



# NBPS Newsflash

## October 2023

Autumn greetings, Team NBPS!

I note we are about 20 to 30 school days into the school year and a long holiday weekend approaches! As a result, I have a favor to ask of you. Please be certain to use this weekend to relax, tune out and recharge and spend time with those close to you. Resist that educator urge to prepare, plan, and work on school tasks. You have earned your break and I want you to take full advantage. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Also, during this first week of October, a big shout-out to all of NBPS' fantastic Custodial staff members! We can't have great schools without great custodians. We can't have a capital plan nor effective maintenance without a strong custodial team. Custodians support all activities from the routine, day-to-day use, support, and maintenance of facilities to pest control, snow removal, landscaping, trash removal, and utility monitoring. They are the first contact for critical safety, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and security systems, HVAC, security and technology – that is a lot! We love and appreciate our custodians!

This week, parents and caregivers are receiving their student's results on last spring's MCAS assessment. These assessments are not perfect, but all this feedback and information can lead to rich conversations at home, school, and within our community. It is essential to distinguish between achievement and growth metrics in these reports. While the achievement metrics show where a child stands in terms of grade-level expectations, the growth metrics tell us about their progress and development throughout the year. Beyond this data, we know that the most robust link to a student's success at school is their relationship with their classroom teacher, and their sense of belonging in their school building. As open houses wrap up, I am excited as we look ahead to meeting families in the upcoming parent/teacher conferences to discuss their child's progress and strengthen our home school bonds.

I appreciate all you do and I am ever grateful for your support in our common mission.

Sincerely,

Andrew O'Leary  
Interim Superintendent

**“Limits,  
like fears  
are often  
just an  
illusion.”**

**- Michael Jordan**

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# Employee Spotlight



## Kim Calheta

Grade 4 Teacher

E. C. Brooks Elementary School



“Grade 4 Teacher Kim Calheta exhibits the qualities of an exemplary educator, always reflecting upon her teaching practice and willing to try new initiatives to meet the needs of her students. She consistently plans lessons with the student’s best interest in mind, and after deep analysis of student data, she targets instruction and plans small group lessons accordingly.

“Mrs. Calheta speaks knowledgably during weekly data meetings with her grade level colleagues and is able to contribute successfully to action steps that will improve instruction for the Grade 4 Team. Mrs. Calheta has served as an active member of the SILT Team for many years, sharing her expertise and contributing ideas to her colleagues. Her Grade 4 class ended the year with the highest student growth percentile in Reading and Math, securing the #1 highest growth percentile schoolwide! Kim is always smiling and has such a positive attitude towards the students and staff! We are extremely lucky to have her as part of the Brooks Team!”

-- Jenn Medeiros, Principal, E.C. Brooks Elementary School



## Trish Morck

Lead Assessment Specialist  
Family Welcome Center

Center for Initial Screening and Assessment



“Trish Morck brings nearly 10 years’ experience as an EL Teacher to her role as Lead Assessment Specialist in the Center for Initial Screening and Assessment. Her extensive knowledge of WIDA Initial English proficiency assessments and Early Childhood initial screenings is essential to the success of NB students! She supervises screeners, schedules language assessments, oversees the accuracy of EL student level and program placement, provides Language Assessment training and explains results to families. She coordinates the

scheduling of kindergarten assessments and language screenings in addition to conducting the SLIFE Evaluation for students and their family.

“Trish taught English in Honduras, did volunteer work in Ecuador and knows firsthand the struggles of immigrant families.

“Trish has a good rapport with other districts and state contacts and often reaches out to multiple school districts to gather EL records to expedite the enrollment process. Her organizational skills, scheduling expertise and cultural experience is top-notch! A steadfast lifelong learner, Trish acts on her belief that every student can achieve at high levels.”

-- Julie Mador, Registrar

Family Registration Center Screeners  
pen poetic tribute to their colleague

*Trish came to New Bedford from afar  
And certainly has become a star,  
Screenings for K and English learners  
Pre-school testing won't unnerve her.*

*Her days in countries far away  
Has given Trish a lot to say,  
Peoples' cultures must be respected  
So individual families don't get neglected.*

*Being kind, patient and helpful is her demeanor -  
So appreciated by us screeners!*

*Testing and changes constantly happen...  
So many questions - you can't imagine.*

*Children and families are on the top of her mind.  
A better person to fill this role you cannot find,  
Everyone she meets has a place in her heart,  
Trish - you are a treasure -  
And to work by your side is truly a pleasure!  
We love you!*

# *Save the Date*

**NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# **WELLNESS FAIR**

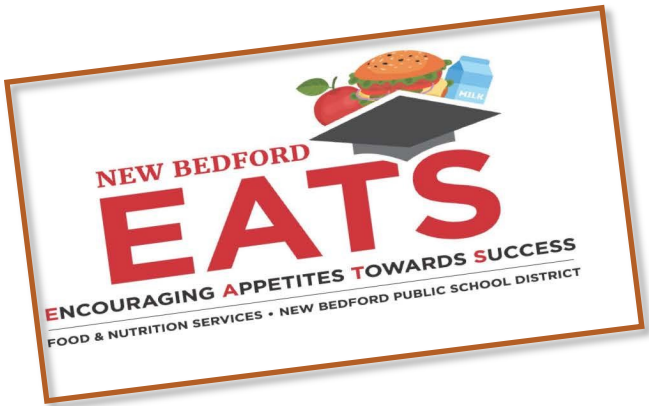
**KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

*November 16, 2023*

## **OFFERINGS**

- Nutritional Counseling with a Registered Dietician
- Kids & Family Nutrition Seminar
- Healthy Snacks, Wraps & Smoothies
- Gentle Restorative Yoga— Beginners
- Vinyasa Yoga — Intermediate
- Chair Massages
- 403B Retirement Savings Plan Representative
  - 457B Retirement Savings Plan Rep.
  - BCBS Representative
  - Cafeteria Plan Advisors —Flexible Spending
  - Raffle Prizes & much more....



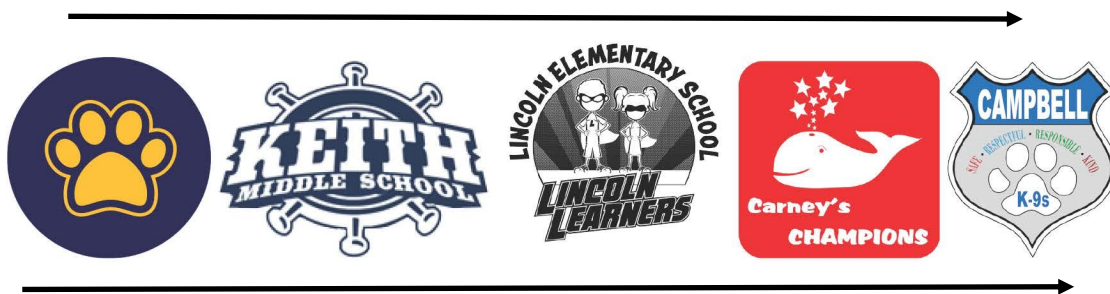


## Project Bread's School Food Fellowship

We are pleased to announce that the New Bedford School Food and Nutrition department will be participating in Project Bread's School Food Fellowship, a year-long professional development opportunity for school nutrition staff. Project Bread's School Food Fellowship will combine online training for school nutrition directors and select school nutrition staff with in-person site visits and hands-on training. The trainings, designed especially for school nutrition staff by our experienced team of Chef Educators, will cover topics ranging from culinary skill development, customer service, recipe writing, marketing and promoting meals to kids, to the history of school meals, culturally relevant menu options, and the important role school meals play in combating food insecurity.



Chef Ryan and Chef Sherry will be alternating their in person visits between five of our schools including Roosevelt Middle, Keith Middle, Lincoln Elementary, Carney Elementary, and Campbell Elementary.



Throughout the course of the Fellowship, school nutrition directors and school nutrition staff will have the opportunity to get to know other Fellows in the program, forming a network of school nutrition professionals all working towards the goal of providing the best meals possible to their students. We are excited to join Project Bread and are looking forward to working with all the Chef Educators!



# National School Custodial Staff Appreciation Day!



**October 2, 2023**

*Thank you  
for making us sparkle!*



## *Voices*

from the history of New Bedford Public Schools

*“Education is not preparation for life. It is life itself, and should continue so long as life shall last.”*

Allen P. Keith, Superintendent's Report, 1923

In 1908, Allen Phelps Keith (1872-1947) was named superintendent of NBPS, occupying the post for nearly 33 years - the longest tenure since the office was established in 1861. It was a period of rapid growth in the city's population as immigrants came to work in the ever-expanding industrial and textile sectors.

In response, 15 school buildings were constructed during his term, including the High School (now PRAB), two Junior High Schools, two Continuation Schools, two additional schoolhouses and the establishment in 1909 of the Vocational School, then called the Industrial School.

He was intensely interested in children's health, establishing dental, eye, medical and mental clinics, as well as a State clinic for undernourished children. The first school nurses were appointed, a health and hygiene department started, and a continuous progress plan for elementary schools was adopted.

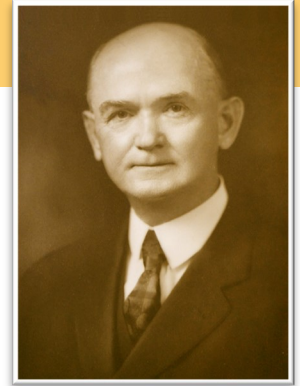
Keith was a strong backer of athletics and the arts, appointing the first PE director. Himself a musician, he played the clarinet in the first

High School Orchestra for a time.

A Bridgewater native, Keith's boyhood years were spent in Bridgewater and Nashua, where he attended public schools. In 1894, he graduated from the State Normal School at Bridgewater and began his teaching career at Pascoag, Rhode Island. He was appointed superintendent of the Burrillville Public Schools, staying there for 9 years. He then served as superintendent at East Providence, 1904-1906. In 1906, he was appointed principal of the John H. Clifford Grammar School in New Bedford, where he remained until his election as super-intendent of schools in 1908.

In 1920, the School Committee engaged Dr. Frank E. Spaulding of Yale University to conduct a comprehensive examination of NBPS organization and management. Spaulding's recommendations included the adoption of the Junior High School model – then a national trend. Two Junior High Schools were built – one each in the north and south ends of the city.

In 1957, a third junior high school was added for the middle section of the city and named in Keith's honor. In 2000, the city changed to the Middle School model.



**Allen P. Keith**  
1872-1947  
Superintendent, 1909-1942

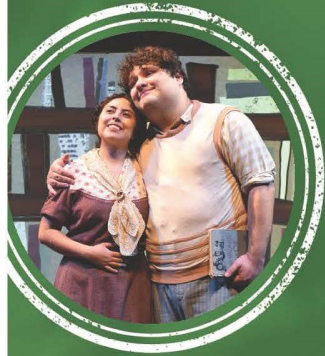
Keith Middle School



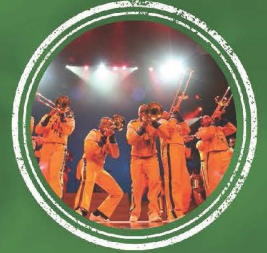
2023-2024

# Schooltime

performance series



TOMAS  
AND THE  
LIBRARY LADY  
NOV 20



DRUMLINE  
LIVE  
JAN 16

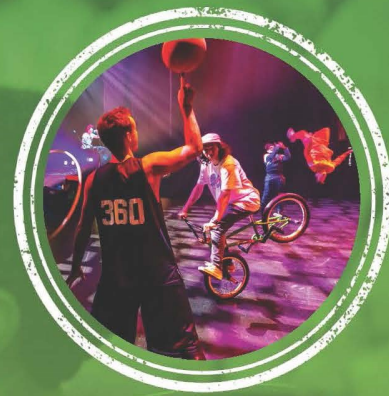
## EDUCATORS

### PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIPS NOW!

Experience K-12 performances curated  
to enhance learning in the classroom.



CHARLOTTE'S  
WEB  
JUN 4



360 ALLSTARS  
MAR 18

SEE ALL  
14 SHOWS

SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE



# ZEITERION PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

# Creative Classroom

The Z's Creative Classroom offers performing arts classes to learners of all ages and abilities in a safe and inviting space. This year, we're the road at several locations throughout the city!

## Beginner Ukulele

with Deb Sorgman

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (for adults)

5-6PM Wednesday October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford

(kids 2nd grade and up): 3-4PM Wednesday October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 15

Are you interested in learning to play an instrument, but nervous it might be too hard or too late? In this class, you'll learn the fundamentals of playing the ukulele, one of the easiest stringed instruments to pick up. No prior musical experience is necessary. Ukuleles will be provided, but you're welcome to bring your own.

## Songwriting

with Candida Rose

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (for all ages):

6-7PM Thursday October 12, 26, November 2, 16

Ever wanted to write your own song? In this class, you'll listen to music with a positive message and work together to create songs to tell your own story with singer/songwriter Candida Rose.

## Jazz Jam

with Manny Escobar

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (for all ages):

7-8PM Tuesday October 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14

Curious how the music you listen to today came to be? Learn about the history of jazz music as well as the ways local artists have kept the legacy of jazz alive on the SouthCoast in this fun, interactive course. You'll get to meet, listen to, and jam out with local jazz artists. No prior musical experience necessary, but if you have an instrument you'd like to bring, we encourage it!

## Salsa on 1

with Sue Young

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (for adults):

5-6PM Monday October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford (for kids):

3-4PM Monday October 2, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13

Want to surprise people the next time you go dancing? In this class, you'll learn the fundamentals of Cuban motion, basic steps, and figures. No prior dance experience or partner required.

## Cape Verdean Dance through the Decades

with Geovanny Sequeira

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (any age):

6-7PM Friday October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 17

Want to travel to Cape Verde without paying a dime? In this class, you'll learn dance styles from the morna and coladeira to funaná and passada that originated in the Cape Verde islands.

## The Basics of Stage Combat: Introduction to Swordplay

with Jessica Wilson & Garrett Olson

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (teens):

5-6:30PM Tuesday October 10, 17, November 7, 14

Ever curious how the actors in your favorite TV shows, movies, and plays make their fight scenes look so real? In this class you'll learn basic sword fighting technique in a safe supportive environment.

## Yes, and...!

with Jessica Wilson and Garrett Olson

The Boys and Girls Club (kids):

3-4PM Tuesday October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14

Ever wonder what would happen if you said yes to your wildest dreams? This course is a basic introduction to the art of improvisation. In this class you'll play games and do exercises that explore awareness, relaxation, observation, the senses, voice, and physicality. Dress comfortably and be prepared to move at every class because anything can happen in improv!

## FALL 2023 CLASSES OFFERED AT:

The Boys & Girls Club of  
Greater New Bedford

166 Jenney St., New Bedford



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

The Andrea McCoy  
Recreation Center

Multipurpose Room

181 Hillman St., New Bedford



Register here!





# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

## BREAST CANCER SYMPTOMS

BLOODY DISCHARGES

LUMP IN THE BREAST

CHANGE IN BREAST COLOR

PITTING OF THE BREAST SKIN

BREAST OR NIPPLE PAIN

Mammograms can save lives by detecting breast cancer at an early stage!

