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With the first quarter well underway, we have so much to share in the way of District 3 news and upcoming events. Before I address those I would like to give a brief update on facilities. I recently heard from a parent of a Northeast High School student regarding the lack of construction progress at Northeast High School, and I would like to take a moment to share these concerns and my thoughts on them with you as I know there are many other community members and parents sharing the same concerns.

Together with the community, I advocated for the School Board to reconsider spending millions of dollars to renovate buildings at Northeast HS that needed to be demolished. Fortunately, my colleagues on the Board agreed, and we requested staff to analyze the project through a different lens. Although this was time consuming and did result in a delay, the end result was approval to construct a new building on the campus to replace the south buildings. I am happy to report that the design of the building is 45% complete and the contractor has been hired. With this work I believe the delays will result in an improved outcome for both the school and the taxpayers.

With regard to renovation work, I do share concerns over the lack of progress at Northeast. Unfortunately, the contractor that was originally awarded the contract was terminated. I believe this termination will in the long run yield a better result, but I agree that delays on this project are magnified by the need and the current conditions of the facility. The replacement contractor is in the process of putting together their guaranteed maximum price for the project scope.

I continuously ask for status updates on the progress and attend Office of Facilities and Construction (OFC) updates to the community. Below is the link to the latest report I have received on the "Big 3" projects, of which Northeast High is one. I urge everyone impacted by this project to attend the SMART OFC Community Updates so your voice can be heard. They are held every other month after the SAC meeting at 6:30pm. Please call my office for more information. Link to report:

<https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13693/BCPS-Big3Update-20190906.pdf>

The District continues to collaborate with the Broward Education Foundation, United Way of Broward County and Bright Star Credit Union to collect and deliver donations and resources to assist with Hurricane Dorian recovery efforts in the Bahamas. As of the second week of September, nearly 70 Bahamian students have been relocated to Broward County Schools. For more information on the District's Hurricane Dorian relief and recovery efforts, visit browardschools.com/hurricanerelief. I thank our community for helping in the recovery effort and my prayers go out to the people of the Bahamas as they will have a long road of rebuilding ahead.

I would like to thank Commissioner Jane Bolin, City of Oakland Park, and Mr. Nathan Cherson of the Oakland Park Education Advisory Board for volunteering to be my representatives on the Diversity Committee and Human Relations Committee respectively. Recently an opening came about for the Audit Committee. If you have a financial background and would like to volunteer for the school district in this vital function, please contact me at my office. Thank you for your consideration.

District 3 Happenings

- *The Mighty Marching Dragons have been invited to London!* It was announced by a visiting London delegation on September 16th that the Stranahan Marching Band, led by band master Carlos Redman, and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High Marching Band, have been invited to perform in the 2021 London New Year's Day Parade. I look forward to supporting the band in its fundraising endeavors. *Congratulations to all of the band family. We are very excited for you!*
- Ms. Brianna Viera-Alcalde of Sheridan Technical High School was recently named the poster contest winner for the 2nd *Annual Broward Mental Health Summit* on September 12th by the Sheriff's Foundation of Broward County and the United Way. Brianna won \$250 for herself and \$250 for her school. Her winning drawing was incorporated into all the marketing materials for the Summit and the Challenge Coin. You can see a photo of her outstanding work at the bottom of this article. *Nice Work, Brianna!*
- I hope you had an opportunity to attend the September 21st *"Empowering Parents: How to Support Your Student and Your School"* at Plantation High. Initiated by the Parent/Community Involvement Task Force, and the Broward Schools Office of Family and Community Engagement, Robins Chery was the keynote speaker, and topics included family engagement and the challenges and opportunities that impact student and school success. With breakout sessions in four languages, English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese, this conference drew hundreds together to learn how to assist our students and schools. *I want to thank all of the volunteers on the PCITF Committee for this monumental effort.*
- Spreading their wings wide, band students of *North Andrews Gardens Elementary* were one of the four *Turnaround Arts* schools of Broward County to travel to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. September 6 and 7th, and perform with *Black Violin* to celebrate the opening of the Kennedy Center expansion. The students joined the opening procession called, **"The Future Is Now and I am It: A Parade to Mark the Moment"** organized by multi-disciplinary visual and performance artist Carrie Mae Weems, in collaboration with David Ross' Musicianship and the Funk Parade. They participated in an open-air performance by the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Opera soloists, with a headline performance by Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Bootsy Collins. This was the first appearance by the NAGE students at the Kennedy Center. Turnaround Arts, a national program, provides resources to schools to increase student achievement, attendance, and parent/community involvement. This was a trip of a life-time. I know it greatly influenced the students participating!
- Broward County Schools celebrated the 10th *Annual Choose Peace Week* September 20-27th with a plethora of activities for schools to choose to engage

their students with. Floranada Elementary introduced "Start with Hello" in classes taught by the guidance counselor and science teacher. Whiddon Rogers SAC held a special demonstration on campus. *North Andrews Gardens Elementary* was one of three district school's to have their poster artwork featured, and won a Peace Pole for their outstanding work, they also celebrated with a school-wide activity on September 20th, International Peace Day by "Wearing White". Virginia S. Young ES dedicated their Peace Pole on September 26th. I love to attend these events and help encourage our young students to be kind to each other and "**Choose Peace**"!

- This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the National School Lunch Act, which makes it possible to serve nutritious meals at a low cost to millions of students nationwide. *National School Lunch Week* will be celebrated the week of October 14-18, 2019. I look forward to visiting *Wilton Manors Elementary, Northeast High School and New River Middle School* this year to join in the celebration and enjoy lunch with some of our students!
- October 30th marks the celebration of "*Walk to School Day*" under the auspices of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. I have a great time each year greeting the students as they come into school that day, and this year I look forward to greeting the *Lloyd Estates Elementary* walking students!
- Last year was the inaugural *Educating All Students with Excellence (EASE) Conference* at the Signature Grand. This year, due to overwhelming past success, the conference has been moved to the Broward County Convention Center. Brought to you by the Division of Exceptional Student Learning Support, the *EASE Conference*, Friday, October 18, 2019 brings together parents, school administrators, general and special education teachers and service providers for a day filled with informative, educational and awareness-building sessions on a broad range of special education topics that promote inclusive practices for students with disabilities. *This year's keynote speaker is Ron Clark "America's Educator."*
- There are three important upcoming dates on the calendar for the coming year. On *November 2nd Ed Talk 2019/20* will take place at Fort Lauderdale High School. A public forum designed to engage the community in educational strategies and advancing the District's Strategic Plan, I urge everyone to attend and share in the conversation. *January 16, 2020* the *2020 Caliber Awards* will be held at the Broward County Convention Center announcing the *Principal of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and School-Related Employee of the Year*, followed on May 7th, 2020 with the *2020 Community Involvement Awards* recognizing our outstanding volunteers. Mark your calendars for these events and I hope to see you there!
- I would be remiss if I did not offer congratulations to *Betty Shelley on her 90th Birthday*. I look forward to attending the celebration and personally thanking Betty for all of her amazing work in service to the community for decades.

As you can see students and staff in District 3 and across Broward County are off to another year of fun-filled educational opportunities. I look forward to seeing you on campus!

Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns call my office at 754-321-2003, and I will do my best to assist you.

Heather Pomper Brinkworth

**Brianna Viera-Alcalde, Student
Sheridan Technical High School
2019 Mental Health Summit Poster Winner**



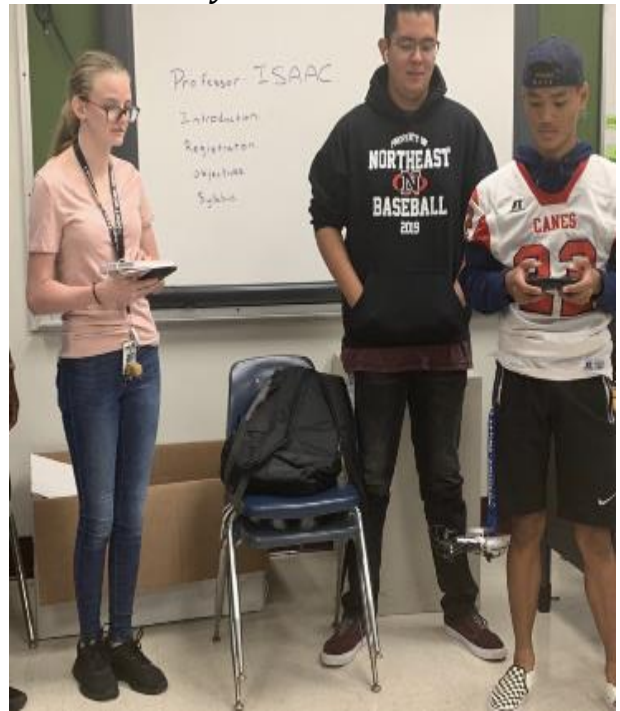
**First Day Inspirational Words!!
Heather Brinkworth**



**Principal Valachovic Welcoming the
Hurricanes!**



**Northeast High School Students Engaged
Flying Drones - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University Dual Enrollment Class**



North Andrews Gardens Elementary Students Rehearsing for Black Violin Performance in Washington, D.C.!!



NAGE Students in Washington, D.C.

