The Cat’s Eye View

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And the Teacher of the Year Award Goes to…

Congratulations to Becton's 2014 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Maucione. As a graduate from Becton Regional and Felician College, Mr. Maucione is one of a kind. His unique teaching style has enabled him to stand out among the crowd and receive the award. “I am honored to be picked from among such a great staff,” Mr. Maucione stated.

Mr. Maucione is a Special Education teacher assigned to the English Department, teaching English 9, 10, and 11, and he loves every moment of it. “I truly wanted to be in the profession where I can make a real difference in people's lives,” he mentioned. In addition, he is the director of Becton's very own yearbook, the Tea Leaf. As a leader of the club, he is in charge of collecting each moment in the lives of the graduating classes throughout their high school careers.

Mr. Maucione has been encouraging to students here at Becton. With every lesson, he shapes the future. Mr. Maucione expressed his teaching philosophy, “I believe that every student has the ability to be successful and it is up to me as the teacher to find a way to bring that greatness out of them.” He has been changing lives at Becton for five years now and we look forward to decades more.

By: Miranda Febus

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS!

The Images Art & Literary Magazine is holding their annual Cover Contest!

Your artwork must meet the following requirements: It must be on a 8.5 x 11 or 9 x 12 piece of white paper. Your artwork must be completed prior to submission (all shading done complete or in black ink.) The Design must be original (not copied from another source.) The design must have the title “Images” printed clearly.

Designs can be hand drawn or submission may include photography, Photoshop, etc. Any theme may be used, including something with meaning like current events, history, nature, dreams, fantasy, portraits, collage drawings/photos, etc.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FINAL TO MRS. SAVINCKI BY MARCH 30TH.

The First Place Winners will receive a gift card for a popular location. First, Second, and Third place will also receive recognition in the magazine.

Be Creative and Good Luck!
Mrs. Clarke Appointed as Becton’s Superintendent

Mr. Fred Meo, President of the Carlstadt – East Rutherford Regional High School Board of Education, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Louise Clarke as next superintendent of the high school.

Following a unanimous vote at the regularly scheduled meeting of February 12, Mr. Meo stated, “With her Becton experience and background as a teacher and supervisor, and now as the new Superintendent, we have great confidence that Louise will provide the leadership and direction that our high school requires.

The newly appointed Superintendent assumes her office on July 1, 2014. Until that time the current Interim Superintendent, Dr. Gary Bowen will close out his second year at Becton Regional High School.

According to Dr. Bowen, “Mrs. Clarke is a fine choice to advance the goals of the high school and the Board of Education. She knows everyone in the educational community and has distinguished herself over the course of her career. I look forward to working with her during our remaining four and a half months of transition.”

Mrs. Clarke received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish Education from Montclair State University in 1980. She completed her Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision at New Jersey City University.

As the first female superintendent for the Carlstadt-East Rutherford District, Mrs. Clarke states, “I am very excited to be appointed to the position of Superintendent for the Carlstadt-East Rutherford District. I have worked with the students, parents, faculty, and community members of Carlstadt and East Rutherford for many years and look forward to serving as their Superintendent.”

Mr. Meo added, “The appointment of Mrs. Clarke followed a lengthy search for the right fit and the Board of Education is confident in Mrs. Clarke to be successful as our school leader.”

Mrs. Clarke has been employed by the Carlstadt – East Rutherford Regional High School District since 1981 where she began as World Language teacher. Since, she has served as Department Chairperson, Lead Teacher, Team Leader, and Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Clarke received the “Teacher of the Year Award” in 1999.

Carlstadt—East Rutherford Regional Board of Education

Support the Becton Debate Team!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Located at APPLEBEE’S CLIFTON COMMONS on APRIL 12, 2014 from 8 AM TO 10 AM

See any debater for tickets or ask Mr. Carr in Rm. 230!
Apparently, There Was An Important Football Competition Held Locally

Here are some of the weekend’s highlights...

Maggie Falco (in the Cat Suit), chatting up WPIX personalities Linda Church and Mr. G. (above)

Aerial view (below) of Met Life Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey. I can see my house from here!

Anyone attend the Super Tailgate on Park Avenue? There were about 5,000 people who showed up for lots of food and loads of fun. (left)
The January Student of the Month is none other than Klaudia Jazwinska. With a GPA of 98, she is ranked fourth in her class. Here at Becton, Klaudia is a member of the concert band, marching band, the is the treasurer and recording secretary for the National Honor Society. She also participates in Drama Club, Key Club, Youth Alive, Environmental Club, and Images Club. Some of the advanced classes she is taking this year are Biology AP, English 12A, and AP Calculus. Currently, Klaudia got accepted to Fordham University, but is still waiting on news from Villanova and Lehigh University. She plans on majoring in journalism or international studies at whichever school she will attend. When not studying hard, she spends her time working at Biodynamic Technologies. Klaudia also enjoys reading, writing, music, and correcting people’s grammar.

Michael Wyka

Becton’s February Student of the Month is the one and only Michael Wyka. Mike is currently taking classes such as AP Biology, English 12A, AP Calculus, AP Government and Politics, and Italian 3. With all these advanced classes he has in his schedule, it is no surprise that he is ranked sixth in his class with a GPA of 97. At Becton, Michael is a part of the Varsity Debate Team, Math League, and the National and Italian Honors Societies, as well as a stage manager in the Drama Club. Outside of school, Michael enjoys swimming, bowling in the summer, and volunteering at the KIP Center in Rutherford. Seton Hall, Scranton, and Rutgers New Brunswick have all accepted Michael and now he has to make the decision on where he yearns to study physical therapy.
Heads Up for Safety

Rebecca Sass

On January 27, 2014, to coincide with Super Bowl XLVIII, United States Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and United States Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) announced the NFL’s endorsement of the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools (ConTACT) Act from the library of Becton Regional High School.

Student athletes Roy Forys, Nick Barbo, Jake Gramlich, Karriem Royster, and Isaiah Stratton attended the press conference and provided their input on the bill in front of cameras and reporters.

The ConTACT Act’s primary goal is to increase the safety of youth sports. The act authorizes a five-year grant program, which allocates $5 million for the first year. Grants will be awarded to states that provide professional development for athletic trainers and coaches that also ensure the safety of young athletes.

Senator Mendenez stated, “The NFL deserves credit for efforts to improve player safety in its game and beyond, but there is still much that needs to be done for our younger athletes. That is why I have pushed for national safety standards in youth sports, as well as federal funding to ensure that every child who takes the field is properly protected and that their parents have peace of mind.”

Rebecca Sass and Renee Kochinski were given the opportunity to discuss the ConTACT Act with Congressman Bill Pascrell. Referring to the act’s goals, Representative Pascrell stated that this bill is “very critical for saving lives.” If passed, it will increase awareness as well as the safety of student athletes that participate in both organized and unorganized sports.

Thank you for your support!

Becton’s 2014 Talent Show proved to be a great success. Thank you to all who supported our talented performers!

WINNERS!

First: Kevin Giraldo
Second: Jamie Scangarella
Third: Stephanie Giraldo
Happy New Year! Well, 2014 is here to stay . . . for a little while longer, anyway. With every New Year, people want to make a change in themselves for their best interest. Sometimes they do not adhere to their plans and then their goals have deferred, leaving them discouraged and want to start up again the following year. The start of a New Year is an excellent way for people make changes for the greater good and start themselves up fresh again. At Becton, some of the students have resolutions such as to be more optimistic, making healthier alternatives, and doing better in school. Young teenagers are driven to achieve their goals and take the start of a new year as a great opportunity to seize their chances. Whatever the resolution is, it can be achieved with adherence and following through with the plan.

Motivation and persistence are crucial elements in maintain success. Even though there are some days where people want to give up, pushing through the pain will let them prevail. There are going to be times when one will want to give up and just forget about making a difference in himself or herself or society. Regardless of whom it is for or why it is being done, it is crucial to remember that struggles are only temporary, but success lasts forever. In the end, focusing on achieving a resolution will satisfy people and boost their confidence and their ability to strive for greatness.

While the New Year is an excellent place to start, people also need to remember that they should not have to wait for the start of a new year to set goals for themselves. Every day is new chance to strive for goals and achieve greatness. Do not prolong the yearning for a goal. If one wants to make a change, then they should start at that moment right then and there because the longer they push away from it, the harder it will be to take action. Those who want to make changes should muster up some gumption to make the change the following day instead of waiting for a new year to become better. Each day provides a colossal amount of opportunities to make a difference. Resolutions give people a chance to really think about their life and how they can improve it. There will be moments of wanting to throw the towel in, but perpetual persistence can help one maintain direness to keep going so they can successfully achieve their goals. Each day is a great day to start fresh and acquire greatness. So what are you waiting for? Go follow in Gandhi’s advice and “be the change you want to see in the world!”
Wrestling

Over the years, Becton has developed an extremely successful wrestling program. The coaches, Coach Settembrino and Coach G, deserve recognition for the time and effort they put into their team. They help transform Becton students into successful athletes by teaching them how to be ‘tough’ and how to wrestle ‘tough.’ This year, the coaches still managed to create a solid varsity line-up, even though their team was made up of several new wrestlers with experience ranging between 1-2 years.

The ability to change a discouraged student’s mind-set is not possessed by all coaches across Bergen County, which makes Becton’s coaches stand out. Coach Settembrino and Coach G teach students to never give up and to put in 110% of their effort. Being tough is not just about having a tough attitude. Being ‘tough’ is being able to wrestle a match against anybody: bigger, better, stronger, and have the toughness to not get pinned or give up. The athletes that have this mind-set lead the Becton Wrestling program and win the titles. Coach Sett states, “It’s guys like Michael Cabrera, a sophomore who has only been wrestling since freshmen year, who just have that tough attitude to never give up and always wrestle at 110%.”

Phil Ruiz, a freshman varsity starter, also has the never-give-up attitude. Roy Forys, Nathan Bueno, Tyler Loughlin, and John Arendes, along with the rest of the varsity line-up, also wrestle at 110% and never back down. The student athletes know that being tough isn’t about how hard you can hit, it’s about how hard you can get hit and keeping moving forward. That’s what the Becton Wrestling program is all about.

Basketball

As the halfway point of the 2013-2014 basketball season approaches, the Becton Girls’ basketball team turned their season around. The return of Coach Mike Ryan gave the team a positive outlook on their season. The team got off to a slow start and ended their first few games with an unfortunate record of 0-4. Although it looked like it was going to be one of those seasons with minimal wins, the girls’ basketball team corrected their game with a six-game winning streak.

The team was able to grab a spot in the county tournament, a goal set at the beginning of the season. Senior Captain Meagan Majowicz leads the team with an average of 12 points a game. In addition, senior Kristen Reichert, junior Danyelle Balaskovits, junior Tania Castro, and sophomore Samantha Frola start along with Meagan. When asked about his team’s play, Coach Ryan stated that he was impressed by the improvements. As the season progressed the team became more comfortable with the new plays and defenses.

“At the beginning of the season the shots did not fall and we were tight,” explained Coach Ryan. “We have been scoring more and the defense has been much better,” said Ryan. “They have become more comfortable in their roles.”

The girls and Coach Ryan are now looking forward to the state tournament and striving to win the rest of their games. The girls’ team has become extremely strong and motivated. Despite some of the close games and losses, the girls keep their heads up and fight even harder the next game. The team’s current record is 12-8.
The 2013-2014 boys’ basketball team for Becton Regional High School has been working hard so far this season. Regarding the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity teams, trying to get the beloved W (win) has been a mission. The varsity team has managed to entertain Becton’s jungle with quick jump shots, skillful lay-ups, and breathtaking crossovers. Our varsity starting five includes point guard Jordan Elcock (senior), shooting guard Juwan Elcock (junior), shooting guard Isaiah Boone (senior), small forward John Pra (senior), and power forward Jake Gramlich (senior).

With a record as of February 10 of seven wins and eight losses, the boys always leave blood, sweat, and tears on the court after each game. Regardless of the final score, our varsity team always keeps the stands loaded with enthusiastic fans. The players’ hearts and determination shine throughout every step, dribble, and shot. With more games to go, the varsity team will be setting their sights on states in hopes of bringing home the gold.

LET’S GO BECTON!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The science wing is coming along swimmingly! Here are some photos of what’s going on behind the wall...
How Cold is TOO COLD?

As the year progresses and winter continues, the frigid weather takes its toll on whiny people. Instead of taking the proper precautions necessary in order to stay warm, people are choosing to complain about how darn cold it is… in the middle of winter. Despite the sub-zero weather everyone is complaining about, there are still teenagers and young adults not dressing the part. Nowadays, people are more concerned about fashion as opposed to their bodies’ health and wellbeing.

As predicted by the "reliable" groundhog, we are certainly having six more weeks of winter. The groundhog and weather forecasters alike proved themselves correct when the polar vortex hit North America. As defined by NASA, a polar vortex is a large-scale region of air that is contained by a strong west-to-east jet stream that circles the polar region. The jet stream is usually referred to as the polar night jet. The polar vortex extends from the tropopause through the stratosphere and into the mesosphere. Low values of ozone and cold temperatures are associated with the air inside the vortex. According to NBC News, this winter has been the worst ever experienced by North America. Many northern states are prepared and used to the bitter cold and frost which comes along with winter, however, this year many southern states such as Georgia, the Carolinas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama were experiencing a new winter. While many of us are outside shoveling and complaining about how there's snow taller than some people, some southern states saw snow for the first time and entered a state of panic.

In addition to teenagers and adults alike complaining about how cold it is, people are now complaining about how all this snow and strange weather patterns are affecting their plans for spring break. Becton has been strongly affected by snow. As everyone knows, Becton lost two weeks of school at the beginning of the school year due to construction. Now, a buzz regarding whether or not Spring Break will be cut short can be heard throughout the school’s halls. As children, we would pray for snow days, some still do, even in high school. Now all this snow is causing a major issue to those who had plans for spring break. Whether those plans were to go south or to sleep in, many of the Becton students are concerned as to whether or not we will still receive the days off. The cherry on top: if we lose any more school days due to snow or construction we will have to figure out when we will be making those days up.

This year's winter has proven to be the worst many Americans have experienced in the past century. The bone rattling cold is either loved or hated by people with no in between. Children have been taking advantage of the cold while their parents have been complaining due to the dangers of snow and black ice. Teenagers, especially Becton students, are beginning to hate this weather. When winter began and the first snow flake fell, many were joyous and excited. The opinions of many have now been changed after seeing the surplus of snow that will take ages to melt and after realizing the weather is altering many future plans. Many people are becoming peeved with these intense weather conditions and simply wish to feel the sun radiating on their faces. At this stage of winter, some argue that “the cold never bothered them anyway,” while most are complaining that it’s far too chilly. Soon enough, Spring and Summer will roll around and we will be able to shed our heavy winter wear; however, by that time we would have already started complaining about how it is too hot.

Cold enough for you?

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