

OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SAFETY BULLETIN



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to the March 2019 edition of the Office of Climate and Safety Bulletin. Our Bulletin highlights various schools doing amazing work to ensure the development of a safe and supportive school environment throughout the School District of Philadelphia. Our aim is to share the good news happening within our district and help build a base of useful practices being implemented within the district.

School Shout Outs

The following sections highlight some of the great practices taking place in the School District of Philadelphia. The Office of Climate and Safety is committed to sharing the good news happening within our district.



Want to be highlighted?

Would you like to highlight an Office of Climate and Safety related piece of good news? Please e-mail your good news to Kristina Popkin or Steven Rufe at kzameito@philasd.org or srufe@philasd.org.

Want more information?



Please [click here](#) to visit the Office of Climate and Safety's website for more information on current practices and supports within the district.

RESOURCE CORNER: TO LEARN ABOUT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES.

To learn about Restorative Justice, [click here](#).

For more information on community-building circles, [click here](#).

Want to learn more about Restorative Justice on Tier II harm and conflict circles? Visit [this link](#).

Visit [this link](#) to learn more about Restorative Justice Tier III re-entry circles.

To learn about Restorative Justice in the School District of Philadelphia, please contact Josh Staub, MTSS for Restorative Justice at jstaub@philasd.org.

Juniata Park Academy



Juniata Park Academy began implementing Restorative Justice as a Tier I MTSS intervention at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. By the end of our first year of implementation, we were able to decrease our number of out of school suspensions by nearly half. During the 2018-2019 school year, we began holding weekly community building circles in all classrooms in grades 5-8, as well as training specific staff members to facilitate Tier II restorative circles that focus on mediating conflict and repairing harm. Overall, there's been an overwhelmingly positive response to restorative justice throughout the school (from both students and teachers), and the data shows that student conflicts addressed through the Tier II restorative process have successfully been ended after just the first mediation. In my sixteen years as an educator in the SDP, Restorative Justice has been the single most effective practice for building positive communities and resolving conflicts in a non-punitive manner.



EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND WORKSHOPS

Free Admission to the Franklin Institute Community Nights on May 20 , June 17, and July 15 from 5:00-8:00pm. For more information, visit: <https://www.fi.edu/special-events/community-nights>.

BHHEN is offering a Mental Health First Aid training on May 16 and 17 from 8:30-1:00PM. For more information visit: <https://www.bhten.com/calendar>.



Warren G. Harding Middle School



The Warren G. Harding Middle School has implemented a student run youth court to help students improve school climate. The goal of youth court is to identify the harm caused by an incident and to fix the problem using restorative justice. The Harding students play the roles of judge, jury and youth advocate to help students fix mistakes and improve behavior in the future. Simultaneously, youth court members improve public speaking, leadership, and problem solving skills while participating in youth court.

YOUTH COURT IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA



Youth court is an opportunity for students that make poor choices to improve their behavior without being suspended or punished in the traditional way. Youth court is run by a group of students that will find a way to help students become responsible for their behavior and make better choices in the future. The goal of youth court is to fix the problem, not punish the student. All actions of the youth court are restorative, not punitive.

Youth court can come up with any conclusion needed to help the student improve behavior. The conclusions of the youth court are often creatively developed to match the situation. The determinations of youth court are meant to allow the student to take responsibility and make amends for the offense, not to punish the student.

Youth court is a flexible program that can be developed to match the needs and resources of any school.

Would you like to learn more about Youth Court? Please contact John Papiano, Youth Court Specialist for the School District of Philadelphia at jpapiano@philadisd.org.

Joseph W. Catharine School

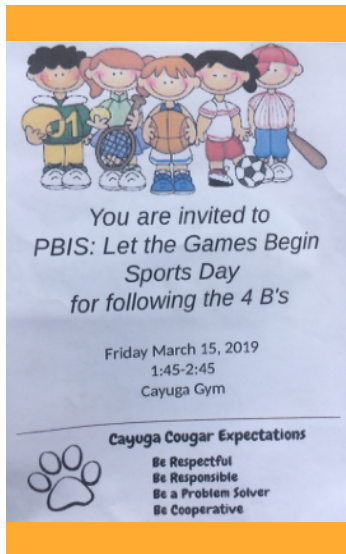


Joseph W. Catharine School has a recently formed Climate and Culture Team who meets monthly. They have been focusing on building a positive staff culture and in the month of February focused on creating fun events for the staff, which included a happy hour and also a Valentine's Breakfast for the staff.

Additionally, they have started what they are calling "Monday Motivation" which is a time for staff to come together before school to drink coffee, chat, eat their breakfast (they call it BYOB - bring your own breakfast!) to help start their week off on a positive note.

Cayuga Elementary School

Fifth grade students participated in the Office of Climate and Safety's anti-bullying super hero contest by creatively developing an anti-bullying superhero. The superhero, which is decked out in a Cayuga uniform, made its way to the Office of Climate and Safety in the district administration building and even to Deputy Chief of Climate and Safety Jody Greenblatt's office. Cayuga was selected as winner in the contest and will therefore receive an officially signed certificate, will be highlighted at the Spring Climate Expo, and have their anti-bullying mascot travel around the district administration building. Congratulations, Cayuga on a job well done!

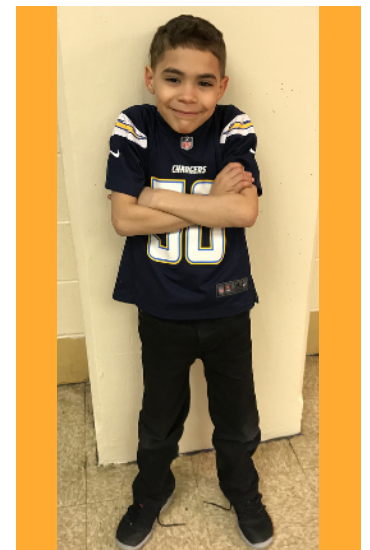


Cayuga also hosted a "Let the Games Begin Sports Day" for following their school-wide expectations on Friday, March 15, 2019. During this PBIS activity, the Cayuga Cougar showed up and students played together in a variety of fun games outside.



Lewis Elkin Elementary School

Counselors Paige Gibney and Carolyn Filano have worked hard to break new ground at the tier 2 level by successfully implementing a research-based intervention aligned with PBIS, Check-In, Check Out (CICO). This involves daily conversations setting students up for success with a warm greeting, reminders about how they can demonstrate the expectations and problem-solving how they can have an even better day tomorrow. Teachers are critical in the process with providing feedback on pupil behavior after each period of the day and counselors meet bi-weekly to



review that data and make decisions around how they can adjust supports to ensure students make progress. Pictured here is their very first graduate, Omarion Hinds! He has really taken ownership for his behavior and strives to demonstrate Elkin's SOAR expectations every day. We're so proud of you Omarion!



Thomas M. Pierce School

Special shout out to the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Team at Thomas M. Pierce School. Jill Cimino, Austin Wallace, and Shannon Garrett pulled off an amazing mid-year PBIS event.

Students who earned 50 tickets over a one month period were invited to participate in a school dance. Over 90% of Pierce students earned 50 or more tickets and were eligible to participate in the event. Great work!

Thurgood Marshall School

The PBIS Team at Thurgood Marshall School has been working tirelessly to provide opportunities for students to use their positive behavior points that they earn throughout the school day. Students accumulate these points and then have an opportunity to go to the “Eagle Nest Store” on a regular basis. At the store, students either spend their points or choose to save them for bigger purchases next time. Pictured here are Ms. Cordaro and Ms. Barth, two very active PBIS Team Members. Ms. Cordaro and Ms. Carranza, the school counselors at Marshall, work hard to keep the store stocked and get students through the store regularly. Congratulations to Marshall for giving students an opportunity to earn positive incentives, but also for teaching them about accruing, saving, and spending!



John H. Taggart School

Taggart has a very welcoming and supportive environment and recently welcomed a new Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coach with open arms. Taggart’s PBIS Team has been meeting monthly, communicating about their efforts, and reaching out for help as needed. The PBIS team is a very cohesive team that is working tirelessly to create a safe and supportive environment for their students.

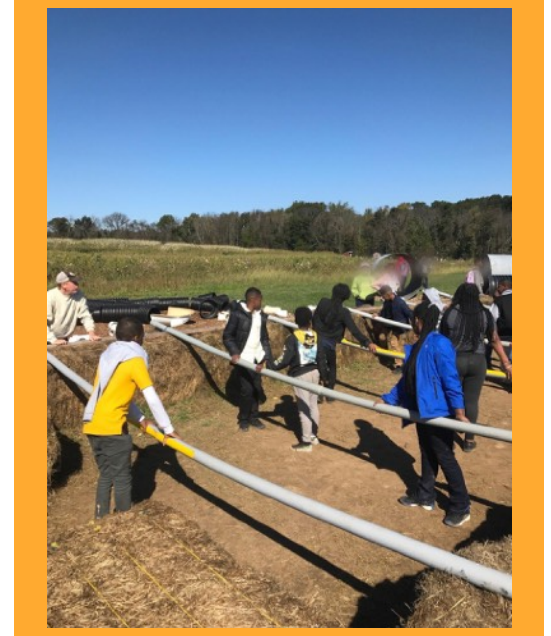
Bayard Taylor School

Bayard Taylor Elementary is deeply committed to shifting from punitive consequences to restorative practices. This year the majority of classrooms have implemented RJ Circles to build the Tier 1 community necessary for a successful adoption of a Tier 2 approach to student behaviors. The teaching staff has engaged in multiple trainings to best facilitate these Circles in their classrooms.

Additionally, a team of leaders has been working on the strategic plan for ensuring that all classrooms use RJ Circles in the 2019-2020 school year, as well as rolling out a Tier 2 RJ system.

Roosevelt Elementary School

A HUGE shout out to Roosevelt Elementary School for going absolutely BEYOND with their incentives systems this year!!! Theresa Erickson heads up the PBIS Rewards Committee with the help of rewards specialists Cara Holmes, Meghan Bean and Julie Becker. They have successfully fundraised for, planned out, advertised and delivered an engaging activity each month in addition to opening a school store. These aren't just any monthly activities either, they are so extra that students are doing all they can to show off how they can be Respectful, Organized, A Problem Solver, Responsible and Safe so they can earn their ROARS bucks and Dojo Points to be able to participate. Pictured here is a human fooseball activity that students were able to play during a trip to Hellerick's Farm earlier this year. Other activities have included skating, bowling, Arnold's Fun Zone, Camden Aquarium, a dance, a movie and still to come is a trip to a Phillies game and the Philadelphia Zoo



OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SAFETY'S 2019 CLIMATE EXPO



May 23, 2019 at the Education Center's Atrium, 440 North Broad Street

The School District of Philadelphia Office of Climate and Safety's 2019 Climate Expo is an event that highlights and recognizes schools within the District who are utilizing innovative techniques and programs to improve their overall school climate. This Expo aims to bring together Principals, staff and administrators as selected participants to share their ideas on making our schools safer as research demonstrates that a positive school climate leads to greater academic performance.

Nominations:

School based and Central Office staff are invited to nominate School District of Philadelphia schools to participate in the 2019 Climate Expo using the following link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf98fRQ9sC_Ho0EBsbTKFBwJeca_hj1Lwd-ch30ZN8HZ7VRvQ/viewform

The deadline for nominations is April 12, 2019.