



# NBPS Newsflash

## November 2023

### *Celebrating Literacy*

Dear Families and Staff,

As we transition into the months of November and December, and as I visit our classrooms, I'm reminded of the importance of literacy in our lives and its profound impact on our students.

In my visits across our schools, it's heartening to see books everywhere. From libraries to classrooms, from Patricia Polacco's heartwarming tales to Dr. Seuss's rhymes, the joy of reading is palpable. Reading is fundamental and New Bedford educators send that message daily with in-class library shelves stocked with a variety of illustrated, imaginative, fiction and non-fiction titles. Visiting classrooms, my own happy memories of reading and school peak when I see in-class book bins with Roald Dahl's *Witches*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. And who can fail to be inspired by school wall art that pays tribute to literary lights like our national poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, and highlights the unique perspectives that books bring to readers young and old as Hathaway School's *Matilda* mural illustrates.

This season, many of us will curl up with a cherished book or gifting a book for the holidays. We want this lifelong attachment for our students – that unique charm in holding a hardcopy book, turning its pages, and immersing oneself in a narrative.

Remember, we are fortunate to reside in a city with a vibrant library network. I encourage every family to explore these resources and cultivate a love for reading.

### **District Initiatives**

As one part of our commitment to literacy, we will be sending home early literacy screenings reports to elementary age students. This will help us identify and support our young readers and learners in even more ways.

We note that while reading and writing are crucial, there are other ways parents and caregivers can boost literacy:

— continued on page 3

**“You are  
never  
too old to  
set another  
goal or  
to dream a  
new dream.”**

**C.S. Lewis**

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# Employee Spotlight



## Kelly DaCosta

TLS

William H. Taylor Elementary School



“**Kelly DaCosta**, a dedicated teaching specialist, is known for her exceptional qualities. Her helpful and kind nature shines through in all aspects of her work. She is a cornerstone of support for educators, always willing to go the extra mile to assist her colleagues. Her approachability is a key asset, creating an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for everyone. Kelly's commitment to professional development and her ability to foster a collaborative environment greatly benefits the entire school community. She embodies the values of teamwork and empathy, making her an indispensable asset to the educational community at Taylor School.”

– *Rafaela DeFigueiredo Principal, William H. Taylor Elementary School*



## Bethany Doiron

Behaviorist

Hayden McFadden Elementary School



“**Bethany Doiron** is in her second year as a behaviorist here at Hayden McFadden. She continually exemplifies how hard work, adjusting to change, and dedication to the students of Hayden McFadden Elementary School are the combination to her success.

Ms. Doiron runs our school store, which provides our students with incentives to earn rewards; participates and helps staff with all our in-school and outside of school fundraisers; attends our student/family activities; and provides the staff with support and tools to assist them in the classroom. She exemplifies what a true professional and team player looks like.

Ms. Doiron is an invaluable member of our team and the support she provides is immeasurable. Thank you for all you do!”

-- *Kim Marshall, Principal, Hayden McFadden Elementary School*

## Superintendent's Letter 'Celebrating Literacy' continued

– Continued from page 1

- **Storytelling:** Share family histories and tales. This enhances listening skills and cultural awareness.
- **Games:** Board games, card games, or even digital games can help with strategy, vocabulary, and critical thinking.
- **Daily Routines:** Cooking together or shopping can introduce new words and concepts, fostering both language and life skills.

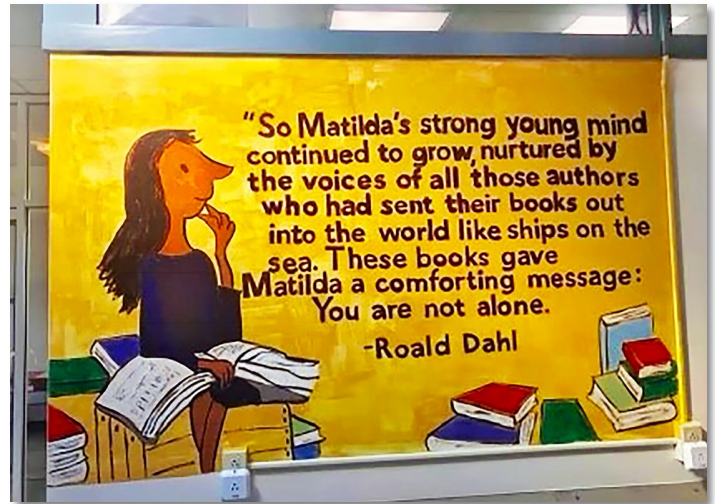
You may notice that all of these literacy activities have one thing in common: connection and interaction. In our age of digital distraction, the importance of authentic literacy cannot be overstated. Let's celebrate it, not just in schools, but in our homes and communities as well. Here's to a season of stories, learning, and connection!

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,



Andrew O'Leary

Interim Superintendent



Matilda Mural, Ellen R. Hathaway School

## From Para-Educator to Teacher! Congratulations!



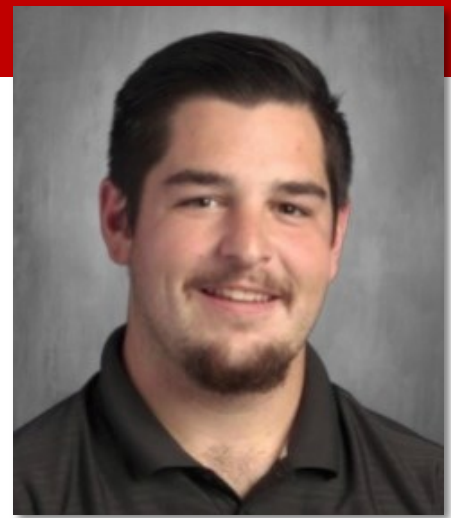
**Sherri Lopes**

Grade 1 Teacher  
Lincoln Elementary School



**Lisa Bairos**

ESL Teacher  
Ashley Elementary School



**Kyle Sullivan**

Special Education Teacher  
Carney Academy

Massachusetts Para-Educators can become licensed teachers and do it through the JET Program. JET provides a pathway to help you complete your Bachelor's degree, at little cost, and your Mass. teacher licensure. JET supports the goals of building local teacher pipelines and developing an educator workforce that reflects our community .

For more info on JET, go to: [www.newbedfordschools.org](http://www.newbedfordschools.org) | Depts/Programs | Human Capital Services



# NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## WELLNESS FAIR

### KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM

November 16<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm – 6:00pm

#### NUTRITION AWARENESS

##### TOPICS

- BBQ WELL- HEALTHY BBQ MEALS
- COFFEE SCIENCE & MORE
- HEALTHY HYDRATION
- EATING FOR ENERGY / SEASONED POPCORN
- KIDS & FAMILY MEAL PLANNING



#### HEALTH SCREENING

- BLOOD PRESURE
- GLUCOSE, HDL, AND CHOLESTORAL FINGERSTICK
- FLU & COVID VACCINES

#### BENEFIT VENDORS

- BLUE CROSS / BLUE SHIELD
- BOSTON MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE
- CAFETERIA PLAN ADVISORS – FLEXIBLE SPENDING
- TRUSTMARK – SHORT TERM / LONG TERM DISABILITY
- CITY RETIREMENT
- 403 B TAX SHELTER ANNUALITIES VENDORS
- 457 B MASSACHUSETTS SMART PLAN VENDOR
- MTA MASSACHUSETTS TEACHER ASSOCIATION
- EAP – ALL ONE HEALTH- EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

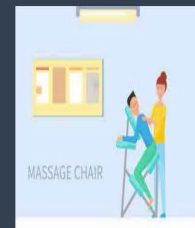


#### UNIONS

- NBEA – DENTAL PLAN- VISION PLAN – INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY
- PARAPROFESSIONALS – DENTAL PLAN- ACCESS TO FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION
- NBSSU – DISCOUNTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- AFSME - DENTAL PLAN – DISCOUNTS ON HOTELS, RENTAL CARS AND MORE.

#### MENTAL HEALTH / SELF CARE

- VINYASA YOGA CLASS – INTERMEDIATE  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- GENTLE RESTORATIVE YOGA CLASS – BEGINNERS 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
- MASSAGE THERAPY
- HEALTHY SNACKS & SMOOTHIES



#### RAFFLE PRIZES

- 9 FITBIT VERSA 4
- 10 \$40.00 GIFT VOUCHERS
- 10 \$25.00 GIFT VOUCHERS

BUIDING WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STAFF TO ATTEND THE FAIR WILL WIN 12 HOURS OF MESSAGES FOR THEIR STAFF



## Whaling Wire Preview



# Student Spotlight



## JAESON VIEIRA

He is one cool cat! Jaeson plays 5 musical instruments and believe it or not he is mostly self taught! Jaeson plays the viola, violin, cello, trumpet and flute. Jaeson was just accepted into the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, where he had to audition for a coveted spot.

Jaeson has always wanted to be a musician and now his dream is becoming his reality! If you want to hear Jaeson play the Viola you can see him during the Symphony concerts. Currently concerts are being held at New Bedford high school due to the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center being renovated.

Jaeson says that music is in his soul and he feels it to his very core. He is interested in learning more about classical and Jazz music and wants to go to Berkeley for college. Jaeson says he is not sure what he wants to study at college yet because he is only a freshman, but he is sure it will involve some type of music!

[Thewhalingwire@gmail.com](mailto:Thewhalingwire@gmail.com)



ENCOURAGING APPETITES TOWARDS SUCCESS  
FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES • NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

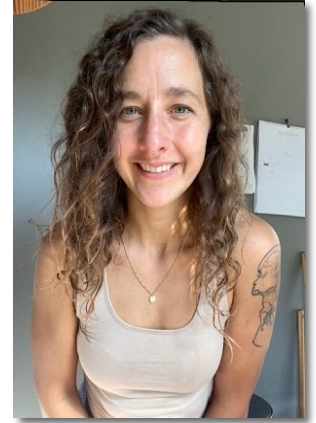
NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## UPDATE

Food & Nutrition Services welcomes **Jennifer Frates**, NBPS Garden Coordinator, is working on the Farm to School program across the district and serving as liaison to our community partners. The Farm to School Program aims to provide all students equal access to a food culture that supports and fulfills the whole child, including their diverse mental and physical needs.

Jen will continue to support lessons from Grow Education across 7 schools to support learning about our gardens. Among her other duties are maintaining and supporting gardens districtwide; supporting food service, family engagement and mentoring Food Corps members.

We are thrilled to have Jen as part of the Food and Nutrition Department and we can't wait to see what she does with our students each and every day!



## Annual NBPS Thanksgiving Lunch



The NBPS Food Services team will serve turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, whole grain dinner roll, an apple and milk to our students districtwide!



Thursday, November 16



## **Fall Step Challenge**

September 1, 2023 – October 23, 2023

To successfully complete this challenge a total of 294,000 steps is required.

232 Employees Enrolled – 195 Employees Completed

84% Completion rate

### **Top Three Teams**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Place – NBPS PE/HEALTH**

Celeste Costa  
Andrea Nogueira  
Kady Plante-Szady

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place – CONGDON**

Nicole Harrison  
Lori Silva  
Donna Spirlet  
Morgan Wudyka

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place –CARNEY 100**

Phoebe Clements  
Paula Correia  
Kaitlyn MacDonald  
Heather Macedo  
Jodie Maitoza  
Kelly Medeiros  
Ana Raposo  
Tanya Viera

**Top Stepper Tanya Viera with 2,676,310 total steps!**



***“I’ve never had a bad student... Developing character was always my goal.”*** – Melder C. Felton, Jr., New Bedford High School

Each day, New Bedford High School students arrive through the main entrance of the Melder C. Felton Administrative Complex. Few notice their arrival is under the watchful gaze of Melder C. Felton, Jr. (1910-1988), whose portrait hangs in the corridor leading to the central hallway. The striking portrait echoes his commanding presence at NBHS during his more than 30 years of service.

A native of New Bedford, Melder Felton, Jr. was born May 27, 1910, the son of Ruth F. (nee Herbert) and Melder C. Felton. A graduate of New Bedford High School Class of 1928, he also won the Jonathan Bourne Prize that year. An accomplished musician, he aspired to a career in music but instead pursued the teaching profession while maintaining his musical interests. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and his Master's in Education from Bridgewater State College.

However, it was music that brought Mr. Felton back to New Bedford Public Schools. In 1936, he was hired as an accompanist on the piano for the district's music department, assisting in music and choral classes throughout the city's elementary

schools. He was then appointed a substitute teacher in 1939 and became a full-time teacher in 1941.

Mr. Felton's talent in music was perhaps an extension of his abilities as a gifted mathematician. He taught business arithmetic and subsequently taught a full set of mathematics courses. He was named head of the Mathematics Department in 1954.

Named an assistant principal of NBHS in 1956, Mr. Felton was appointed to head the newly created Data Processing Center at the high school in March 1964, a position he held until his retirement in 1972.

Involved in community service, Mr. Felton served as a trustee of St. Luke's Hospital. He was nationally recognized for educational excellence in mathematics, including receiving the General Electric Math Fellowship at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Mutual respect was a hallmark of Mr. Felton's rapport with students. He would counsel fellow faculty that respect was key to reaching students where they were in their academic development. Gaining trust and demonstrating daily commitment and care were necessary ingredients to imparting knowledge and nurturing intellectual growth, a practice he maintained throughout his remarkable career. ●

## View your paystubs and available time off on the Employee Self Service Portal

Login to the Employee Self Service portal from a link available under the Staff dropdown on the NBPS website at: [www.newbedfordschools.org](http://www.newbedfordschools.org). Your username is your MUNIS employee number and your password is the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. You will be prompted to change the password if it is your first login.





# NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar

# November 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>30 <b>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!</b></p> 	<p>31</p> 	<p>1 Wraparound Department- 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA (508) 997-4511 ext. 14154</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3 NEW BEDFORD COMMUNITY CONNECT FAMILY DINNER KEITH COMMUNITY ROOM 5PM-7PM</p>
<p>6 GOMES ELPAC MEETING 10AM-11AM FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES AT JACOBS BEGINS! 4PM-5PM</p> <p><b>HIGH SCHOOL FAIRE AT NBHS 5PM-8PM</b></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 <b>PACHECO CYBER SAFETY</b> 8:15AM-9:15AM</p>	<p>9 <b>SNAP &amp; HOUSING WORKSHOP AT KEITH</b> 1:30-4PM</p>	<p>10 <b>VETERANS DAY</b> NO SCHOOL OR PROGRAMMING</p>
<p>13 <b>"I SEE YOU" SUPPORT GROUP ON ZOOM</b> 6PM-7PM  FINANCIAL LITERACY AT JACOBS 4PM-5PM</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 GOMES DUAL LANGUAGE INFO SESSIONS 9AM-10AM &amp; 2PM-3PM</p>	<p>17 <b>NORMANDIN MOVIE NIGHT</b> 4PM-6PM</p>
<p>20 <b>FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES AT JACOBS</b> 4PM-5PM</p>	<p>21 <b>JRI BACKPACK SERIES ON ZOOM</b> 6PM-7PM</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 <i>Thanksgiving</i> </p>	<p>24 <b>SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND!</b></p>
<p>27 <b>FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES AT JACOBS</b> 4PM-5PM</p>	<p>28 KEITH PACE INFO NIGHT ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM  <b>GNBYA OPPORTUNITIES WORKSHOP ON ZOOM- 6PM-7PM</b></p>	<p>29 NORMANDIN ELL SUPPORT GROUP 4PM-5PM  <b>SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING WORKSHOP ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM</b></p>	<p>30 <b>KEITH MEET YOUR ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR</b> 4PM-6PM</p>	

The New Bedford High School Drama Club  
presents



the  
**CRUCIBLE**

By Arthur Miller

December 1 & 2 at 7pm

December 3 at 2pm

Tickets & Info:

[our.show/nbhscrucible](http://our.show/nbhscrucible)

THE CRUCIBLE is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

# NBHS Winter Concert

Tues. December 12th, 2023

7PM-9PM

Featuring: Concert Band, Symphonic Band Chorus, Show Choir, SSA Choir, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Orchestra, and the NBHS Staff Chorus!

New Bedford High School's Bronspiegel Auditorium

Donations Welcome

New Bedford Public Schools  
presents

# DISTRICT WIDE CHORAL FESTIVAL

December 19, 2023  
7pm

NBHS Bronspiegel Auditorium  
230 Hathaway Boulevard

For more information, contact:  
Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts  
[lsouza@newbedfordschools.org](mailto:lsouza@newbedfordschools.org)  
508-997-4511 ext. 14104





## Community Corner

Volunteers are needed throughout our community\*



# Meet Louise.

*“As a retired teacher,  
it fulfills my sense of  
purpose in helping  
other people.”*

Join our  
community of  
volunteers today.

# Gifts To Give

It's good to give back



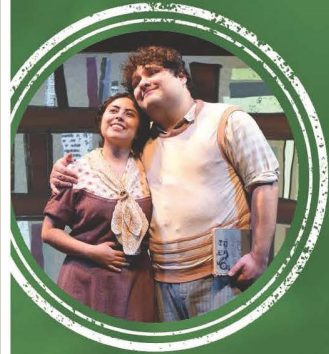
Because we all have GiftsToGive.  
(508) 717-8715 1 Titleist Dr, Acushnet, MA 02743

\*NBPS District Goal #4 —“Increase awareness of staff to the benefits, partnerships, and opportunities to become a bigger part of the greater New Bedford community.

2023-2024

# Schooltime

performance series

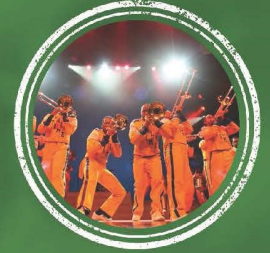


TOMAS  
AND THE  
LIBRARY LADY  
NOV 20

## EDUCATORS

### PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIPS NOW!

Experience K-12 performances curated  
to enhance learning in the classroom.



DRUMLINE  
LIVE  
JAN 16



CHARLOTTE'S  
WEB  
JUN 4



360 ALLSTARS  
MAR 18



SEE ALL  
14 SHOWS



SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE



# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK



November 13-17, 2023  
#AEW2023 [nea.org/aew](http://nea.org/aew)



Happy  
Thanksgiving 