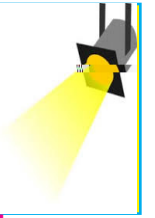


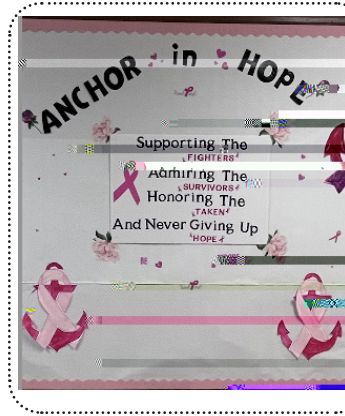
Throughout the month of January the main bulletin board outside of the main office and Principal's Conference Room will display a KINDness theme developed by seventh and eighth grade Student Council. - "Keep the I in KIND." Photos of students and staff will also be included.

Middle school students participated in signing a KINDNESS contract that was recreated into a KINDNESS Chain also on display. During the week of 1/8 - 1/12, BE KIND bracelets will be distributed in honor of Brianna Fuentes. Brianna was elected Vice-President of seventh grade Student Council earlier in the school year.

Spotlight on BSMS



Contributed by Kimberly Coello Claros



When Life Gets Rough, You Get Tougher

Contributed by Faith Smith

"I love when people fundraise for breast cancer, especially when the money stays local and assists people who are going through their cancer journey." - Mrs. Dobbs (BSMS' Physical Education teacher)

Bay Shore Middle School had a movie night fundraiser sponsored by National Junior Honor Society to support Breast Cancer Awareness

Month. Throughout the month of October, Mrs. Dobbs was honored as an eight-year breast cancer survivor who fundraises for the Hauppauge Girls Varsity Soccer program "Kicks For Cancer" every year as it gets larger and larger. She has met many others around the country who are battling cancer as well and she advised them to lean on their support system throughout their journey to help them stay positive and to keep fighting despite the many hardships that might come their way. During Mrs. Dobbs' journey battling breast cancer she was lucky enough to have an amazing support system of family and friends who kept her motivated to continue to fight and not give up on herself or her body.

With that being said, it is extremely important for women to get mammograms at least once a year to stay safe. A mammogram is a type of professional body scan performed by doctors to check for any dangerous signs of disease or cancer in the body. Mrs. Dobbs is a big advocate for checking up on your body after having discovered her cancer when she found a lump on her breast and admittedly informed her doctor.

Despite all the hardships she has overcome as a breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Dobbs still gets up every day and comes to school with a positive attitude.

is can show anyone that is battling any type of cancer that there is light at the end of the tunnel. You might not notice it, but when you decide to get up every day and fight against such a sick, malicious illness, you are proving to yourself and others that you can overcome anything you want to. Just don't give up on yourself when things get tough.

Editorials

Bag Ban

For the Better or Worse?

Contributed by Samia Ahmed
and Layla Guediri



Upon starting a new school year in middle school, students are faced with a new rule to break: no backpacks or bags allowed during the school day. All large bags must be stored away in lockers, and can only be retrieved at the end of the day. Students are allowed to visit their locker for a supply swap during, before, or after their lunch period. This rule was invoked for two reasons. First of all, to maintain order and organization. When students bring their backpacks to class, the classroom may become cluttered which can make it difficult to move around. Secondly, safety. Clutter becomes a tripping hazard. Besides, who knows what kind of weapons or harmful things could be concealed inside a bag? For some students and teachers, the rule is helpful and easy to follow. But for others, the rule has made school life a lot more difficult.

When asked how she felt about students not being able to carry bags anymore, eighth grader Ava Grello replied, "I feel a little irritated... nothing crazy since I can manage fairly well, but my binder strap always breaks so that's frustrating. I also don't like having to carry so much stuff... very irritating." Meanwhile, seventh grader Ford Duchatelier Beaubrun responded, "I kind of have mixed feelings about it. On one hand, there are some kids who don't know how to open their locker or have difficulty with them; meanwhile there are seventh and eighth graders who are used to carrying their bags and it's a jarring transition. However, I do feel like it makes the halls neater and more organized. It reduces the amount of density in the hallways."

Upon being asked how this system was working out in contrast to last year's rules, sixth grade ELA teacher Mrs. Curtis answered, "I think it's working better than last year because students are able to open their lockers, so their backpack and other items are not an inconvenience. Last year, I tripped over a lot of backpacks to be honest." In contrast, seventh grade math teacher Mrs. Pollock said that "It was worse, because students are constantly forgetting books, homework, and things to write with in lockers. Then as the bell rings, they ask to go to their locker, which takes away from learning time. Sometimes students also ask to leave early to stop at their locker because they forgot something they need later on in the day." In addition, a handful of students interviewed mentioned that they were stressed, arriving to classes later, as well as experiencing shoulder and joint pains from the burden of their binders/supplies. Those who play string instruments added that they were having trouble maintaining their playing posture in contrast to last year. From the above responses, it's clear that everyone has mixed feelings about the new regulations. A lot of it is based on the kids' schedules.

So, how can the school find a point of equilibrium between the two conflicts? How can they maintain a safe, bag-free environment that still allows students to move steadily with free, unaching limbs and unbruised joints? Many students and teachers have proposed the idea of making more locker-stop periods for those who have later lunch periods. Apart from the usual advisory, lunch, and dismissal system, students could have an additional five minutes between third and fourth period to stop at their lockers. However, even this plan has its downsides. Another locker-stop period could lead to more socializing and traffic in the halls, which is already seen enough during advisory.

The plan isn't underway just yet, but many have suggested a poll with the student council or school board to determine how we can deal with the bag problem. We hope that the issue can be solved as soon as possible to ensure a better rest-of-the-school-year experience for BSMS students.

Contributed by Faith Smith

"The boys treat me like one of the guys because why would they not," stated confidently by eighth grader Kimora Pearson. This year, Kimora was the one and only female football player on the middle school's roster. Kimora is a beast on the football field and basketball court.

Features

Contributing Writers:

Kimberly Coello Claros
Faith Smith
Samia Ahmed
Layla Guediri
Noora Ahmed
Stephen Lumer

Advisors:

Madame Greer
Mrs. Yarborough



Based on ticket sales

Barbie

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