



# The Bi-County Brief

Issue 5

March 2024

It's finally Spring! We are all hoping for more flowers than April showers! This past month we had three students who turned 22 and aged out from our LRTC 18+ and ATP Programs. Attending each of these ceremonies reminded me of why BICO is so special.

A Message from the Executive Director



The staff from these students' classrooms created individual ceremonies that were tailored to each student. It was so special to see the student families, peers and current staff as well as previous staff come together for the celebration. I absolutely loved watching the slideshows that contained glimpses into the experiences of each student through their time at BICO. While we are sad to see our students graduate or turn 22 and leave us, we wish everyone much luck and happiness as they move on from BICO.

Keep looking for the sunshine!

Sincerely, Jeanne Sullivan

## Summit Middle and High School Students Interact with Therapy Dogs

On Tuesday, March 12, Summit Middle and High School students spent the afternoon interacting with therapy dogs. The visit came as part of Summit Public Day School. "Therapy and comfort dogs are always a big hit with the students and staff when they visit," said teacher Kelly Messier. "Comfort dogs bring calm and peace wherever they go."



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## LREP and SMAP Classrooms Celebrate Successful Performances on MCAS Alternate Assessments

### Important Dates

- April 15-19: April Vacation Week
- April 26: Early release for PD

### MCAS:

- March 25 - April 26: Grades 3-8 ELA
- April 23 - May 24: Grades 3-8 Math & Science

### Bi-County Collaborative

#### Parent Training Series

Monday, April 8 from 6:30

- 8 p.m. online via [Zoom](#)

To learn more, click [here](#).

Students in BICO's Life Roles Education Program (LREP) and Specialized Middle School Alternative Program (SMAP) recently spent the day celebrating their successful performances on the MCAS Alternate Assessment.

The MCAS Alternate Assessment is provided to students who cannot access the traditional MCAS testing. As part of the assessment, students are assigned portfolios, which include a variety of assignments aligned with the MCAS- Alt requirements for each respective grade level.

In recognition of each student's hard work, families and staff gathered in each classroom for a celebration.

Additionally, on March 15, families in the LREP classroom enjoyed an MCAS-themed bingo game, which incorporated different classroom technologies including a switch-adapted spinner. Parents then reviewed their child's portfolio and signed off on the required verification sheet.

On March 22, families in the SMAP classroom worked in groups to decorate easter eggs, using dye, glitter, and sequins. Parents then reviewed their child's portfolio and signed off on the required verification sheet.



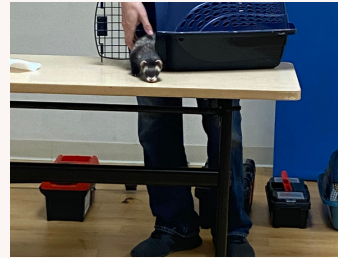
### Past Event Photos



## LRTC Hosts Animal Adventures Family Zoo & Rescue Center

Students in BICO's Life Roles Transition Center (LRTC) recently spent the afternoon making new connections with various animals. On Wednesday, March 13 LRTC students and staff welcomed a representative from Animal Adventures Family Zoo & Rescue Center.

Animal Adventures aims to provide a home to unwanted and unable to care for animals while educating the public about these animals. As part of their mission, representatives educate students about the various types of animals they care for. Throughout the presentation, students had the opportunity to meet a chinchilla, a ferret, an alligator, a bearded dragon, a snake, and a rat. Students learned about each of these animals' habitats and diets. Students enjoyed getting to pet each animal and observe them up close.



## SEAP Students Explore North Attleboro Fire Department

On Wednesday, March 20, students in BICO's Specialized Elementary Alternative Program (SEAP) spent the day exploring the North Attleboro Fire Department alongside Chief Christopher Coleman.

Throughout the day, students observed various trainings and learned the different ways that firefighters serve their communities. Students were provided a complete tour of the department and got a behind-the-scenes look at special equipment and where firefighters eat and sleep during overnight shifts. Students also had the opportunity to sit in an ambulance and a fire truck.

"It was a pleasure to visit Chief Coleman and his department members for this special trip," said Special Education Teacher Michelle Mercier. "Our students had a wonderful time exploring the department and learning about their local heroes."



## AMS Students at Annie Sullivan Middle School Welcome Author Jordan Sonnenblick

On Tuesday, March 19, students and staff at the Annie Sullivan Middle School welcomed Author Jordan Sonnenblick, who presented his latest memoir, "The Boy Who Failed Show and Tell."

The visit came as a reward to each student who had spent the school year reading Sonnenblick's memoir.

During his presentation, Sonnenblick spoke to students about his life and his career as an author. The day concluded with a Q&A session, where students had the opportunity to ask questions about Sonnenblick and learn more about his writing.



# Happenings Around the Collaborative



## Learning Center Students Explore the Museum of Work & Culture

On Tuesday, March 12, students in BICO's Learning Center took a tour of the Museum of Work & Culture in Woonsocket, RI. Students were able to ask museum staff questions and got the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities that simulated some of the tasks the workers experienced producing textiles during the Industrial Revolution.

## LRTC Students Make St. Patrick's Day Cards for CareOne Residents

Students in BICO's Life Roles Transition Center (LRTC) recently delivered handmade cards to the CareOne senior center to bring some cheer and smiles to the residents. Students used different pictures and visuals as well as handwritten messages to make cards celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Students from all three classrooms enjoyed visiting the senior center and look forward to returning soon for more volunteer opportunities!



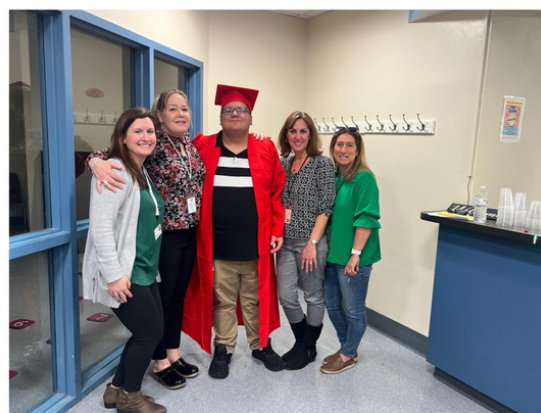
# Congratulations Graduates!



Ryan R.  
LRTC 18+  
2/29/2024



Bailey B  
LRTC 18+  
3/11/2024



Justice V. D.  
ATP  
3/12/2024

