



# PHOENIX NEWS

Soaring to New Heights

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## Happy Holidays

The Phoenix News Crew wants to wish all students, teachers, faculty, staff, and parents/guardians a happy holidays over the winter break! We're all excited to soar into 2020!



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/16 8 PERIOD DAY
- 12/17 EXAMS BEGIN DISMISSAL @ 1 PM
- 12/17 EXAM BLOCKS 1 AND 2
- 12/18 EXAM BLOCKS 3 AND 4  
BOARD MEETING
- 12/19 EXAM BLOCKS 5 AND 6
- 12/20 EXAM BLOCKS 7 AND 8
- 12/20 END OF QUARTER 2 AND SEMESTER 1
- 12/23 WINTER BREAK BEGINS
- 1/6 NON STUDENT DAY
- 1/7 STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

## Principal's Corner



'Tis the season to recognize the joys of the holiday season. I find joy in the wonderful students, families, staff, and community members at BDCHS. When I share what makes Brooks DeBartolo so special, I talk about the amazing teachers and staff who care for our students and educate them. I talk about the people who are dedicated to fulfilling our mission statement. I talk about our safe learning environment, high expectations, and excellent results. I talk about our great students who are unique and dynamic. I hope that you find much joy, and I wish you all a safe, happy holiday and a prosperous new year!

Kristine Bennett, Ed.S.

## Canned Food Drive By Ashton Alaras and Michelle Debbaudt

The Phoenix family did an astonishing job in gathering non-perishable items for the canned food drive hosted at the school in partnership with the Eva Claire Corporation. The drive lasted only one week, and the school was able to collect approximately 2,371 nonperishable items!! This is an amazing accomplishment on the behalf of BDCHS and we thank the families, students, and staff that participated in this heart-warming achievement.



On Friday, November 19, each homeroom gathered the cans they collected over the week and, in a 40 minute build competition, attempted to construct a structure of their choice. At the end of the competition, judges walked around and selected the best designs based on creativity, size, and structure. One homeroom decided to honor Derrick Brooks by displaying the number 55, his Buc's jersey number. The winning design was by Coach Burdick's and Wilbur's homerooms, who built an epic castle simply out of cans and cereal boxes.

## Feeding Tampa Bay Written by Daisia Jackson

This past Saturday, SOCA (Students of Color Association) contributed in feeding the homeless. Students arrived at 8:00 AM to help feed our Tampa community. Their mission? To make their Thanksgiving memorable and make sure that no one left hungry. We are proud of our Phoenix family for serving our community and happy that we were able to assist those in need; a special thank you to Mrs. Mitchell for getting students involved in making Tampa a more compassionate, healthier environment.



## Congrats on our Quarter 1 Student Achievements

by Ashton Alaras

The BDCHS community wants to further congratulate the amazing students that reached academic goals last quarter. We are proud of all the students who achieved either honor roll, high honor roll, principal's honor roll, perfect attendance or any student that tried their absolute best in class in pursuit of these honors. For students to achieve honor roll, they had to obtain certain grades in all of their rigorous courses. Principal's Honor Roll upholds a higher standard of achieving all A's on the report card, but a lot of wonderful students still earned that title. Perfect Attendance is very hard to secure because students couldn't miss a single day of school or have any tardies, or early sign-outs. We are very proud of the students at BDCHS in the regards to academic excellence!

## The Great American Teach-In by Michelle Debbaudt



The Great American Teach-In, on Friday, November 22, provided an insightful opportunity for students to learn about the careers of adults in the Tampa Bay Area. The volunteers at this event ranged from Public Health Experts to members of the S.W.A.T. team. Students engaged in learning during the day by asking questions about different professions and learning the most about each career.

Derrick Brooks started the day by discussing his career as a linebacker for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the importance of family and education. Mayor Jane Castor joined the Phoenix Family at the end of the day to discuss her past as the Chief of Police, her new role as Mayor, and her future as a politician.

## Semester Exam Schedule by Michelle Debbaudt

Semester one exams are coming up next week. Listed below is the exam schedule during the week of December 16:

Monday 12/16- 8 block day

Tuesday 12/17- Exams for blocks 1 and 2

Wednesday 12/18- Exams for blocks 3 and 4

Thursday 12/19- Exams for blocks 5 and 6

Friday 12/20- Exams for blocks 7 and 8

Monday will be regular dismissal at 3:10 pm. Tuesday through Friday will be early dismissal at 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm if staying for lunch

## Fall Athletic Banquet by Providence Matrisciano

On Wednesday, December 4th, we held our annual Fall Athletic Banquet. We celebrated the achievements of our students in bowling, boys and girls cross country, and girls JV/Varsity volleyball. We also would like to thank all the parents and staff that participated in coaching our BDCHS teams as well as volunteering during any of our sporting events, including car rides and dinners! We welcomed our freshmen athletes and said goodbye to our seniors. Coaches were encouraged to share fun memories from their seasons and praise student athletes on their accomplishments. We are so grateful to have such a talented and determined group of individuals as a part of our fall sports athletic community here at Brooks DeBartolo!



# A Note from the Board of Directors



## A Note from the Directors

This month's Note from the Directors comes from your Development Committee Co-Chairs and your Board Chair:

### Holiday Message

As everyone prepares for Semester 1 exams, I would like to congratulate all of our faculty and staff, students, and families on an amazing first half of the year.

From our students' incredible athletic achievements, award-winning art pieces, concordant benchmark and graduation requirement scores, incredible STEM achievements, qualification of BDCHS's second National Merit Scholar Semifinalist, to our faculty and staff obtaining graduate degrees and certifications, expanding their families, and helping our students grow beyond measure I am constantly in awe of what the BDCHS community is capable of achieving. I hope the Winter Break serves as a great opportunity for everyone at BDCHS to spend time recharging with family and friends and I look forward to what we can achieve together in the new year.

Cynthia R. Vasquez  
BDCHS Board Chair

### PDQ!

Thank you to everyone who helped support BDCHS athletics, clubs, and student organizations. As a reminder: Cards will be ready for pick up before Winter Break and the dates/times for pickup will be announced shortly. Thank you for your ongoing support!

-The Development Committee Co-Chairs



*Board Members sporting PDQ swag*

# Handling Stress by Samuel Glow

## A NOTE FROM YOUR

SCHOOL  
NURSE



Mrs. Klakring, RN, BSN

### Simple Stress Relievers

- Slow down
- Exercise
- Deep breathe
- Make a plan
- Get adequate sleep
- Talk to someone
- Eat healthy food
- Take a break

## Handle Stress in a Healthy Way

This time of year, it's easy to get overwhelmed. Between juggling school and other commitments, you can quickly become stressed out. It is important to intentionally set time aside daily to unwind, or your mental and physical health can suffer. With a little practice, you can learn to manage your stress in a healthy way. Incorporating just a few of the simple stress relievers on the left will make a notable difference in how you feel and how you function.

Most importantly, if your stress becomes too overwhelming to manage on your own, reach out to someone you trust.

### Remember:

Unmanaged stress can lead to physical symptoms including elevated blood pressure, headaches, stomach aches and difficulty sleeping.

"In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers."

-Fred Rogers-

## PAC— Appreciation for our Volunteers

**THANK YOU**  
**Volunteers!**  
**We couldn't do it without you**

Phoenix Families –

On behalf of PAC, I want to thank you all for your commitment to our school. We are almost at the halfway point of our school year, and I want to thank you all for your contributions thus far. Your time and donations are appreciated.

Upcoming events that will require donation of your time and contributions include:

- Student/Staff Recognitions
  - ✓ Staff Holiday Luncheon
  - ✓ Honor Roll Celebrations
  - ✓ Teacher Appreciation Week
  - ✓ Are You Collegiate (AYC)
- 2020 Spring Event

If you haven't met your 20 hour family commitment, don't worry. There are many opportunities available now and there will be many more available before the end of the school year. Our PAC is always looking for help. Please refer to emails received from [proudphoenixparent@gmail.com](mailto:proudphoenixparent@gmail.com) for volunteer opportunities.

Please email any questions or concerns you have regarding PAC to [pac.bdchs@gmail.com](mailto:pac.bdchs@gmail.com).

PAC Committee Coordinator  
Retina Johnson