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As you read this newsletter, across Broward County students are entering the 4th Quarter, and summer is knocking on the door. Across the district, students and staff are preparing for the end of course assessments, end of year award ceremonies and celebrations. It is hard to believe that graduations are right around the corner for our seniors. This is, and has been, a year of many changes.

District response to school safety continues to be top of mind and the past few months have seen many community conversations regarding safety. New safety policies have been adopted by the School Board, and we continue to work with our expert safety consultants to improve. To that end, we hired Chief Safety, School Security and Emergency Preparedness Officer, Brian Katz to oversee a new department in our organization. Mr. Katz has an extensive security background and is a vested community member having graduated from South Broward High School and as a parent of a BCPS student himself. He intends to make it of the highest priority to engage with law enforcement, particularly local, to increase and improve our response in the event of any emergency.

Over the past few weeks I have met with many of our students at Northeast, Stranahan, Fort Lauderdale and Sheridan Technical High to hear their points of view on topics ranging from homework to school safety. They have shown a level of maturity that I applaud and embrace. Our students and school communities have had many outstanding accomplishments. Please take a minute to read about all the great things happening in our schools!

District 3 Happenings

- February 6th the “*Claim Your Future*” Trade Showcase was held at the BB&T Center. Students from Fort Lauderdale High, Northeast High, Whiddon Rogers Ed Center and Stranahan High attended this career exploration fair. Over 1,000 11th grade students from across the county participated in business panel discussions, resume writing, career exploration, Magic Leap virtual experiences and job internship interviews, resulting in over 40 summer internship jobs. Business support came from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, BB&T Center, Bank of America, Delaware North, Wells Fargo and sixty additional businesses that created this awesome opportunity for students. *Thank you to all who attended and all who made it happen!*
- On March 16th the *SECME STEM Olympiad* was held at Cooper City High School. District 3 schools competing were Bayview, Cypress, Floranada,

Meadowbrook, Oakland Park elementary schools, Rickards and New River middle schools, Northeast, Sheridan Tech and Stranahan high schools. I do not have the results at this time, but I know our kids did great!

- Congratulations to *Whiddon Roger's* TV Production Teacher Mr. Broderick Henry, and Music Technology Teacher, Mr. Daniel Jimenez. They were recognized as the top Canvas users in Broward County. Also, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Flanders Criminal Justice class, Whiddon Rogers' had a successful blood drive with OneBlood, breaking the record by having more participants than any other school in Broward County! The Criminal Justice students who earned the Security Class D license have been working in the field. They have been employed at the Hip Hop BET Awards in Miami, and to provide security at a private party.

- I want to thank all the District 3 schools who planned and participated in commemorative activities on February 14th to honor the 17 lives lost in the MSD tragedy last year. I was welcomed at Whiddon Rogers as the students participated in a *Day of Caring* to honor the MSD victims by serving breakfast to City of Fort Lauderdale first responders. The breakfast prepared by the culinary students and the music selections performed by the music production class were the perfect way to honor those who serve and protect our community. Across the District at 10:17 am we participated in a Moment of Silence to honor and remember the 17 fallen Eagles.

- On February 15, Fort Lauderdale High School hosted an Appreciation Breakfast and Lunch for the *Fort Lauderdale & Wilton Manors Support Community Leaders*. I was able to attend the lunch and enjoy the company of many of our first responders and civic leaders. This was a tremendous idea and everyone participating greatly appreciated the delicious meal prepared by culinary students, and soothing tunes played by the FLHS jazz band. A great way to showcase student talent while thanking community members.

- Continuing the theme of caring for our community, *The Latino in Action* students of **Whiddon Rogers** were busy tutoring students at **Croissant Park** Elementary. They participated in their annual breakfast program in November wearing cultural attire and dancing to Latin music. Food was provided representing several Latin countries. We thank them for their hard work and all they give back to the community!! (See attached photo).

- Denise Calder, a teacher at Sunrise Middle, was taken by surprise when she learned she was the lucky winner in *Broward Education Foundation's First Employee Giving Campaign*. Employees donating more than \$5 a pay period were entered to win a 3-year lease on a 2019 Toyota Rav3 XLE courtesy of Anthony Damato, VIP Sales Manager at Toyota of North Miami. Sunrise students had a wonderful time cheering for Ms. Calder as did Mr. Runcie, BEF's's Shea Cirago, Principal Walker and I. WPLG10's Neki Mohan and WSVN were there to capture Ms. Calder's delight. *Congratulations, Ms. Calder, Time for a Road Trip! (see attached photos)*

- **On March 5th the McNab Elementary** students attended the Museum of Discovery and Science for the **Winterfest Foundation Student Art Exhibit!** They **won 1st Place!** Their artwork was on display and they were treated to refreshments. There were so many (**53**) McNab students that participated that I can't list them all here, but I know Ms. Palacio and Ms. Rapp were extremely thrilled and proud of them, as was I, for this outstanding accomplishment. **Way to Go, Everyone!**

- Three District 3 schools were honored by Magnet Schools of America this year for their commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful diversity efforts, and parent/community involvement. **Fort Lauderdale High's Cambridge Program** received the **Magnet School of Excellence Award**, and both **Northeast High School's Biotechnology Program** and **New River Middle School's Marine Science Program** received the **Magnet School of Distinction Award**. These programs continue to bring distinction to our district each year. **Thank you, All!**

- On April 13th there will be a free parent expo to give parents information on very affordable postsecondary education opportunities leading to employment in the following fields: Aviation, Construction, Healthcare, Hospitality, Information Technology and the Marine Industry. *Multiple Pathways to the American Dream* will take place at Atlantic Technical College on the Arthur Ashe, Jr. Campus from 8:00am-11:30am. This is a FREE event for parents and if you are exploring options for your student, I encourage you to attend.

- Fort Lauderdale High held their Cambridge International Program graduation ceremony on March 13th. This program recruits Broward County teens interested in an innovative and challenging international curriculum with high standards. Student **Watson Lubin** of FTLHS was awarded "**Top of the World**" for **Global Perspectives & Research for the best score worldwide on an exam that is given in 160 different countries at over 10,000 schools! An amazing accomplishment.** I know how hard you all work and congratulate each of you.

- The **2019 ESOL Academic Competition and World Languages Academic Competition** has been in progress at different locations since March 2nd. March 16th Opening Ceremonies were hosted by **Rickards Middle School** for World Languages at the middle level; and World Languages for the elementary level will be hosted at **Cypress Elementary** on May 17, 2019. **Congratulations** to all the participating students as the rigor is high and the competition fierce!

- March 12th and 13th I had the pleasure of participating in this year's **Rally to Tally**, an amazing opportunity for high school students to travel to Tallahassee to lobby legislators on the issues important to students. This year 44 students participated, and I was impressed with their professional and passionate approach to getting their messages across to state representatives and senators. A special thank you to the District 3 Dream Team – Emerson Aguirre (Northeast HS), Emojiah Bridges and Pukdeetam Pukdeetho (Fort Lauderdale HS), Audine Wilkinson and Brandon McCutcheon (Stranahan HS) and Kennedy Johnson (Sheridan Technical HS) for your advocacy on behalf of students! (see attached photo)

- On March 22, **Northeast High School** hosted a presentation designed to educate our teachers on the vaping epidemic sweeping our nation. In a 2018 survey, 1 in 4 high school students reported being regular users of vaping devices, and 1 in 14 middle school students reported using a vaping device in the previous 30 days. All middle and high school P.E. and Health teachers were invited to attend this informative event. The presentation was part of a teacher workshop for P.E. and Health teachers but was open to anyone in the district. As we work to educate students on the dangers of vaping, we encourage you to talk with them as well.

- April 17th the 20th **Annual Arts for the Future/Stars on Parade** celebration will be held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This event is free and open to the

public so come out and see all the wonderful activities our student excels in. Scholarship awards will be presented to selected BCPS graduating seniors, so they may continue their arts education. See you there!

- May 24th *Meadowbrook Elementary* will be having their annual Career Day. I always enjoy presenting to the students and helping them understand a little of what an elective position means. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

- ***Congratulations to the Mighty Dragons' Boys Basketball Team at Stranahan High*** who won their first FHSAA *Class 6A State Championship*. The Dragons played this year under the direction of Coach Williams, inspired by former Coach Keith Skinner who coached the Dragons for 30 years before passing in 2017, Coach Williams, a former Dragons player, lead the team to a rousing final victory on March 7th against the St. Petersburg Lakewood team with a 63-54 win! The entire community salutes each of you for your extraordinary efforts.

- The Northeast High Office of Facilities and Construction Community Update meeting was held on February 11 and Stranahan's was held on February 13th. Stranahan's building renovations are underway, and Northeast High School's new building is in the design phase and site soil samples have been taken. If you would like a copy of the presentation from those meetings, my office will be happy to provide it to you via email. You can also access the District 2 Quarterly report by placing the following url in your browser: https://browardcountyschools-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/hboyer_browardschools_com/EfSQIt4CoujBtSMFO_qct_aMBV6jjVscUBVk5Yo628AqqTA?e=Dn1uod. or just call my office and we'll email it to you.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our amazing schools and their amazing teachers and students. It is my pleasure to serve the citizens and students of District 3. 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

Latinos In Action



***Teacher Denise Calder wins
New Toyota RAV 4 in Broward Education
Foundation raffle!!!!***



**Rally to Tally
District 3 Dream Team**



*WPLG and WSVN were on hand
to capture the surprise and delight on
Ms. Calder's face!*

