



The Bi-County Brief

Issue 7

May & June 2024

Happy Summer!

As BICO closes out the 2023-2024 school year, we are happy to share some of the exciting happenings around the collaborative. Each event celebrated the growth of students from across Bi-County's programs. Thank you to staff, students, families and districts for another great school year. I hope you find ways to relax, rejuvenate and have some fun this summer! We look forward to continued growth, learning and fun during ESY and at the beginning of the next school year. Thank you for helping BICO continue to "Make it Possible!" Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of help this summer!

A Message from the Executive Director



Sincerely, Jeanne Sullivan

AMS and TEP Programs Visit Extreme Craze in Foxboro

On May 21, students from the AMS and TEP programs went to Xtreme Craze in Foxboro! This end-of-the-year tradition celebrates our students' hard work with a community-based activity. Students from different programs were able to catch up as they competed in laser tag, played arcade games, and enjoyed lunch at McDonald's. Congrats to our students on another successful school year and we loved celebrating their achievements!



Bi-County Collaborative
Making It Possible



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Important Dates

- **7/1:** ESY starts
- **7/8:** 12-Month students start
- **7/9:** 12/10-month LRTC Walpole start
- **7/12,19, 26:** 12/10-Month Intensive early release
- **8/2,9:** 12/10 Month Intensive early release
- **8/12-16:** All BICO programs closed
- **8/19:** 12-Month students resume
- **8/21:** New teacher orientation
- **8/22:** New staff CPI training
- **8/26:** Welcome back day for staff
- **8/27:** Staff PD day
- **8/28:** 1st Day of school for all students
- **9/30:** All BICO programs closed

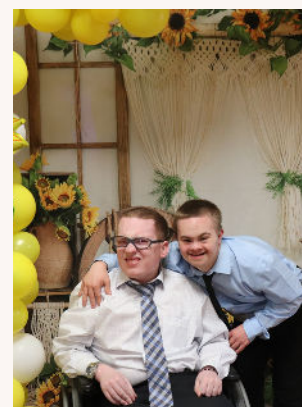
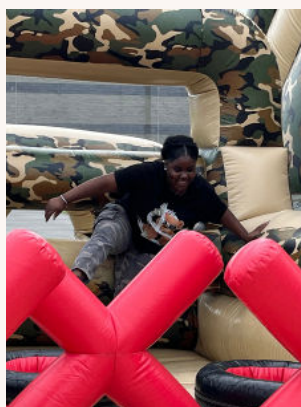
The Massachusetts National Guard Visits BICO

On June 3, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, endeavoring to assist the BayState youth in becoming the best possible leaders and members of society that they can be, commenced a non-recruiting event through their Enhanced School Program at the Bi-County Collaborative Regional Educational Center in Walpole.

The event included two activities: A large inflatable Boot Camp Obstacle Course and a team-building exercise. These activities combined physical and mental fitness to engage the students where they were in an environment where they can succeed. The staff and students of the following programs actively participated: AMS, TEP, STAP, SHS, SMS, and SELC Walpole.



Past Event Photos



Bico Spring Fling

On May 10, BICO students and staff gathered for the annual Spring Fling event. Students, faculty, and staff spent the night eating, dancing, and socializing.

A special gift was given to the Gavel Public House Owner Jonathan Cox as a recognition of his efforts to introduce BICO students to the culinary industry through real-world experiences throughout the school year. Cox was also recognized for supporting the organization of the Spring Fling event.



TEAP Students Visit World War 1 Park



On June 7, Miss Ludwig's 3rd-grade class from TEAP Wrentham visited the World War 1 Memorial Park and Zoo in North Attleboro. The students completed a scavenger hunt as they adventured through the park and practiced all of the skills they gained this year! They had a blast feeding the animals, sliding down the big slide, and playing on the playground!

AMS Students Participate in Science Fair

On May 31, AMS students participated in a science fair and performed experiments in groups. This annual event gives students the opportunity to showcase what they have learned and explore the field of science. Parents and the BICO administration were invited to the fair to see the hard work of all the students, and the students were able to describe and showcase their experiments!



Happenings Around the Collaborative

Spring is a season of change at BICO!

Each year at this time, a sense of nervous anticipation can be felt in our TEAP and SEAP programs. Students are preparing to transition from the comfort of their current classrooms to the next page in their educational chapter. Our students move within or leave BICO for many different reasons, and our staff works to make these changes as successful as possible.

This spring, there have been many team meetings, staff visits to districts, and BICO classroom and parent tours. Students moving within BICO prepare questions to ask their new teachers and classmates and visit their new program with their counselors and support staff. This visit can ease the anxiety associated with new buildings, new schedules, and new friends!

Students returning to their home districts, graduating, or aging out of BICO have met their goals to prepare them for exciting challenges ahead. There will be tears of pride and happiness shed as we watch our students spread their wings and leave our programs, and we look forward to hearing about all of their future successes!

Bridgewater State University's CityLab Science Outreach Program



Last month, Bico's STAP, TEP, AMS, and Learning Center programs participated in Bridgewater State University's CityLab science outreach program, which provided hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory activities using state-of-the-art equipment.

The students participated in two activities that explored hereditary disease testing and forensic analysis. The students practiced micro pipetting skills and performed DNA fingerprinting analysis on samples, used techniques that are based on restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) and used agarose gel electrophoresis to resolve DNA fingerprints. The students honed their data analysis and critical thinking skills while solving mysteries, and had a ton of fun!



Happenings Around the Collaborative

Mansfield Students Participate in Special Olympics

On June 7, the entire Mansfield student body gathered in the high school gymnasium for the 2024 Special Olympics School Day Games pre-games rally.

Mansfield Public Schools students from kindergarten through high school then participated in a series of Special Olympics School Day Games.

Athletes rotated through eight stations and received a swag bag filled with items to make the day special including a commemorative t-shirt.

Families, staff and students district-wide as well as alumni Special Olympics athletes also attended the event in support of student-athletes.



LREP Students Hosts Animal Adventures Family Zoo & Rescue Center

On May 17, students and families in BICO'S LREP program recently spent the afternoon making new connections with various animals including a chinchilla, ferret, crested gecko, hedgehog, snake, alligator and a kinkajou.



Happenings Around the Collaborative



SEAP Students Build Cardboard Carnival

On June 7, students in BICO's SEAP program participated in a cardboard carnival.

At the beginning of the month, each student chose a carnival game to create. Students worked during class to create a list of materials, building instructions, and instructions on how to play.

The project integrates skills from multiple subject areas. Social skills and problem-solving skills were also a large component of the project.

All students and families in attendance had fun playing each of the games and winning prizes!



Summit High School Hosts Art & Music Showcase



BICO Graduation

