



# NBPS Newsflash November 2023

**Celebrating Literacy** 

Dear Families and Staff,

As we transition into the months of November and December, and as I visit our classrooms, I'm reminded of the importance of literacy in our lives and its profound impact on our students.

In my visits across our schools, it's heartening to see books everywhere. From libraries to classrooms, from Patricia Polacco's heartwarming tales to Dr. Seuss's rhymes, the joy of reading is palpable. Reading *is* fundamental and New Bedford educators send that message daily with in-class library shelves stocked with a variety of illustrated, imaginative, fiction and non-fiction titles. Visiting classrooms, my own happy memories of reading and school peak when I see in-class book bins with Roald Dahl's *Witches*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. And who can fail to be inspired by school wall art that pays tribute to literary lights like our national poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, and highlights the unique perspectives that books bring to readers young and old as Hathaway School's *Matilda* mural illustrates.

This season, many of us will curl up with a cherished book or gifting a book for the holidays. We want this lifelong attachment for our students – that unique charm in holding a hardcopy book, turning its pages, and immersing oneself in a narrative.

Remember, we are fortunate to reside in a city with a vibrant library network. I encourage every family to explore these resources and cultivate a love for reading.

### **District Initiatives**

As one part of our commitment to literacy, we will be sending home early literacy screenings reports to elementary age students. This will help us identify and support our young readers and learners in even more ways.

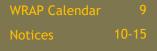
We note that while reading and writing are crucial, there are other ways parents and caregivers can boost literacy:

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# Employee Spotlight



# **Kelly DaCosta**









"Kelly DaCosta, a dedicated teaching specialist, is known for her exceptional qualities. Her helpful and kind nature shines through in all aspects of her work. She is a cornerstone of support for educators, always willing to go the extra mile to assist her colleagues. Her approachability is a key asset, creating an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for everyone. Kelly's commitment to professional development and her ability to foster a collaborative environment greatly benefits the entire school community. She embodies the values of teamwork and empathy, making her an indispensable asset

to the educational community at Taylor School."

- Rafaela DeFigueiredo Principal, William H. Taylor Elementary School



# **Bethany Doiron**

Behavorist

Hayden McFadden Elementary School





"Bethany Doiron is in her second year as a behaviorist here at Hayden McFadden. She continually exemplifies how hard work, adjusting to change, and dedication to the students of Hayden McFadden Elementary School are the combination to her success.

Ms. Doiron runs our school store, which provides our students with incentives to earn rewards; participates and helps staff with all our in-school and outside of school fundraisers;

attends our student/family activities; and provides the staff with support and tools to assist them in the classroom. She exemplifies what a true professional and team player looks like.

Ms. Doiron is an invaluable member of our team and the support she provides is immeasurable. Thank you for all you do!"

-- Kim Marshall, Principal, Hayden McFadden Elementary School

# Superintendent's Letter 'Celebrating Literacy' continued

# – Continued from page 1

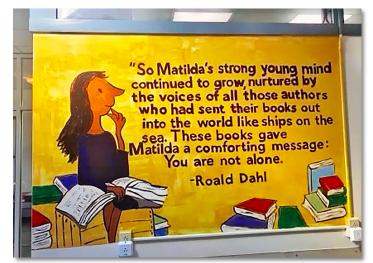
- Storytelling: Share family histories and tales. This enhances listening skills and cultural awareness.
- Games: Board games, card games, or even digital games can help with strategy, vocabulary, and critical thinking.
- Daily Routines: Cooking together or shopping can introduce new words and concepts, fostering both language and life skills.

You may notice that all of these literacy activities have one thing in common: connection and interaction. In our age of digital distraction, the importance of authentic literacy cannot be overstated. Let's celebrate it, not just in schools, but in our homes and communities as well. Here's to a season of stories, learning, and connection!

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,

Andrew O'Leary

**Interim Superintendent** 



Matilda Mural, Ellen R. Hathaway School

# From Para-Educator to Teacher! Congratulations!



**Sherri Lopes** Grade 1 Teacher Lincoln Elementary School



**Lisa Bairos** *ESL Teacher Ashley Elementary School* 



**Kyle Sullivan** Special Education Teacher Carney Academy

Massachusetts Para-Educators can become licensed teachers and do it through the JET Program. JET provides a pathway to help you complete your Bachelor's degree, at little cost, and your Mass. teacher licensure. JET supports the goals of building local teacher pipelines and developing an educator workforce that reflects our community .

For more info on JET, go to: www.newbedfordschools.org | Depts/Programs | Human Capital Services



# **NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# WELLNESS FAIR KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM

# November 16<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm - 6:00pm

## **NUTRITION AWARENESS**

# **TOPICS**

- BBQ WELL- HEALTHY BBQ MEALS
- COFFEE SCIENCE & MORE
- HEALTHY HYDRATION
- EATING FOR ENERGY / SEASONED
   POPCORN
- KIDS & FAMILY MEAL PLANNING



## **HEALTH SCREENING**

- BLOOD PRESURE
- GLUCOSE, HDL, AND CHOLESTORAL FINGERSTICK
- FLU & COVID VACCINES

# **BENEFIT VENDORS**

- BLUE CROSS / BLUE SHIELD
- BOSTON MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE
- CAFETERIA PLAN ADVISORS FLEXIBLE SPENDING
- TRUSTMARK SHORT TERM / LONG TERM DISABILITY
- CITY RETIREMENT
- 403 B TAX SHELTER ANNUALTIES VENDORS
- 457 B MASSACHUSETTS SMART PLAN VENDOR
- MTA MASSACHUSETTS TEACHER ASSOCIATION
- EAP ALL ONE HEALTH- EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



# UNIONS

- NBEA DENTAL PLAN- VISION PLAN INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY
- PARAPROFESSIONALS DENTAL PLAN- ACCESS TO FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION
- NBSSU DISCOUNTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- AFSME DENTAL PLAN DISCOUNTS ON HOTELS, RENTAL CARS AND MORE.

# MENTAL HEALTH / SELF CARE

- VINYASA YOGA CLASS INTERMEDIATE 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- GENTLE RESTORATIVE YOGA CLASS –
  BEGINNERS 4:30 PM 5:30 PM
- MASSAGE THERAPY
- HEALTHY SNACKS & SMOOTHIES



# **RAFFLE PRIZES**

- 9 FITBIT VERSA 4
- 10 \$40.00 GIFT VOUCHERS
- 10 \$25.00 GIFT VOUCHERS

BUIDING WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STAFF TO ATTEND THE FAIR WILL WIN 12 HOURS OF MASSAGES FOR THEIR STAFF







# Whaling Wire Preview Student Spotlight





# **JAESON VIEIRA**

He is one cool cat! Jaeson plays 5 musical instruments and believe it or not he is mostly self taught! Jaeson plays the viola. violin. cello, trumpet and flute. Jaeson was just accepted into the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, where he had to audition for a coveted spot.

Jaeson has always wanted to be a musician and now his dream is becoming his reality! If you want to hear Jaeson play the Viola you can see him during the Symphony concerts. Currently concerts are being held at New Bedford high school due to the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center being renovated.



Jaeson says that music is in his soul and he feels it to his very core. He is interested in learning more about classical and Jazz music and wants to go to Berkeley for college. Jaeson says he is not sure what he wants to study at college yet because he is only a freshman, but he is sure it will involve some type of music!

The whaling wire @amail.com



### **NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

# **UPDATE**

Food & Nutrition Services welcomes **Jennifer Frates**, NBPS Garden Coordinator, is working on the Farm to School program across the district and serving as liaison to our community partners. The Farm to School Program aims to provide all students equal access to a food culture that supports and fulfills the whole child, including their diverse mental and physical needs.

Jen will continue to support lessons from Grow Education across 7 schools to support learning about our gardens. Among her other duties are maintaining and supporting gardens districtwide; supporting food service, family engagement and mentoring Food Corps members.

We are thrilled to have Jen as part of the Food and Nutrition Department and we can't wait to see what she does with our students each and every day!

# Annual NBPS Thanksgiving Lunch

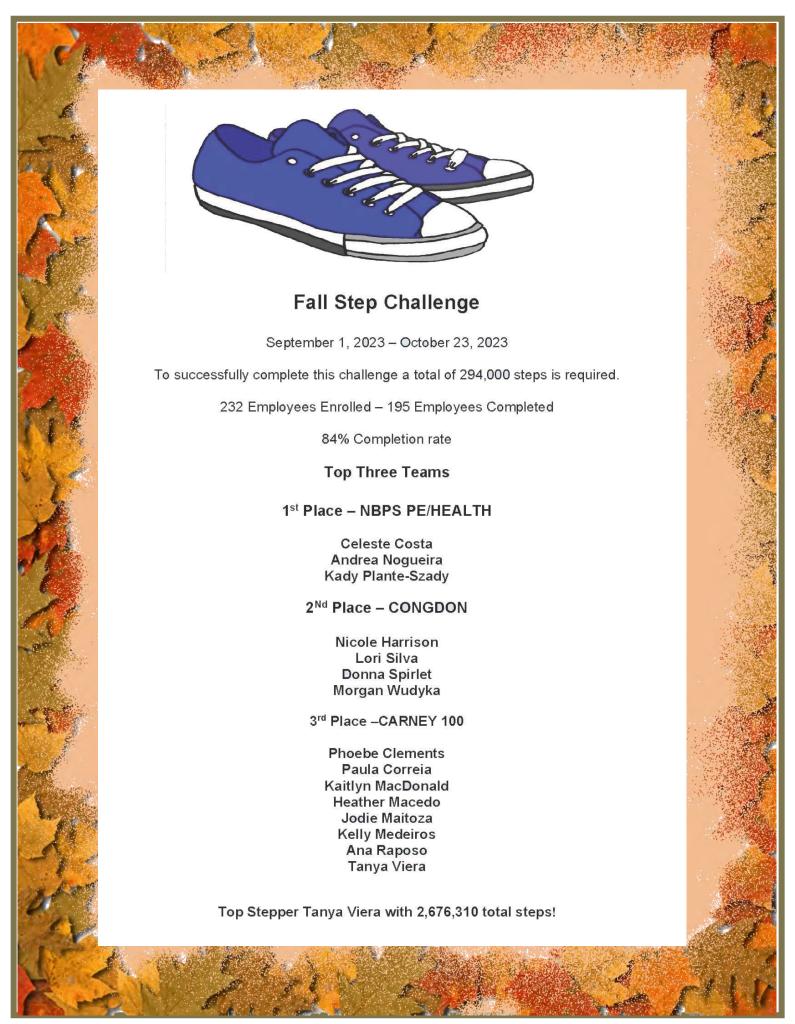


The NBPS Food
Services team will
serve turkey, stuffing,
mashed potatoes,
gravy, cranberry
sauce, whole grain
dinner roll, an apple
and milk to our
students
districtwide!





Thursday, November 16



# from the history of New Bedford Public Schools



# "I've never had a bad student... Developing character was always my goal." – Melver C. Felton, Jr., New Bedford High School

Each day, New Bedford High School students arrive through the main entrance of the Melver C. Felton Administrative Complex. Few notice their arrival is under the watchful gaze of Melver C. Felton, Jr. (1910-1988), whose portrait hangs in the corridor leading to the central hallway. The striking portrait echoes his commanding presence at NBHS during his more than 30 years of service.

A native of New Bedford, Melver Felton, Jr. was born May 27, 1910, the son of Ruth F. (nee Herbert) and Melver C. Felton. A graduate of New Bedford High School Class of 1928, he also won the Jonathan Bourne Prize that year. An accomplished musician, he aspired to a career in music but instead pursued the teaching profession while maintaining his musical interests. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and his Master's in Education from Bridgewater State College.

However, it was music that brought Mr. Felton back to New Bedford Public Schools. In 1936, he was hired as an accompanist on the piano for the district's music department, assisting in music and choral classes throughout the city's elementary schools. He was then appointed a substitute teacher in 1939 and became a full-time teacher in 1941.

Mr. Felton's talent in music was perhaps an extension of his abilities as a gifted mathematician. He taught business arithmetic and subsequently taught a full set of mathematics courses. He was named head of the Mathematics Department in 1954.

Named an assistant principal of NBHS in 1956, Mr. Felton was appointed to head the newly created Data Processing Center at the high school in March 1964, a position he held until his retirement in 1972.

Involved in community service, Mr. Felton served as a trustee of St. Luke's Hospital. He was nationally recognized for educational excellence in mathematics, including receiving the General Electric Math Fellowship at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Mutual respect was a hallmark of Mr. Felton's rapport with students. He would counsel fellow faculty that respect was key to reaching students where they were in their academic development. Gaining trust and demonstrating daily commitment and care were necessary ingredients to imparting knowledge and nurturing intellectual growth, a practice he maintained throughout his remarkable career.

# View your paystubs and available time off on the Employee Self Service Portal

**Login to the Employee Self Service portal from a link available under the Staff dropdown on the NBPS website at: www.newbedfordschools.org**. Your username is your MUNIS employee number and your password is the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. You will be prompted to change the password if it is your first login.



### NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar ovember 2023 Wed Thu Fri Tue Mon 1 Wraparound 31 CHECK **NEW BEDFORD** Department-**COMMUNITY CONNECT OUT OUR** 455 County Street, **FAMILY DINNER** WEBSITE! New Bedford, MA KEITH COMMUNITY (508) 997-4511 **ROOM** 5PM-7PM ext. 14154 **6 GOMES ELPAC** VETERANS **MEETING 10AM-11AM** SNAP & PACHECO CYBER HOUSING **FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES AT JACOBS** SAFETY WORKSHOP **BEGINS! 4PM-5PM** 8:15AM-9:15AM AT KEITH NO SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL FAIRE 1:30-4PM **PROGRAMMING** AT NBHS 5PM-8PM 14 15 "I SEE YOU" **GOMES DUAL** SUPPORT NORMANDIN LANGUAGE INFO **GROUP ON** ZOOM **MOVIE NIGHT** SESSIONS 6PM-7PM 9AM-10AM & 4PM-6PM **FINANCIAL LITERACY** 2PM-3PM **AT JACOBS 4PM-5PM** 20 22 SCHOOLS JRI BACKPACK **FINANCIAL CLOSED FOR SERIES ON** LITERACY SERIES **AT JACOBS THANKSGIVING** ZOOM 4PM-5PM **WEEKEND!** 6PM-7PM 27 KEITH MEET KEITH PACE INFO NIGHT NORMANDIN ELL SUPPORT **FINANCIAL** YOUR ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM **GROUP 4PM-5PM** LITERACY SERIES **ADJUSTMENT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL** COUNSELOR **GNBYA** AT JACOBS **OPPORTUNITIES LEARNING** 4PM-6PM 4PM-5PM



**WORKSHOP ON** 

**ZOOM 5PM-6PM** 

**WORKSHOP ON** 

ZOOM- 6PM-7PM

The New Bedford High School Drama Club presents

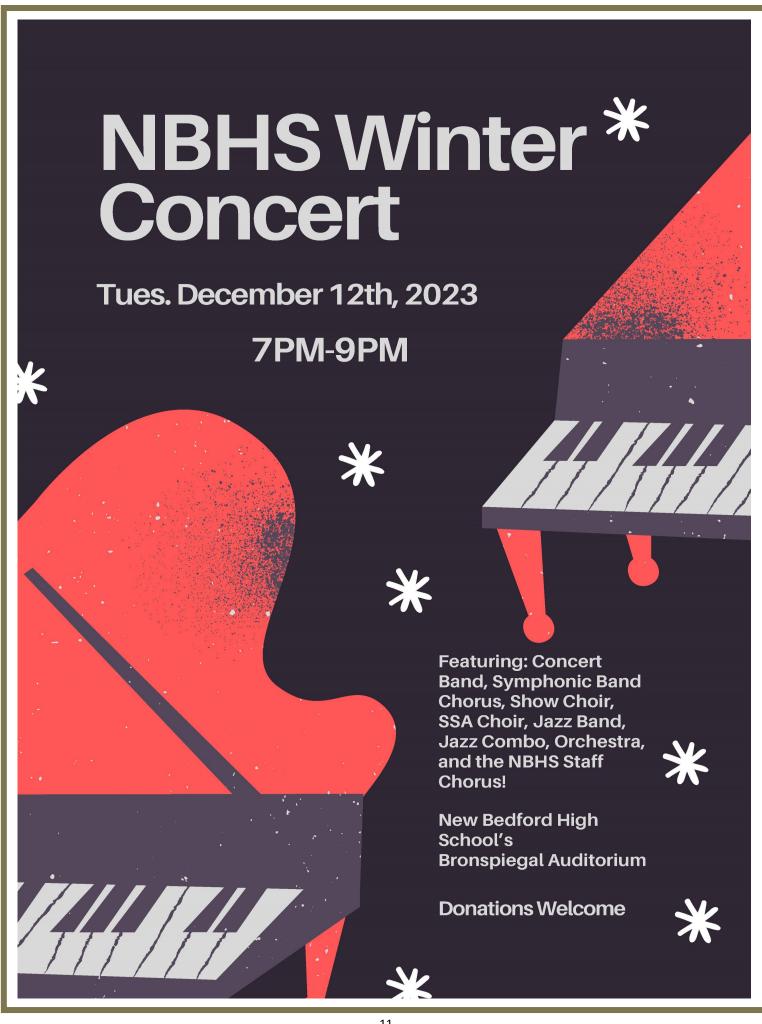
# the CRUCIBLE

By Arthur Miller

December 1 & 2 at 7pm December 3 at 2pm

Tickets & Info: our.show/nbhscrucible

THE CRUCIBLE is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.





New Bedford Public Schools mresents

# DISTRICT WILL GRAL FESTIVAL

December 19, 2023 7pm

NBHS Bronspiegel Auditorium 230 Hathaway Boulevard

> Formore information, contact: Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts Isouza@newbedfordschools.org 508-997-4511 (ext. 14104



# Community Corner

Volunteers are needed throughout our community\*





# GiftsToGive It's good to give back



Because we all have GiftsToGive. (508) 717-8715 1 Titleist Dr, Acushnet, MA 02743

\*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.



# Schooltime

performance series

TOMAS AND THE LIBRARY LADY NOV 20

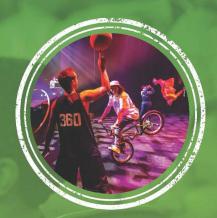
# EDUCATORS PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIPS NOW!

Experience K-12 performances curated to enhance learning in the classroom.



DRUMLINE LIVE JAN 16





360 ALLSTARS



