



The Bi-County Brief

Issue 4

February 2024

On Feb. 1, I was so excited to gather with the staff at Summit Elementary, Middle, and High School to recognize our student's academic success. During this time, students who earned the honor roll for the second quarter were recognized with certificates, recognizing their achievements and lunch to celebrate. It was so special to see our students receive recognition for their hard work and to witness their pride in their hard work. Thank you to our staff who coordinated this special event!

A Message from the Executive Director



I also want to recognize Career Readiness Coach, Mr. Foreman. This year Mr. Foreman has taken the lead in organizing our professional speaker series. About every month, we have presenters from a wide range of occupations present at our middle and high school students about the work that they do and the educational background/experience that they need to have to earn their position. Presenters this year have included people working in the fields of construction, marketing, nursing, and many others. These opportunities are so helpful for our students and have helped to continue building our transition program. Thank you, Mr. Foreman!

I hope you have had a wonderful February break!

Sincerely, Jeanne Sullivan

The Specialized Elementary Alternative Program (SEAP) Visits The Providence Children's Museum

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, students in BICO's Specialized Elementary Alternative Program (SEAP) spent the afternoon exploring The Providence Children's Museum. To kick off the day, SEAP students Shay, Jovan, and Trenton enjoyed splashing in the various pools in the water room. Students then took part in a building block activity before visiting the museum's model grocery store. "SEAP students had a great time exploring the Providence Children's Museum and experiencing all of the interactive activities that the museum offers," said Special Education Teacher Michelle Mercier.



Bi-County Collaborative

Making It Possible

Students Recieve MCAS Achievement Awards

Important Dates

Thursday, March 7 - Parent Training Series 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 28 - All Programs Closed, Professional Development Day

Friday, March 29 - All Programs Closed, Good Friday

MCAS

March 4 - 6 - ELA Retest

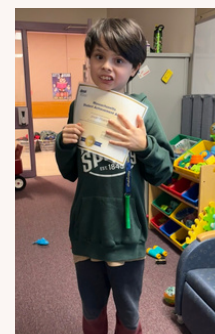
March 7 - 8 - Math Retest

Monday, March 25 - Grade 3-8 ELA Testing

Tuesday, March 26 - Grade 10 ELA Testing

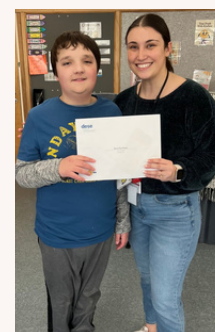


Students in BICO’s Specialized Middle School Alternative Program (SMAP) and Specialized Elementary Alternative Program (SEAP) recently received the Student Achievement Award, presented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



The award recognizes students who received “Exceeds Expectations” or “Progressing” scores on the English Language Arts or Math portion of the 2023 MCAS and the 2023 MCAS-Alt Standardized Tests.

Awards were distributed to students during class and included a Certificate of Excellence, tips to help families and caregivers support their children’s education at home, and a gift card for students to buy a celebratory treat.



By making their progress memorable and tangible, BICO hopes to see students continue to excel and make themselves and their families proud of their accomplishments. “We are proud to recognize each of our students for this outstanding achievement,” said Executive Director Jeanne Sullivan.

Past Event Photos



Bi-County Collaborative Parent Training Series

WHEN: Thursday, March 7 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

WHERE: Online via [Zoom](#)

WHAT: Bi-County Collaborative is pleased to present “WeCare365 Adult Family Care” as part of an ongoing parent training series. The goal of this presentation is to create awareness for parents and caregivers regarding the Massachusetts Adult Family Care program. This program benefits families who are living with someone 16 years of age or older who is unable to live independently. WeCare 365’s AFC program provides financial support to the household in addition to monthly visits by clinical and social care managers.

Chief Executive Officer Arelis Gomes: As Chief Executive Officer, Gomes’ role at WeCare 365 is to ensure the Organizational Structure flows smoothly and meets the expectations of the Massachusetts Adult Foster Care guidelines. Working closely with the Leadership team to develop strategic processes and workflows built to fit the organization's infrastructure and meet the needs and/or demands of the diverse populations served at the WeCare 365 Adult Foster Care program.



LRTC Graduate Highlight: Ryan Rondeau



BICO is proud to announce that Ryan Rondeau has graduated from the Walpole LRTC! On Feb. 29, the entire LRTC program came together to watch Ryan graduate and receive his certificate of completion. Friends and staff made speeches, watched picture slideshows that highlighted LRTC memories, and enjoyed coffee and donuts.

Ryan joined BICO in 2022 and has since created meaningful relationships with both his peers and staff. Throughout his time in LRTC, Ryan improved his functional life skills and enjoyed his occasional cup of coffee at the Kool Kids Cafe. His favorite activities at the LRTC included music group, morning meeting, leisure time on the Chromebook, and going on van rides throughout the community.

“We are so proud of Ryan for all he has accomplished and wish him the best of luck! We will miss him so much,” said LRTC teacher Ms. Shannon.

Life Roles Transition Center (LRTC) Hosts Parent Open House

On Friday, Feb. 8, 10 parents gathered at the Mansion Drive location for the LRTC Parent Open House.

Parents first visited the Kool Kids Cafe, hosted in Ms. Tara’s classroom, where they enjoyed coffee, hot chocolate, orange juice and chocolate croissants.

Next door, in Ms. Danielle’s room, parents viewed a slideshow of photo collages that students created, featuring activities they had engaged in over the school year.

In Ms. Shannon’s classroom, parents observed the student’s daily morning routine and participated in their morning meetings.

The LRTC staff are pleased to share that the open house was a success and thank parents for their support!



Happenings Around the Collaborative

SMAP Students and Staff Celebrate Valentine's Day

Throughout the month of February, Specialized Middle School Alternative Program (SMAP) staff took turns writing down one thing they love about each of their students on paper hearts. Hearts were then placed on display in the SMAP classroom.

In return, students expressed their appreciation for staff by creating valentines for Memorial Middle School custodians using symbols and letter stamps.



Who Would Win? TEAP Students Write Opinion Essay

During the month of February, Therapeutic Elementary Alternative Program (TEAP) students in Miss. Ludwig's class read "Who Would Win? Polar Bear vs. Grizzly Bear" by Jerry Pallotta. After gathering the facts, students categorized the information they learned about each bear and made a claim about which bear would win in a face-off. They wrote an opinion paragraph and supported their argument with details from the book. Students' skills and creativity shined through in this writing assignment!

AMS Students Participate in Egg Drop Challenge

Students in BICO's Alternative Middle School program recently participated in an Egg Drop Challenge. Students competed against one another to design and build egg capsules. Students used a balloon, a shopping bag, cotton balls, elastics, straws, tape, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, and a sheet of tissue paper to create the capsules. The capsules, containing an egg, were then tested for durability as they were dropped from four different heights. If their egg capsule passed the drop test, they advanced to the next height level.



PHOTOS

