

NBPS Newsflash January 2024

Greetings New Bedford Public Schools Community,

A Happy New Year to you all! I am very excited for the year ahead, and look forward to the coming weeks and months of teamwork and partnership in service of our students and families.

This month we take time to honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As educators in a city with its own legacy, spanning the Abolitionist Era and the first and second civil rights movements, it is a significant time of the year for us.

As a child in Ireland, I recall checking out library biographies of Martin Luther King, Jr. Like Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and Oscar Romero, Dr. King was, for us, one of the great inspiring figures of the 20th century. His courage, grace, determination and moral clarity were held up to us as an exemplar.

As I visit our schools, I see representations of Dr. King throughout. Posters and biographies are present in our elementary schools. I saw how our middle school ELA classes this fall annotated, analyzed and reflected on his "I have a Dream" speech during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Our high school ELA, social studies, and Advanced Placement classes dive even deeper, reading Dr. King's modern epistle, the Letter from Birmingham Jail, and placing the civil rights movement in historical and global context.

I cannot wait to see our students and their writing recognized in this weekend's city and community Martin Luther King remembrances. I hope you can attend some of these important commemorations.

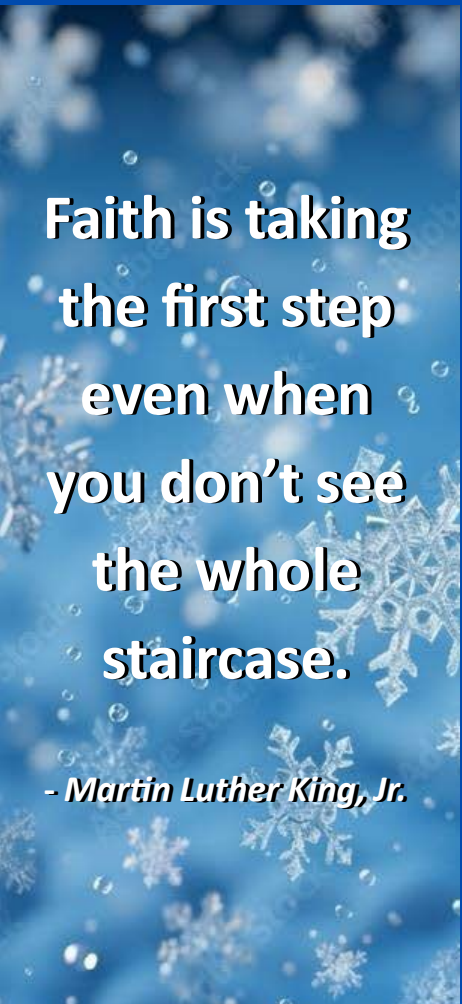
The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King holds an unparalleled status in the history of our country. However, we must see his lessons as grounded and ever-relevant. As we seek to create caring, compassionate and challenging educational environments for our young people, we can learn from his challenges as much as his successes. Dr. King and the many thousands who led the Civil Rights Movement faced a long, arduous road and we know that in many respects the better nation and justice they sought has not yet come to pass. As educators, in our own way in our own place, we can commit to continuing the journey to justice and equity, daily, in ways small and large.

Thank you for your continued work in service of our students and families.

Sincerely,



Andrew O'Leary
Superintendent



Faith is taking
the first step
even when
you don't see
the whole
staircase.

- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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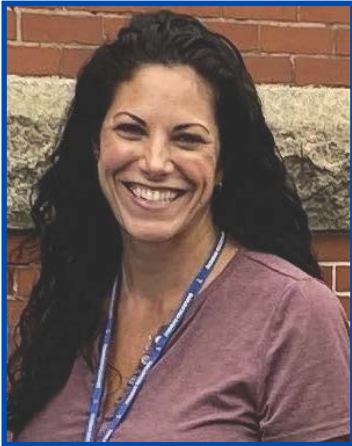
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Employee Spotlight



Dakota Deforge

Kindergarten Teacher
Thomas R. Rodman Elementary School



“Ms. Deforge is a skilled, yet humble Kindergarten educator at Rodman. She is a kind and compassionate individual, who has built positive relationships with students, staff, and families. Through setting high academic and behavioral expectations for students, she encourages every student to reach their fullest potential. On even the most difficult days, Ms. Deforge always carries a positive attitude and a smile. She is also always willing to help and is calm and effective with de-escalation strategies. This school year, Dakota has stepped up to lead the Sunshine Committee, and is an active contributor in the SEL/Safety Committee. Her amazing school spirit and enthusiasm adds to a positive school culture and environment as a whole. She hyped the Wellness Fair to Rodman staff. As a result, Rodman had the highest percent attendance earning Rodman staff 12 hours of chair massages! Dakota Deforge is truly a Rodman Rockstar and a strong asset to New Bedford Public Schools.”

Amy Huston, Principal, Thomas R. Rodman Elementary School



Donald Jernigan

Senior Custodian
PRAB



“We are immensely grateful for the exceptional contributions of Donald Jernigan to our team. As the driving force behind efficient operations of our warehouse, Donald has demonstrated unparalleled dedication and leadership. His role as the Senior Floater is a testament to his versatility, always ready to step in and ensure smooth workflow. Beyond his operational prowess, Donald has proven to be an outstanding teacher and mentor, willingly sharing knowledge and expertise with colleagues. His ability to take new team members under his wing speaks volumes about his commitment to fostering a positive and collaborative work environment. Moreover, Donald has consistently upheld the highest standards of cleanliness, earning the title of our best cleaner. Donald is the unsung hero, weaving dedication, meticulousness, and consideration into every task he undertakes. He transforms spaces with a touch of care that speaks volumes. His work is a testament to the power of the quiet, yet profound, contributions to a healthy and harmonious workspace. Thank you for being you, Donald.”

Alicia Lewis and Kaitlyn Martin, PRAB

Human Capital Services

Important Updates and information from your Human Capital Services Team...

Update
your
Information



Updating Your Employee Record

AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING ACCURATE RECORDS AND ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF OUR EMPLOYEES, WE KINDLY REMIND YOU TO REVIEW AND UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IN OUR RECORDS. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VERIFY AND, IF NECESSARY, UPDATE YOUR:

1. **PHONE NUMBER:** ENSURE WE CAN REACH YOU PROMPTLY FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES!
2. **ADDRESS:** KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CURRENT FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.
3. **EMERGENCY CONTACTS:** IN CASE OF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVING ACCURATE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION IS CRUCIAL

TO MAKE THESE UPDATES, PLEASE SUBMIT A COMPLETED **EMPLOYEE INFORMATION CHANGE FORM** TO HUMAN CAPITAL SERVICES DIRECTLY. YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED IN HELPING US MAINTAIN A SAFE AND EFFICIENT WORK ENVIRONMENT.

Human Capital Services

Important Updates and information from your Human Capital Services Team...



The Office of Human Capital Services in partnership with the Payroll Department will be issuing all active New Bedford Public School employees personalized letters that contain the information needed to access your W4 forms. This information will include your Employee Self Service ID number, which is necessary to access your forms.

Letters are expected to be distributed no later than January 19th.

As a reminder, Frontline AESOP can be accessed via their web-based platform AND via telephone on their call system. All active staff will receive a reminder email with important information including their telephone system log in information. As a reminder, all staff are required to enter their absence into Frontline AESOP no later than 1 hour prior to their scheduled start time. If an incident occurs within an hour of your scheduled start time or you will be late you are required to contact your immediate supervisor/Principal.



All staff are expected to keep these reminder emails accessible in the event they need to report an absence and forget their log in information.

If you enter an absence into Frontline AESOP incorrectly please contact your immediate supervisor to make the correction. Staff do not need to contact HCS for these corrections as building/department leaders can quickly resolve this for their staff.

**SIGN UP BY
FEBRUARY 1ST**

**IT'S YOUR TIME
TO SHINE!**

Attn: ALL NBPS FACULTY AND STAFF

After the smashing success of the NBHS Faculty/Staff number in last year's musical, we would like to feature more of the NBPS Family on stage!

WHO?

Any NBPS Faculty or Staff Member looking for a fun way to get involved in our district community

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

WHAT?

This year's NBHS Musical features numbers selected from a wide variety of musical theatre shows. The song selected for the Faculty and Staff is "Revolting Children" from Matilda. You can preview a portion of the song at the QR code on the left but please know we will match the ENERGY of this performance, *not* necessarily the exact choreography!



**TO SIGN UP OR GET MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM AT THE
FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

[HTTP://BIT.LY/NBFACULTYSTAFF](http://bit.ly/nbfacultystaff)

New Bedford Public Schools

Theatre and Dance Festival

Saturday, January 27

6pm

NBHS Bronspiegel Auditorium

Featuring performances and student work from:

- NBHS**
- Normandin**
- Keith**
- Roosevelt**
- Pulaski**

Donations Welcome



SRTA Announces “Try Transit” for 2024

Beginning January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024
SRTA Fixed Route and Demand Response
services will be free to all customers.

This promotion is possible through a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Department of
Transportation



Community Behavioral Health Center

965 CHURCH STREET, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745

SAME SERVICES, NEW LOCATION!

FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS

- walk-ins welcome
- pre-screening assessments
- mental health counseling
- substance-use counseling
- psychiatry
- group services
- recovery coaches
- peer support services
- care coordination
- referrals made to the community
- home of:
 - Adult/Youth Mobile Crisis Intervention (**A/YMCI**) +
 - Adult/Youth Community Crisis Stabilization (**A/YCCS**) programs

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

508.996.8572

Walk in and meet with our staff today!

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8am – 8pm
Saturday + Sunday: 9am – 5pm

A/YMCI

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- available to you 24/7, 365 days of the year, including holidays
- walk-ins welcome
- provides service to adults + youth of *all ages*
- mobile crisis clinicians available
- mental health evaluations including dual diagnosis
- peer support services include: recovery coach, peer specialist + family partners
- referrals made to the community
- welcoming environment

WE CAN COME TO YOU!

508.996.3154

Improve your mental health by taking that first step. Call us to set up an evaluation!

YCCS

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 bed unit accepting ages 4–18
- outdoor recreation area
- indoor climbing wall
- sensory items
- new treatment rooms
- daily solution-focused brief therapy
- group + family therapy
- medication evaluation + treatment
- referrals made to the community
- welcoming environment
- schedule includes art therapy and mindfulness activities

LOOKING FOR A YOUTH BED?

Call our YMCI team at: **508-996-3154** or your local team for an evaluation to determine eligibility for our YCCS!

ACCS

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS


- 12 bed unit
- outdoor recreation area
- prepared home style meals
- welcoming environment
- daily group therapy
- daily solution-focused brief therapy
- medication evaluation + treatment
- referrals made to the community

LOOKING FOR AN ADULT BED?

Call our AMCI team at: **508-996-3154** or your local team for an evaluation to determine eligibility for our ACCS!

NBPS Wraparound Services Event Calendar

January 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 	2 Wraparound Department- 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA (508) 997-4511 ext. 14154	3 NORMANDIN ACCESS TESTING INFO NIGHT 5PM-7PM	4	5
8	9 IMMIGRATION RIGHTS WORKSHOP AT KEITH 5PM-6PM "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" WORKSHOP SERIES ON ZOOM 6PM-7PM	10 BACK TO SCHOOL BLUES PARENT CAFÉ AT PACHECO 8:15AM-9:15AM "YOU ARE NOT ALONE" WORKSHOP ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM	11 "YOU CAN SAY NO" HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP ON ZOOM 4PM-6PM JRI BACKPACK SERIES ON ZOOM 6PM-7PM	12
15 	16 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE! 	17 	18 SNAP & HOUSING WORKSHOP AT ROOSEVELT 1:30-4PM	19
22	23	24 NBHS FASFA ASSISTANCE NIGHT 5PM-7PM SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING WORKSHOP ON ZOOM 5PM-6PM	25 COOK WITH ME AT CARNEY! *BY INVITATION ONLY*	26
29 "I SEE YOU" SUPPORT GROUP ON ZOOM 6PM-7PM	30	31		



The City of New Bedford Presents

The Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Program

Marching to the Beat of Justice

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 14th 2024 | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

International Church of the Nazarene
278 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA

Winter Weather Notifications

Cancellations and Early Dismissals will be posted on NBPS Facebook, Twitter, newbedfordschools.org and sent to the following media outlets:

- **Boston Globe**
- **NB Cable Access**
- **New Bedford Guide**
- **New Bedford Light**
- **Standard-Times**
- **WBSM-1420 AM**
- **WBZ-1030 AM Boston**
- **WBZ-TV4 Boston**
- **WCVB-TV5 Boston**
- **WFHN-FUN107 FM**
- **WFXT-TV25 Boston**
- **WHDH-TV7 Boston**
- **WJAR-TV10 Providence**
- **WJFD-97.3 FM**
- **WLNE-TV6 Providence**
- **WNPB-89.3 FM**
- **WPRI-TV12 Providence**
- **WSAR-1480 AM**

Elizabeth Carter Brooks

1867-1951



Elizabeth Carter Brooks pioneered education for people of color – and her achievements are still being felt today,

Born in New Bedford in 1867, Brooks graduated from New Bedford High School and went on to study at the Swain Free School of Design. She was the first black woman to graduate from the Harrington Normal Training School in New Bedford. (She later received a law degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio.)

While still a student in the Harrington Normal School, Brooks dreamed of opening a home for the elderly in New Bedford. She realized that dream when, in 1897, she opened the New Bedford Home for the Aged, making the first rent payment herself. She became the home's first president and remained in office until 1930.

Immediately following graduation, Brooks taught school in Brooklyn, but her mother's ill health caused her to return to New Bedford, where she decided to stay. In 1901 she became the first black public school teacher in New Bedford after accepting a position at the William H. Taylor School.

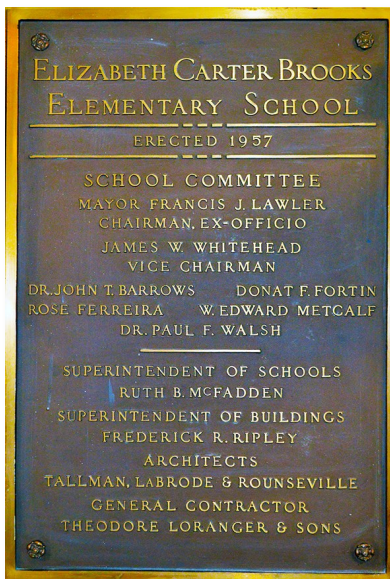
Elizabeth Carter Brooks was committed to equality and education. She saw firsthand the importance of getting an education and how an education could change a life.

Brooks was one of the founders of the New England Federation of Women's Clubs (later the Northeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs). She was president for over 27 years. During her time in the club, she oversaw the sponsorship of community centers, scholarship

funds, day care centers, and other services needed by the community. Brooks also joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) shortly after it was founded and later created her own NAACP chapter in New Bedford. She would be honored as a *president emeritus* of the New Bedford Chapter in 1948.

In 1930, she married William Sampson Brooks, a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The couple lived in San Antonio, Texas, until Bishop Brooks' death four years later. Elizabeth Carter Brooks once more returned to New Bedford. She died in 1951.

Her dedication to career and the advancement of people of color was evident during her life, but her love of education transcends her death. In 1939, she bought the home of Sgt. William Carney, the first black soldier awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. She then sold the house to the Martha Briggs Educational Club, which continues to maintain the property to this day.



In her will, she bequeathed the Elizabeth Carter Brooks Scholarship given to a high school senior in New Bedford. And, in 1957, the New Bedford School Committee named the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School on Nemasket Street in the city's West End in her honor.

Elizabeth Carter Brooks dedicated herself to educating and helping people of color. Her legacy is felt every time a child goes through the doors of the Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School.

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES UPDATE



Sea-weedish Meatballs

On Friday November 27, 2023 we had the pleasure of hosting our guest Andrew Wilkinson at New Bedford High School. Chef Andrew Wilkinson is a Culinary Seafood Specialist and Chef Director of Research and Development at North Coast Seafoods.

During his visit he implemented a taste testing of his Kelp Meatballs. To say it was a hit with the students would be an understatement! Chef Andrew served the kelp meatballs in an array of styles. Kelp meatballs in red sauce, with hummus, as well as served on a bed of pickled veggies.

Us here at the Food and Nutrition Services Department saw the excitement and joy it brought to our students that we decided it was time to showcase them on the High School's Menu!

On January 5, 2024 we will be debuting a Kelp Meatball Stuffed Pita on the High School menu. With the exceptional reviews given to us by the students, we are expecting this to be an exciting food day for them.



Going forward Food and Nutrition services will be hosting several other taste tasting events in hopes to gain student involvement as to what they would like to see on the menu.

A nourished student is a productive student and we are more than ecstatic to be a part of that mission!

“Providing nutritious meals that will give every student the necessary fuel to be successful throughout their academic journeys.” - New Bedford Food and Nutrition Services

Robert Shaheen, Director x14257
rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org