

Letter to the Team #9

April 1, 2022

Always Looking for the Bright Spots

If you have the opportunity to visit the lobby of Abraham Lincoln School, I can assure you that it will be a worthwhile investment of your time. Abraham Lincoln School Art Teacher Heidi Crahen, with help from Bangor High School student volunteers, put together a beautiful mural. Every student at Abe created a piece of the Bangor city skyline. Our community can be proud of this collaborative project that showcases our city.



Bulldog Pride

Congratulations to Tracy Vassiliev and her students at James F. Doughty School who presented their inventions at the 2022 Maine State Invention Convention at the Maine Science Festival. The judges were duly impressed and offered four JFDS students invitations to the National Invention Convention at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, which will take place from May 31-June 3, 2022. The winners are as follows:

1. Lydia Hewitt - Bungee Dog
2. Naomi Leavitt and Brooklyn Schmersal - the Safety Chain
3. Braydon Sloan - the Automatic Baseball Hitter
4. Roxie Welch - the Line N'Goa

FLAME



Congratulations to Graciela Dorsa and her student Sam Conner Self from Bangor High School who has been selected as the Foreign Language Association Student of the Year Award recipient for 2022. FLAME announced this award at the Spring Conference on March 12th. Sam received this award for a record of outstanding scholarship and service to the school.

AATF National French Week Media Contest



Congratulations to Marisue Schuiling and her students Kathryn Busko and Carlyne Sauda at Bangor High School who received first place nationally for their documentary “Venez découvrir le monde francophone du Maine!” (Come discover the francophone world of Maine!) Kathryn and Carlyne were two of only seven first place winners across the United States.

Game of Chess



Students at William S. Cohen School, Fruit Street School, and Abraham Lincoln recently competed in the Maine State Scholastic Chess Championship in Lewiston. All three teams represented the Bangor School Department with dignity and class. Props to Abraham Lincoln who returned home with the second place trophy in the K-3 section. Special thanks to volunteer extraordinaire Sharon Klein for her time and dedication toward this enrichment effort for students.

The Struggle Bus



On March 6th, which is my bride’s birthday, Jodi and I ran the Hampton Beach half marathon. I use the word “run” quite loosely as we were both on the major “struggle bus.” We completed the race but it was not exactly a walk in the park. We had dreams of grandeur thinking Hampton Beach would be a flat and fast course. The conditions were rather chilly with a bit of rain, and most people I talked with along the way commented on the unexpected climbs throughout the course with phrases like “This is supposed to be fun.” Yours truly saw the backs of many runners along the course due to my slow but steady pace.

A couple of indelible images I have as I plodded forward include a frightening shirt that stated, “200 miles in 24 hours” which clearly is a different level of fitness than mine, and then the vision of a runner ahead of me slurping goo (a source of energy) then methodically wiping the

stickiness off his hands in a pile of snow. I have come to very quickly learn that New Englanders are a whole lot tougher than I am. At the end of the day we accomplished the 13.1 mile distance together, and enjoyed the beauty of the ocean after the race was over!

Enthusiastically yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Tager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Tager
Superintendent
Bangor School Department