



# DISTRICT DIGEST

BCPS EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII



## Superintendent Robert W. Runcie's Holiday Message



The District Digest employee newsletter highlights events, activities and accomplishments across Broward County Public Schools (BCPS). Click on the symbol below to go directly to the section you want to check out!

## ★ | BCPS Staff Stars

### Mirror Lake Elementary School's Gigi McIntire Honored with 2016 Gutterman Family Outstanding Holocaust Educator Award

Congratulations to Glenda 'Gigi' McIntire, an educator and counselor at Mirror Lake Elementary School, for being selected to receive the 2016 Gutterman Family Outstanding Holocaust Educator Award. The award is sponsored by the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education (CHHRE) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU).



Each year, the CHHRE recognizes outstanding teachers who have demonstrated a positive impact on their schools and the wider community in the field of Holocaust, genocide and human rights education. It honors individuals who actively, by their example and through teaching about these difficult subjects, strengthen students' world-citizenship and capacity to uphold the dignity of all people.

McIntire will be honored for her outstanding work during the Annual Rose Gatens Educator Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at the Boca Lago Country Club in Boca Raton.

### Driftwood Middle School Teacher Linda Gancitano Participates in White House Champions of Change Event

Linda Gancitano, a physical education teacher at Driftwood Middle School's Academy of Health and Wellness, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. for a special event. She was invited to participate in the White House Champions of Change Reunion on December 5, 2016. Gancitano was originally honored in February 2015 for being a Champion of Change in Climate Education and Literacy. The recognition was based on her efforts to raise awareness about environmental conservation among her students, including starting the Driftwood Middle School Green Team and creating the "How Low Can You Go?" initiative, which has since expanded Districtwide through a partnership with the Miami Heat.



In addition to attending the Champions of Change Reunion, Gancitano was also invited to the White House Holiday Open House on December 6, 2016, which included a tour of the White House fully decorated for the holidays.

## SMART FUTURES

**SAFETY  
MUSIC & ART  
ATHLETICS  
RENOVATION  
TECHNOLOGY**



#BCPSSMARTFutures

## BCPS PODCAST

**BCPS PODCAST**  
Real Talk | Your Superintendent

Listen to  
**ROBERT W. RUNCIE**



SUBSCRIBE AND STREAM  
[browardschools.com/podcast](http://browardschools.com/podcast)

## DOWNLOAD MOBILE APP

DOWNLOAD  
OUR APP TODAY!

See your child's information through your smart device anytime, anywhere.

- Transportation
- Nutrition and Wellness
- Academics



To download go to:  
Download on the App Store  
GET IT ON Google play  
Search for Broward County Public Schools  
To learn more, visit [browardschools.com/mobileapp](http://browardschools.com/mobileapp)

## DISTRICT DIGEST SPONSORED BY:



Northwest Medical Center  
Plantation General Hospital  
University Hospital & Medical Center  
Westside Regional Medical Center  
Westside ER in Davie open 24/7

## Monarch High School Principal James Neer Selected as 2016 Principal Leadership Award Honoree

Congratulations to James Neer, BCPS Principal of Monarch High School in Coconut Creek, Florida, for being one of nine honorees from across the state for the 2016 Principal Leadership Awards by Florida TaxWatch, which recognizes top performing principals who exceed expected learning gains in high-risk schools.

Recognition is based on analysis of student achievement gains in reading and mathematics in schools that have high percentages of students with disabilities, students designated as English as a Second Language learners, and those eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch. Principal Neer has been a principal for 14 years and with BCPS for a total of 33 years!

[Watch the Special School Board Presentation honoring Principal Neer for this accomplishment on December 20, 2016.](#)



## Stranahan High School Teacher Honored by American Geographical Society

Derek Sheets, who teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography at Stranahan High School, has been named a 2016 American Geographical Society Geography Teacher Fellow.

As part of his fellowship, he participated in the organization's fall symposium with the theme "Envisioning a Sustainable Planet" at Columbia University. He will also have the opportunity to interact with leaders throughout the nation to discuss topics about the future of geography.



## Ramblewood Middle School Teacher Ellen Davis Chosen for Prestigious Overseas World War II Program

Ellen Davis, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) teacher at Ramblewood Middle School, is one of only 18 educators in the nation, and the only educator from the state of Florida, selected to participate in Understanding Sacrifice program. The program is a partnership between National History Day, the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, the American Battle Monuments Commission and the National Cemetery Administration.

As part of the program, Davis selects an American hero who is buried or memorialized in an American Battle Monuments Commission or National Cemetery Administration cemetery and conducts in-depth research on the life of the fallen hero. She will then travel to San Francisco, Honolulu and Manila in July 2017 to gain a better understanding of the American sacrifice in World War II and present a eulogy at the grave or memorial of her selected fallen hero. Davis will also create lesson plans from her hands-on experience to share with her students at Ramblewood Middle that will become part of a database of lessons for use with the Understanding Sacrifice program.



## BCPS Superintendent Robert W. Runcie Honored by NABSE as 2016 Superintendent of the Year

Congratulations to Broward County Public Schools Superintendent Robert W. Runcie for being recognized by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) with its 2016 NABSE Joseph E. Hill Superintendent of the Year award. The award honors school district superintendents who have demonstrated a quality of leadership that resulted in significant positive outcomes for students of African descent.

Superintendent Runcie is being recognized for his efforts to close achievement gaps, create the Black Male Taskforce and implement the Office of Equity and Academic Attainment to develop plans and processes for addressing black male success in school. In addition, with the support of the School Board of Broward County, Florida, and in collaboration with numerous community stakeholders – the Superintendent spearheaded efforts to redefine school discipline to eliminate the schoolhouse to jailhouse pipeline and increase positive outcomes for students.



## BCPS Responds to Help Victims Devastated by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti

BCPS students, parents and staff were moved to action by the massive devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. In response to the tragedy, BCPS partnered with Food for the Poor to offer support to those affected by the disaster. Students, parents and staff collected and donated non-perishable food, water and a variety of much needed supplies for the residents of Haiti.



*Pictured left to right: Brian Little, BCPS Warehouse Manager; Colossia Butts, School Representative, Food For The Poor; Michaëlle Valbrun-Pope, Executive Director of Student Support Initiatives; Dr. Laurel Thompson, Director of Student Support Services; and Gene Wheeler, Warehouse Driver.*

## Turn It Off for the Winter Break

As part of the District's effort to reduce electrical consumption, the Environmental Conservation/Utility Management Department reminds BCPS employees to "Turn It Off."

Before you leave for the holidays, please remember to complete your daily equipment shutdown and turn off your computers, printers, fax machines, Promethean boards and work area lights.



Our collective efforts to "Turn It Off" have proven successful. Over the past several years, the District's annual electrical costs have decreased from \$58,750,090 (2008) to \$47,069,306 (2016).

### Additional Information for Custodians and Building Managers:

Ensure your AC systems are in the AUTO position. They should not be in override. See [protocol regarding AC use in portables](#). If you require weekend AC for a special event, please follow the established procedures and deadlines for submitting the [After Hours AC Request Form](#) to the EMS help desk.

For questions, comments or suggestions, contact the Environmental Conservation Utility Management Department at 754-321-4750.

For additional energy saving tips, visit [browardschoolsconserve.com/toolsforschools.htm](http://browardschoolsconserve.com/toolsforschools.htm).

## Protect Your Privacy and Security: Don't Be a "Phishing" Victim

Presented by Teresa Macri, Director of IT Security and Todd Sussman, Privacy Officer, Risk Management Department

Last year, hackers exposed the personal information of 110 million Americans – roughly half of our nation's adults. Much of the data breached was the result of successful 'phishing' scams.

"Phishing" refers to attempts to get users to click on links in emails and divulge personal information. The phishing email is usually disguised as a valid email and can be targeted to an audience with the use of easily recognized logos. The links, when clicked, will trick users into entering their credentials or other personal information, which is then used by the criminal for malicious activity. Clicking on links can also result in Ransomware, which prevents victims from being able to open files on their computer.



Learn more about Phishing and other cyber threats by completing the mandatory Security Awareness Training. If you have not yet taken the training, please be on the lookout for an email from [ITSecurity@browardschools.com](mailto:ITSecurity@browardschools.com). This will contain your credentials to access this valuable course. Together we can strengthen our human firewall.

The IT Security and Risk Management departments collaborate to ensure employees utilize privacy and security best practices. For helpful privacy-related forms, documents, notices, and guidelines, please visit [browardschools.com/privacyinformation](http://browardschools.com/privacyinformation).

The Privacy Officer is also available for in-person trainings. If your team would like a refresher on FERPA or HIPAA, please call Todd Sussman at 754-321-1914.

## 'Tis the Season for Quality Family Time

Presented by Nadia Clarke, Assistant Director, Office of Family and Community Engagement

The holiday season is usually a busy time for everyone. We are running around to purchase gifts and spending hours cooking, decorating and preparing. The season is also a time for family fun and togetherness - enjoying a break from work, school and other responsibilities to gather and celebrate special traditions.



All too often it can be a challenge to enjoy quality time together. It is important to remember that the most essential part of the holidays is spending quality time with those you love. Limit time on digital devices and get your family communicating and enjoying time with one another during the holiday season. With many meals and treats to prepare, including everyone in the process is a great way to enjoy time together. Making favorite family recipes is an opportunity to reminisce and share family stories. This is also a perfect time to teach children about cooking and nutrition. In addition, it's a great way for children to keep their math and reading skills sharp during their break as well as learn science concepts through various cooking techniques. The quantity of the time spent with children does not matter; it is the quality of the time that will make the impact.



**Spend Time With Your Family  
During the Holidays and All Year**

TALK | READ | SHARE | LEARN

## BCPS is On the Right Track!

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is excited to share Volume 2 of our On the Right Track publication.

Volume 2 focuses on recent District accomplishments/awards and how BCPS is connecting with our community, prioritizing early learning and literacy, preparing students for college and careers and focusing on the whole child.



[Check it out!](#)

## BCPS Community Involvement Awards Ceremony is Coming Soon!

Don't miss the 2017 BCPS Community Involvement Awards, scheduled for Friday, February 17, 2017. The annual event takes place at Bailey Hall, located at Broward College's A. Hugh Adams Central Campus, 3501 Davie Rd, Davie, FL 33314. Breakfast begins at 9 a.m.; the awards program starts at 10 a.m.



The Community Involvement Awards is a collaborative initiative between the Public Information Office, the Office of Academics and the Office of Strategy and Operations. This awards program honors the thousands of individuals who support our District through volunteerism, mentoring, business partnerships and family engagement initiatives.

Tickets for the event are \$15 and will be available soon. For more information, contact Dr. Carolyn Stewart, coordinator, District Community Relations, at 754-321-2300 or visit [browardschools.com/cia](http://browardschools.com/cia).

## BCPS Departments Share their Good News and Information for Employees

There is a lot of great work taking place across BCPS! Check out the newsletters below for the scoop on BCPS department news.

- [Benefits Department Wellness Newsletter](#)
- [Career, Technical, Adult & Community Education Newsletter](#)
- [Grants Funding Newsletter](#)
- [Innovative Learning Newsletter](#)



To request a BCPS department newsletter or to be included in the District Digest, visit the Public Information Office Marketing & Communication Center at [browardschools.com/marcomm](http://browardschools.com/marcomm).

Just fill out the online "PIO Request Form," and enter details about your newsletter. The Public information Office looks forward to helping you share your good news!

## ICYMI: Check Out School Board Special Presentations!

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, proudly recognizes District and school achievements, events and initiatives, during Special Presentations, which now take place before each School Board meeting. School Board Special Presentations begin at 9:30 a.m.



In case you missed the Special Presentations from the December 20, 2016 School Board meeting, catch them on demand by visiting [browardschools.com/special-presentations](http://browardschools.com/special-presentations).

[Back to Top](#)

## | Mark Your Calendars

- [BCPS Recognizes Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day on February 2, 2017](#)
- [SMART Bond Oversight Committee Quarterly Meeting, February 27, 2017](#)

[Back to Top](#)

To submit an item for consideration in the District Digest, visit our [Marketing & Communication Center](#) and fill out our easy-to-use "PIO Request Form."