MA
(508) 997-4511
ext. 14154



**2 GOMES
"DANCE WITH ME"
NIGHT
6PM-7:30PM**

**5 JACOBS VALENTINES
DAY PAINT NIGHT
5PM-7PM**



**6 CPPI- TRAUMA
WORKSHOP ON
ZOOM!
5:30PM-7PM**

7

**8 SNAP &
HOUSING
WORKSHOP AT
NORMANDIN
1:30-4PM**

**CARNEY
"DANCE WITH ME"
NIGHT
4PM-6PM**

9

**12 NBHS FASFA
WORKSHOP
4:30PM-6:30PM**

**DISTRICT FELT
MEETING ON ZOOM
6PM-7PM**

**13 "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH"
SERIES ON ZOOM
6PM-7PM**

**NEW BUSINESS
GRANTS WORKSHOP
AT KEITH 5PM-7PM**

*Happy
valentine's
day*

TIDY TOTS PARENT CAFÉ
AT PACHECO 8:15-9:15AM

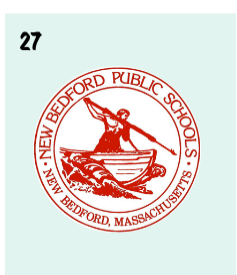
15

16

**19 FEBRUARY
VACATION
BEGINS!**



**26 "I SEE YOU"
SUPPORT
GROUP ON
ZOOM
6PM-7PM**



**28 FAMILY FUN NIGHT
AT NORMANDIN
5:30PM-7:30PM**

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL
LEARNING ON
ZOOM 5PM-6PM**



NBHS CLASS OF 2026
PRESENTS

SPRING FLING

Vendor Market

AT NBHS GYMNASIUM

SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD

DOORS OPEN AT 10 AM - 2PM

-FREE ENTRY

featuring:

EASTER BUNNY*

FOOD TRUCKS*

KIDS' ACTIVITIES*

Enjoy the vibe of Spring.
Shop small and support the
Classes of NBHS

For vendor information and inquiries email:

NGARCIA@NEWBEDFORDSCHOOLS.ORG
CCBENOIT@NEWBEDFORDSCHOOLS.ORG

*For a fee