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This year is flying by! Our students and schools are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming holidays after the school year got off to an uplifting start with plenty of activities and fun, and serious academics, happening the first half of the year. It's amazing to me that we are already at the end of November. I have been visiting many of the District 3 schools for both the celebratory events, and in a more serious vein, to see how each school is faring with the new security measures. I plan to visit each school as the year progresses. Most schools now have their SROs in place, and we continue to train much-needed guardians to cover as necessary across the school district. I thank everyone for their patience as we cope with this new reality, and work hard to put the policies, and staff, in place to keep our students safe.

SMART Office of Facilities & Construction (OFC) update meetings have been taking place for Stranahan High and Northeast High School. An OFC meeting was held at Northeast High School on November 5th, followed with a meeting for the Stranahan community on November 14th. Contact my office for a copy of the presentations.

Please note, the **School Choice Window Opens December 1, 2018 – February 6, 2019**. Now is the time for you and your student to explore magnet programs that are of interest, submit the application online at browardschools.com/schoolchoice. First Quarter report cards came out November 14th, and the next report card will be January 30th. For those whose students have not already informed them, Winter Break will run from Early Release on December 21st to students returning on Monday, January 7th.

As usual, there are so many things happening in District 3 I don't know where to begin. Here are a few.

District 3 Happenings

- I enjoyed joining the *Rickards Middle School* students on September 21st as they participated in **Sandy Hook Promise's National Start With Hello Call to Action Week**. I was pleased to see so many other schools across District 3 participate as well.
- October 10th students from 24 Broward County Public Schools celebrated *Walk to School Day* in partnership with Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Many thanks to Florida Representative Chip LaMarca for joining Principal Frost, John Sullivan of SBBC Legislative Affairs and myself as we welcomed the Bayview walking students to school. *Stay safe everyone!*
- **Northeast High School** held their annual band fundraiser "*Driven to Give*" on October 18th. I had a great time test driving a new Lincoln Mercury and the

school earned \$20 per drive for their students! *Thank you Lincoln Mercury of Pompano Beach for helping support the Northeast students!*

- **Eric Sheffield**, is a rising young filmmaker and alumni of **Northeast High School**. His film "Hatchback" made its world premiere at the 2018 Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival. Reported in the Sun Sentinel as "rich in detail and humor," *Hatchback* was screened at Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale and Cinema Paradiso in Hollywood. *Congratulations*, Eric, we'll watch for more of your creative endeavors in the future!
- *Congratulations* are also in order for Ms. Ryan Rowe, student of Sheridan Technical High, named one of only 12 Fellowship finalists for *Take Stock in Children's Leaders for Life!* The fellowship provides scholars with funds for all non-tuition related expenses such as housing, meal plans, computers, etc. to help make their college experience successful! **Good Luck, Ryan!**
- *Just Do It... I Did!* Annual Award ceremony was held on October 17th at Atlantic Technical College's Arthur Ashe Campus. Presented by BPCS Exceptional Student Learning Support, the following District 3 students were recognized: Sophie Ramirez-Bennett Elem.; Tammy Englert-Floranada Elem.; Steven Spoonhour-Harbordale Elem.; Jode Augustin-Lloyd Estates Elem.; Nicholas Gonzalez-McNab Elem.; Markeylan Armstrong-Meadowbrook Elem.; Nevaeh Ingram-North Side Elem.; Vinceley Tanis-Riverland Elem.; Bryan Zarco-Stephen Foster Elem.; Maxwell Frey-V.S. Young Elem.; Karina Castro-New River Mid.; Jakita Gardner-Sunrise Mid.; Julia Futo-Northeast High and Adlin Alexis-Whiddon Rogers Ed. Ctr. *I am so proud of each of you!*
- **Fort Lauderdale High School** is home to students, **Cody O. Williams and Riley Casson**, who have been named semifinalists in the *2019 National Merit Scholarship Program!* 16,000 students across the nation compete for the honor of being named a National Merit Scholar. *Good Luck, Cody and Riley, we all are waiting to see your names as finalists.*
- *Harvest Drive* at Fort Lauderdale High - each year Fort Lauderdale High students, under the auspices of teacher Valerie Ruwe, collect and package nonperishable canned goods, cleaning supplies, paper goods, baby items and personal grooming products, for those less fortunate. This year the goal for FTLHS and its feeder schools was to gather enough items to feed 175 families, provide an additional \$25 food gift card, AND have enough left over to share with *Stranahan High* for their collection site. It is too soon to tell how well the collection has gone but I know from the amount of love and effort put forth that both schools will exceed their goals. *Thank you Bennett to the Fort Lauderdale Izone Schools* for helping to make this Thanksgiving a special day for many!
- **Floranada Elementary's Elyse Brunt**, Science teacher, has been named *Outstanding Elementary Science Educator* for the State of Florida! Thank you, Ms. Brunt, for the amazing teacher you are! *Your students are so proud of you!*
- The week of Oct. 15 – 19th was *National School Lunch Week*. *Bayview Elementary* and *Sunrise Middle* were kind enough to play host as I celebrated by having lunch with the students during one of their lunch periods at each school. *Representative Bobby Dubose* joined me at *Sunrise Middle*. *I want to thank*

everyone at both schools for their gracious warm welcome, and delicious cuisine!

- BCPS has been named ***District of the Year by Cambridge International!*** The first district in the U.S. to receive this distinction, this program emphasizes critical thinking skills, independent learning, research and communications. ***Fort Lauderdale High School*** and ***Northeast High School*** were among the BCPS schools to receive recognition at the Sept. 9th, 2018 School Board meeting from ***Cambridge International***. (See <https://eduvision.tv/l?etRADe> for the presentation)
- Applause, please, for ***Derek Sheets***, AP Human Geography teacher at ***Stranahan High*** for being selected as a **2018 Geographical Society (AGS) Geography Teacher Fellow**, one of only 50 teachers chosen across the nation. As of this writing, Mr. Sheets was scheduled to attend the AGS Fall Symposium at Columbia University in New York City from Nov 15-16. He will return with valuable skills to share with his students!
- December 12th is the date for the ribbon-cutting at ***Stranahan High*** School to celebrate the pool renovations and I am eagerly looking forward to it! Also, ***Nelson Vega***, Biology Honors-1 teacher at Stranahan HS, was spotlighted as a Super Teacher of the Week! Mr. Vega is dearly loved by all the students, not the least for his baking skills, which he generously indulges in, along with being a leader for the GSA!
- On a more serious note, the ***Stranahan High*** family was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. ***Juan Teyssandier***, known by the Dragon Family as Mr. JJ. ***Mr. JJ*** touched the lives of hundreds of students and was the face of Stranahan's Engineering Program. Mr. JJ has been nominated as Stranahan's Honorary ***Teacher of the Year***.
- The ***BRACE Cadet-Ambassador*** program has been created for high school students 15 and older. Students will receive a \$500 stipend to complete training and activities that support their peers to become college, career and life-ready (CCLE). Students attend leadership, college advisement and event-planning trainings; and will acquire the knowledge and skills to create a school culture that believes all students should be fully prepared to achieve their life goals. Students, see your BRACE advisor for more information.
- The ***Developing Engineering Explorers Program*** (DEEP) was recognized at the September 18th School Board meeting. For the past 3 years Innovative Programs have partnered with Atkins and CBRE|Heery, companies working on the SMART bond projects for our schools, to provide students with real-world engineering experiences. ***Stranahan High*** and Blanche Ely student, in the science and pre-engineering magnet programs, are provided an opportunity to see and engage in the process of engineering and design. To watch the presentation access the following link: <https://eduvision.tv/l?etRmyL>
- On November 8th Fort Lauderdale High held an ***Inclusive Resource Fair & Student Showcase*** to inform exceptional education students and their parents about community resources, post-secondary opportunities and employment opportunities available to students and families that live and/or attend school in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Attendance was free, with community agencies,

colleges, and employers available to help attendees navigate from elementary school through high school and beyond for all exceptional education students and their families.

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- BCPS has been awarded a coveted MSAP G5 Grant for implementing the ICAN (The Integrated Career and Academic Networks) Project. The grant for \$14,750,705 will span 5 years with a focus on providing a personalized learning environment and preparing students for college and career in the 21st century. Six magnet schools are part of the grant, including *New River Middle and Stranahan High* in District 3. This grant will create amazing opportunities for our students!
- Once again, this holiday season Broward County students will be performing for holiday travelers from December 10th through December 14th between the hours of 9:00a.m.-11:30a.m. at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport. *If you have an opportunity to catch one of their performances, choral or instrumental, please take a moment to enjoy the splendid talents of our students as they lighten the stress of holiday travel for our residents and visitors.*
- Lastly, I would be remiss not to thank the *Oakland Park Kiwanis* for their outstanding community service all year to Oakland Park., Lloyd Estates, North Andrews Gardens and Floranada elementary schools. Recently, they provided 497 dictionaries to the students in the English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole languages. These dictionaries give the students an opportunity to find the words to express themselves. *Thank you all so much for everything you do.*
- *I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, love and joy and I look forward to our students and staff members enjoying a well-deserved winter break!*

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

Walk to School Day with the students and George Moraitis at Bayview Elementary and one of my favorite students!



Celebrating Read for the Record at Croissant Park Elementary



Bedtime Stories at Bayview Elementary



*Cambridge International, North America
Recognizes BCPS schools
NEHS AND FTLHS*



*Celebrating National School Lunch Week
At Sunrise Middle School with
Representative Bobby DuBose*

