

Letter to the Team #8

March 1, 2022

International Learning Opportunity

Kateryna Yushchenko, the former First Lady of Ukraine spoke remotely with students at Bangor High School on February 16th. Students from around the world were able to view the conversation moderated by one of our very own talented students, Madison Miller. Madison did a remarkable job as moderator, asking the tough questions like a seasoned professional broadcaster. Dr. Adam Leach arranged this timely virtual visit with the former First Lady with the assistance of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights organization.



Yushchenko's memorable statements included challenging students to "Be champions of justice and freedom." From a world-wide perspective the former First Lady emphatically stated that, "Ukraine is important to all that treasure freedom." She passionately stated that "Ukraine is united and wants peace;" and followed by saying the people of Ukraine often mention that "Freedom is our religion."

Bright Spots

Four Bangor teachers have received nominations for the prestigious Penobscot County Teacher of the Year award. Each of these professional educators received a nomination from a colleague, parent, or student.

Congratulations to Marcy Soucy from Fairmount School who received nominations from parents Sarah Joy Chaples and Kelley Strout. Laura Charette representing the Bangor Regional Program received a nomination from a parent, Sarah Steele. Kate Roberts from Bangor High School received a nomination from her colleague, Dr. Adam Leach; and Stephanie Hendrix, also representing Bangor High School received a nomination from a dedicated student, Genevieve Sychterz.

The admiration that I have for all faculty and staff members has grown exponentially as we near the two-year mark of the pandemic. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with individuals who care for our students.

Black History Month Project

Props to Alyson Brown and her students at James F. Doughty School who collaborated on creating a Black History digital book to share on the school library page, complete with source/citation pages. Alyson's seventh grade students also created a scavenger hunt for others to use with this book. The sixth grade classes participated in this learning activity in February.

Mathematics Participation and Feedback

While walking through the James F. Doughty School, I noticed that the walls of Maynard Walton's classroom are filled with white boards. The entire class is able to work through mathematical equations at the same time and receive immediate feedback from Maynard and their fellow classmates.

Carol Gilpin at Vine Street School created math activities on 02-02-2022 with a theme of twos. The students worked in teams to solve a multitude of mathematical challenges with 2's, participated in problem solving in groups of 2's, and did some physical exercise challenges, also in groups of 2's, to get the heart going and the thoughts flowing.

Fire on the Track

Congratulations to the Girls Indoor Track and Field Team who earned the State Championship Title. My wife Jodi and I traveled to the University of Southern Maine to observe the meet and we were impressed by the outstanding student athletes.



A Rams pole vaulter exhibited great character during the meet. She cleared an impressive 9'6" height, earning second place. Her toughest competitor had cleared 9'9", however the bar was not aligned correctly and our athlete had the opportunity to disallow that jump and force the competitor to try it again. Instead, she allowed her competitor to count the jump and accepted second place for Bangor High School.

I am incredibly proud of the team who garnered an amazing 110th State Championship for Bangor High School. Statistics fans might be interested to know that 76 of the State Championships have been earned since 1984. Teams often emulate the leadership and character of the coaches. Hats off to Coaches Alan Mosca, Peter Sund, Garrett Johnson, Roger Huber, Lindsey Hackett, and John Holyoke for your dedication to excellence.

Every Picture Tells a Story

Please enjoy the following "One Word" illustrations created by Jessica White's students at Fairmount School along with the beauty that surrounds us created by Katina Lajoie's aspiring artists at William S. Cohen School.



Enthusiastically yours,

J Tager

Jim Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department