



The Bi-County Brief

Issue 3

January 2024

Happy January! This month I wanted to highlight some of the things that we do to help engage our students' families as partners in the educational process.

- This newsletter serves as a window into the day-to-day life and special events at BICO.
- We hope you have seen the notices about our new Parent Training Program that began in October. Read on to learn about our upcoming event! Many of these sessions are recorded, [here](#).
- Our school-based teams work closely with our clinical team and families to hold regular clinical consultation meetings. Our highly skilled clinical consultants and school-based therapists partner with families to review areas of concern, make connections to resources outside of school and create a plan of action.
- We value our staff's interactions with you as an important means of engagement. These interactions allow us to share the everyday celebrations and challenges your child experiences on a regular basis. If you have a preferred means of communication, please reach out to your child's Program Director or teacher to let them know.

We hope these family resources are helpful to you. If you have suggestions for other ways that we can address the needs of our families, please reach out to me at jsullivan@bicounty.org. Thank you for allowing BICO to partner with you in educating your child.



Sincerely, Jeanne Sullivan

ATP Students Participate in Fuel for the Weekend Program

Students in BICO's Adult Transition Program (ATP) have recently been participating in the Hockomock Area YMCA's Fuel for the Weekend Program as part of their Service Learning Service project.

The Fuel for the Weekend Program provides weekend meals and snack bags to students to help bridge the nutrition gap over the weekend when students are not receiving food in school. Bags are delivered before the end of the week to students across several districts.

Each week, under the direction of teacher Kelly Messier, four ATP students visit the Hockomock YMCA in North Attleboro to participate in the program. Students are involved in processing orders, taking inventory, checking expiration dates and unloading, unpacking and stocking items.

Through this partnership, students develop a better understanding of food insecurities within their own communities and have the opportunity to practice employability skills through community service.



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Important Dates

Friday, Feb. 9 - Early Release Day for PD

Monday, Feb. 19 - Friday, Feb. 23 - February Break

Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Friday, Feb. 23 - 12 Month Students in Session

Summit Students Thrive During Career Exploration Program

Under the direction of Career Readiness Coach Casey Foreman, students in BICO's Summit High School Program have been exploring a variety of local businesses as part of the career exploration program.

As part of the program, each month, Foreman invites a new professional speaker to Summit High School to speak to students about their professional backgrounds and various career opportunities available to students. The goal of the program is to explore a different industry each month to expose students to as many potential job options as possible throughout the school year.

During the month of November, Summit High School welcomed the owner of Inkify, LLC, Carlos Lobato. Inkify is a full-service contract screen printing and embroidery shop that provides high-quality decorated apparel nationwide. Lobato spoke to students about his responsibilities, his educational background and his career path.

In January, Summit High School students visited Inkify, LLC, twice a week to learn about the operations of the business. Throughout the month, students learned about the screen printing and embroidery process and had the opportunity to work on entry-level tasks. Tasks included unboxing, counting, sorting and folding shirts as well as moving and organizing stock items.

"This type of experience is so important for students because they get to see what different types of jobs are out there," said Foreman. "They also get an idea of what is required and expected of them and that helps them to make informed decisions about their job or career options."



Past Event Photos



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ATP Students Tour Red Robin



On Wednesday, Jan. 10, students in BICO's Adult Transition Program (ATP) went on a behind-the-scenes tour of Red Robin in Foxborough.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of the restaurant industry. Students learned from professionals about meal preparation, dishes, cooking and customer service.

This trip served as part of the program's Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster, which allows students to compare different industries and career paths.

Following the tour, Red Robin treated students and staff to a complimentary lunch. Students were able to sit down with the manager to ask questions while enjoying lunch.

EDLP and PDLP Students Take Part in Music Therapy

Students in BICO's Preschool Developmental Learning Program (PDLP) and Elementary Developmental Learning Program (EDLP) have been enjoying music therapy sessions with HopeHealth PediPals representative Nicole.

Each Tuesday, Nicole visits EDLP and PDLP students for a 30-minute music session. Students are given musical instruments and sit in a circle while Nicole sings songs and leads students through a variety of musical games.

Nicole has previously worked with a handful of students outside of school hours through their involvement in HopeHealth's Pediatric Supportive Services. In September, parents requested that Nicole come into the classrooms to allow students to receive music therapy services in a variety of settings.

Music is at the forefront of both PDLP and EDLP curricula. Through this partnership, students are able to relax in the classroom and explore different materials and instruments they may not have access to on a daily basis.



TEAP Students Explore North Bowl Lanes



On Jan. 19, students from the Beatrice H. Wood School's Therapeutic Elementary Alternative Programs (TEAP) took part in a field trip to North Bowl Lanes in North Attleborough.

Students and staff spent the afternoon participating in a game of bowling.

This particular field trip served as a reward for students who have been working hard to practice kindness through a series of classroom games and activities. As a result of their hard work, students had the opportunity to go on a field trip of their choosing.

Since returning from the trip to North Bowl Lanes, students have been inquiring about setting up a bowling league of their own.



Happenings Around the Collaborative

SMAP Students Embrace Winter Weather

Students in BICO's Specialized Middle Alternative Program (SMAP) have been embracing the winter weather by decorating their classrooms with penguins and snowmen. Students created artwork using variety of crafting materials including tissue paper and glitter glue.



TEAP Students Kick off the New Year

Students in the Therapeutic Elementary Alternative Programs (TEAP) are kicking off the new year by putting in their best effort and working hard!

Despite the unfavorable weather, students have been staying active in gym class by participating in fun indoor activities.

Students have also been exploring plant life cycles during science class and had the opportunity to sprout Lima bean seeds and watch them grow.

TEAP students and staff are excited to continue learning, growing and having a good time throughout the remainder of the school year.



Secondary Therapeutic Alternative High School Staff Partners with Pre-school Developmental Learning Program

Each week, beginning in January, students and staff from Mansfield's Preschool Developmental Learning Program (PDLP) have welcomed paraprofessional Dasani from Walpole's Secondary Therapeutic Alternative High School Program (STAP) as she works to complete her work-based learning internship.



WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 27

WHERE: Online via [Zoom](#)

WHAT: Bi-County Collaborative is pleased to present "Guardianship with Attorney Fred Misilo" as part of an ongoing parent training series. The online event will feature a variety of topics including an overview of the guardianship process and resources available to families

Attorney Fred Misilo: Misilo is Chair of the Trust and Estate Department of Fletcher Tilton, a regional law firm with offices in Boston, Framingham, Providence, Worcester and Cape Cod. Misilo is a trust and estate attorney with over 30 of experience in all aspects of estate planning, estate administration, trust management and asset protection. He brings a seasoned approach to client who have complex needs in succession planning in a variety of settings and circumstances, including special needs and elder law.

Bi-County Collaborative Parent Training Series

