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HOOT HERALD

October 2020 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Thank you to our students, parents and staff for a relatively smooth transition back to virtual school last month. In these unprecedented times we are grateful for our community's love and support and the dedication of our teachers. We are also grateful to be able to welcome back some of our scholars in person and we hope we will continue to be able to do so throughout the year. Our leadership team worked tirelessly to ready our facility for our students' return while at the same time our IT team continues to innovate our virtual learning platforms, and our transportation team continues to deliver meals to our families and transport students here.

To our families new to BelovED, each month we distribute our school newsletter with information about upcoming events, news, community announcements, scholar recognition and the like. If you have something newsworthy to contribute, please email lschundler@belovedccs.org by the end of each month.

Applications for School Year 2021-22

Registration for School Year 2021-22 will open on October 15, 2020 and run through January 15, 2021. This is for new students ONLY. If your child is a BelovED student you do NOT need to re-apply. If your BelovED scholar has a younger sibling who will be entering kindergarten next September, 2021, you DO need to apply. That sibling will be admitted under our sibling preference policy, but an application is required. The best way to apply is on our website at www.belovedccs.org. If you have friends looking for schools, please let them know about our enrollment dates. We will also add another grade to our High School—11th grade. If you have friends enrolled in another K-8 school, please let them know about our High School.

Hispanic Heritage Month

BelovED celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month virtually by celebrating all of the Hispanic countries with social media posts about each one. The posts included some fun facts about the countries, as well as some famous people and delicious dishes.



Dates to Remember

Oct 5 K-2 in-school learning begins
Oct 13 3-5 in-school learning begins
Oct 13 Food Drive begins
Oct 15 registration for SY21-22 opens
Oct 19 6-10 in-school learning begins
Oct 22-23 1/2 day School conferences

Food Drive

BelovED's annual Food Drive will be October 13 through November 13, 2020.

We are looking for food donations of canned and dried goods—no glass jars, please. We are also accepting money donations in the form of cash or checks made out to the Community Food Bank of NJ. Donations can be delivered during school hours each weekday. Competitions will be held by grade levels with a prize for the winning grade of each building awarded.



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STAR information for parents

Parents Guide to STAR

All students in grades K-10 will be taking a STAR assessment during this school year. This guide will explain what a STAR assessment is. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the STAR website at www.renaissance.com/Products/Star-Assessments.

What are STAR assessments?

Star assessments help teachers better understand what students know and can do in the areas of early literacy, reading, or math. As a student takes the test, the software selects items based on the student's responses. If the student answers correctly, the next item will be more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the next item will be less difficult. By adjusting the difficulty of the items to what students show they can or cannot do, the assessment is an accurate way to help teachers identify what skills students are ready to learn. Teachers use this information to guide their instruction.

- Star Early Literacy tests are used for students in grades pre-K through 3 (beginning readers who do not yet read independently or need early literacy skills assessed). There are 27 items and it generally takes fewer than 15 minutes for the student to complete the test.

- Star Reading tests are used for students in grades K—12. Star reading has 34 items and it generally takes fewer than 20 minutes for the student to complete the test. STAR Reading tracks development in five domains:

- Word Knowledge and Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Analyzing Literary Text
- Understanding Author's Craft
- Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text

Star Math tests are used for students in grades 1—12. Star Math has 34 items and generally takes fewer than 25 minutes for the student to complete the test. STAR Math tracks development in four domains:

- Numbers and Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

How does my child take the test if we are remote/virtual?

Your child will need access to a computer or tablet (7 inches or larger) to take the assessment. Students who are taking Star Early Literacy or are using the audio feature for Star Math will need headphones or speakers.

Before testing, be sure you have the following information from your school:

- Renaissance link
- Student BelovedED email username and password
- Monitor password (if needed)
- Name of test(s) your student should take

What kind of score does my child get?

For every STAR assessment, your child receives a **scaled score (SS)**, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers.

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STAR information, cont.

What are STAR assessments used for?

Teachers analyze the data they get from Star Assessments to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help.

In addition, STAR can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn. By pinpointing exactly what your child knows, teachers can personalize your child's practice to keep them growing.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Please ask your child's teacher (s) for the results from any of the STAR assessments. Teachers will also share this information during parent/teacher conferences.

BelovED Artists

Congratulations to Rafael in 4C, Kaivalya in 4D and Hanshit in KD! These scholars were selected as youth artists and were featured in the Walk-Bye outdoor exhibit, a part of the 30th anniversary Jersey City Art & Studio Tour (JCAST). The Walk-Bye call for art asked Jersey City youth, "What do you like best about your park?/What do you like to do in your park?" Their artwork was posted in parks throughout the city including: Pershing Field, Oak Street Park and Riverview-Fisk Park.



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Angela Care

Assemblywoman Angela McKnight, of Angela Cares , delivered donations of 40 backpacks filled with school supplies for scholars in our community! THANK YOU MRS. MCKNIGHT AND Angela Cares! We are so grateful for this generous donation and are lucky to have such a charitable assemblywoman in our community!



The Willie and Elizabeth Gordon Family Foundation

BelovED received brand new school supply donations from The Willie and Elizabeth Gordon Family Foundation for this school year! We are ecstatic and grateful for being chosen as a recipient of these donations and look forward to developing a partnership with the foundation for future events and programs in our community.



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BelovED Athletics News

BelovED Athletics is happening! Our fall sports are all practicing after school and getting ready for games and competitions. The high school girls volleyball has started practicing outdoors 2 days a week for their season that will now start in February. The middle school, cross country, flag football and cheerleading teams are all working hard to prepare for their season.

The high school cross country team has been training since August and competed in their first meet on Friday 10/2. The ST. Dominic's Invitational was held at Lincoln Park and our team did amazing showing great effort and lots of owl pride. Four of our boy runners, Kenny Varges, Ramoncito Cayetano, Isaias Espitia, and Thomas Demeritt medaled in their races.

Please keep an eye out for winter sports registration that will be sent out very soon.

High School Winter Sports

Basketball
Cheerleading
Winter Track
Bowling

Middle School Winter Sports

Basketball
Cheerleading

Any questions about Athletics please contact our Athletic Director Mr. Waldron jwaldron@belovedccs.org



High School Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following scholars of the month

9th Grade - Sylvia Aguayo-Olivares (Nominated by Mr. Dan Urbankowski): "Sylvia has not only been a model scholar in terms of her own learning and professionalism (she's currently the only student in the 9th grade who still has a 100 average), but she has also advocated on behalf of her peers, communicating with me on their behalf to ensure their success as well in troubleshooting any possible issues that may be occurring with technology, etc."

10th Grade - Ciara Salcedo (Nominated by Ms. Michelle Herrera): "I have seen Ciara make great progression from last year. She is participating more often and helping peers. Very kind hearted and quick to lend a helping hand."

Congratulations!

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Scholars of the Month Elementary School

KA George Kulta
KB Sylvia Bhattacharya
KC Naveena Ramkumar
KD Darsh Argawal
KE Emilia Valerius

3A Rennita Arun
3B Declan Molloy
3C Sarah Noronha
3D Miles Valerius
3E Basma Ellahya

1A Tanuj Vjayasekar
1B Austin Bernard
1C Tanvi Kolli
1D Karas Abdelmesih
1E Natalia Estipona

4A Tristan Leonard-Wells
4B Joelle Garibaldi
4C Maritza Williams
4D Rohaan Shaikh

2A Ashley Jade Pintor
2B Jeremy Morrieson
2C Selena Romero
2D Jaxson Haley
2E Takoua Fekroune

5A Zoie Lin
5B Holy Abdelmesih
5C Leila Taveras
5D Makho Sy Savane

Middle School

6A Kai Martin
6B Vance Douglas
6C Janiya Roman
6D Caitlin Rae Bobiles
6E Kylie Smalls-Bey

7A Emmanuel Jorozh
7B Anuj Bhetwal and Erick Owusu
7C Jayvan Avila and Heba El Sayed
7D Jenna Roberson and D'Wayne Maxan
7E Amairani Ramirez

8A Davis Zhu
8B Shaila Duarte-Moran
8C Shazeen Bashir, Adam Elshenawy and Fatimah Sylla
8D Pishov Iskander
8E Korrine Wilson

Every month a scholar from each homeroom in grades K-8 is recognized for his or her contribution to the classroom. It is an honor we announce each month in the newsletter- Congratulations to September's Scholars of the Month (SOTM)!!!



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BelovED Reads Lit

This month, we launched a new literacy initiative- BelovED Reads Lit!

Goal: To bring our BelovED family together each month to build community, spark conversations, and inspire action, as well as instill a love of literacy in our scholars.

How will it work? We will select **one Project LIT book each month to read, discuss, and celebrate as a community.** Of course, participation is optional. However, we wanted to create opportunities for all of us to connect and collaborate in meaningful ways.

Who is invited? ALL BelovED Community members are welcome!

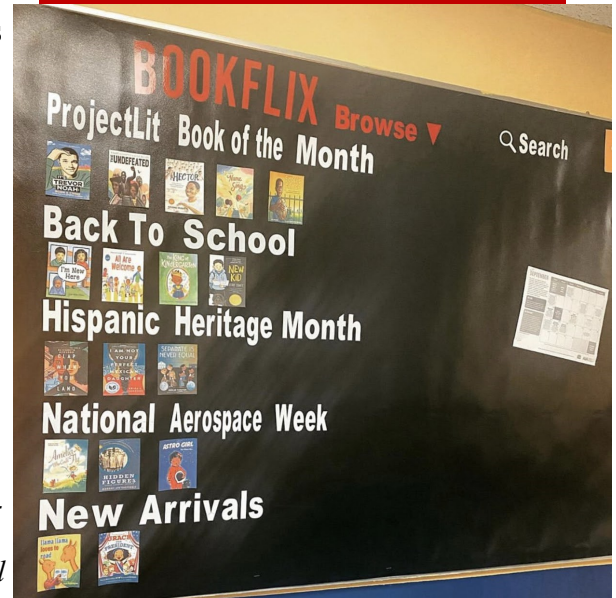
What are we reading?! October's selection is....***Born A Crime*** by Trevor Noah! Please note that there are two versions, including a Young Reader's Edition, which makes it a great pick for middle and high school students, but can be read with and to younger students as well! ***We will also be reading some great picture books, so that even our youngest scholars can participate!***

What should we expect each month? Great question! Here is the monthly game plan.

October Picks



- **Celebrate** the book by participating in our weekly prompts and challenges (six-word summaries, poetry, letters, artwork, videos, etc.)
- **Live** book talks and read alouds to share our thoughts on the books and ways we can use what we learn to spark social change!
- **Activities** for all and opportunities to engage with our BelovED community!
- **Resources** to help your child become a better reader and in turn a better learner
- **Competitions & Awards**



How do I get the books?!

Family members are encouraged to purchase a copy of the book to read along with us! We have created a partnership with The Little Boho Bookshop located in Bayonne, NJ where you can purchase your books!

The Little BOHO Bookshop

164a Broadway
Bayonne NJ 07002
Phone: 201.258.4499
Thelittlebohobookshop.com

You can also check out the books from your Local Jersey City Free Public Library!

Where do I sign up? We are excited that you will be joining us! Click on this [link](#) to fill out the interest survey. You will get more instructions on how to participate soon!