



The Bi-County Brief

Issue 6

April 2024

I am writing to share some exciting news! BICO is on the move! During the summer months, the programs located at Mansion Drive, and Summit will be relocating to the Johnson School located in Walpole. The BICO Central Office will also be moving to this new location. As things move forward, we will continue to keep families, students and staff affected informed of specific dates for the move. The transition to the Johnson School creates the opportunity for BICO students to be educated in a school building with full access to the first and second floors, an auditorium, a gym and shared access to the outside fields, tennis and basketball courts. TEC Collaborative will be located on the lower level of the building. We believe this is a very positive change for both our students and our staff!

A Message from the Executive Director



Sincerely, Jeanne Sullivan

SEAP Students Participate in Swim Lessons

Beginning on March 22, students in BICO's Specialized Elementary Alternative Program (SEAP) have been participating in swim lessons at the Franklin YMCA.

For eight weeks each Friday, students are guided by special education swim instructors as they practice both swimming and basic safety skills. This program was made possible through grant funding.

"The kids have made so much progress and are learning safety as well as swimming skills," said Special Education Teacher Michelle Mercier.



Bi-County Collaborative
Making It Possible



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Important Dates

May 7
Parent Training Series

May 24
Early release for PD

May 27
Memorial Day

Specialized Language Based Program Students Raise Money for Animals in Need

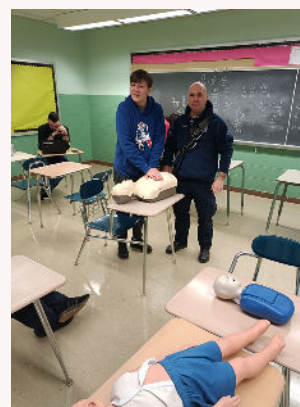
Students in BICO'S Specialized Language Based Program (SLBP) recently held a fundraiser for Pawfect Life Rescue after learning that the organization needed to temporarily close due to insufficient funding.

As part of the fundraising efforts, students created "flowergrams" for purchase during school lunches and advertised the fundraiser using handmade flyers and posters. In total, SLBP students raised over \$200 for the organization which will be used to provide animals with food, toys, and blankets.

In addition to giving back to their community, students were able to practice both math and ELA skills throughout the course of the fundraiser through research, writing donation request letters, creating posters and flyers, and counting money.



Past Event Photos



STAP Students Explore Media Class at Walpole High School

Throughout the month of April, students in BICO'S Secondary Therapeutic Alternative Program (STAP) visited Walpole High School's media class to learn how to use media equipment.

The purpose of the trips was to have students explore the career of working in television by using the state-of-the-art cameras and sound and audio equipment available at Walpole High School. During the trips, students learned how to operate TV cameras and learned about focusing, tilting, and panning to find their target object or person.

Students were also able to use the sound booth equipment and had the opportunity to conduct a mock show under the direction of Mr. Foreman.



Learning Center Students Participate in Disc Golf

Students in BICO'S Learning Center began participating in games of disc golf after being introduced to the game by Teacher/H.S. Curriculum Coordinator Jonathan Morgan last fall.

In the weeks following, students began researching different discs and watching disc golf instructional videos on proper throwing techniques during their free time.

In March, students went on a field trip and played at Louisa Park in Milford, MA. LC staff were all impressed with how the students learned and implemented the game's rules. The staff witnessed the students use mental strategies to complete the various challenging holes while making observations in nature.

“With how much screen time students have both in and out of the classroom, it is nice to see the student's desire to go outside and learn a game they are passionate about,” said Morgan. “Health and wellness is critical to the work we do and the research shows that being in nature is a key component to this.”

SEAP and Summit High School Students Participate in Scavenger Hunt

Under the direction of teachers Nancy Deblois and Susan Morocco SEAP and Summit High School students recently spent the afternoon participating in a scavenger hunt and ice cream party at Beatrice H Wood School.

As part of the event, older students were paired with younger students and were given a clipboard and a list of items from nature that they needed to find with their partners. Following the scavenger hunt, students were treated to an ice cream party as a reward for their hard work.



Happenings Around the Collaborative

Blackstone Fire Department Hosts CPR Training Class for Learning Center



BICO's Learning Center staff recently organized a training for students that focused on health and safety.

On April 5, Officer Craig from the Blackstone Fire Department came to the Learning Center and taught students about CPR and the advantages of knowing how to potentially save a life.

The class was attended by six students and lasted two hours. During the class, students shared examples where training could be helpful to them and their family members. All six students are now proudly CPR-certified.

Bi-County Collaborative Parent Training Series

WHEN: Tuesday, May 7 from 6:30-8 p.m.

WHERE: Online via [Zoom](#)

WHAT: Join Board Certified Behavior Analyst Michelle E. Dunham for "Positive Behavior Supports in the Home." During the event, attendees will learn suggestions to prevent children from engaging in challenging behaviors, what parents can do when their child is engaging in challenging behaviors and more. Dunham has been working with students who have special needs for 35 years. She has been with Bi-County Collaborative for 14 years and has worked with students in a wide variety of programs.



Past Event Photos

