

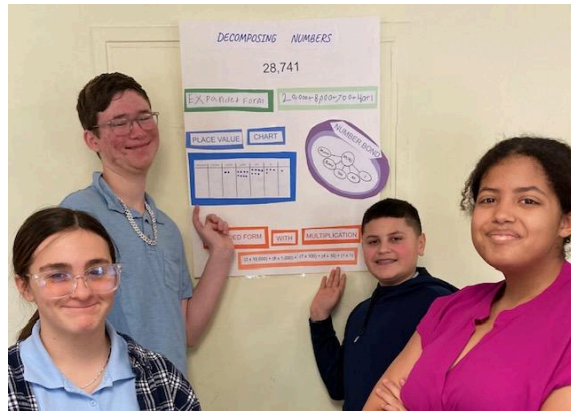
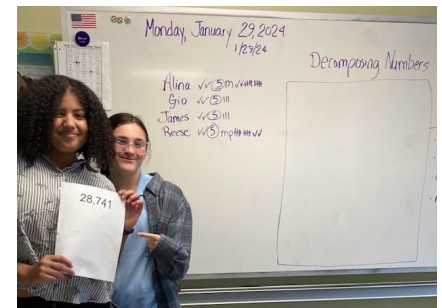


COMMUNITY CONNECTION

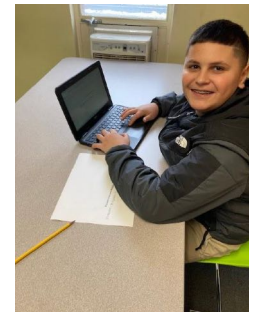
Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring, and with the recent warm weather, he may be correct. Then again, a snow day after 50-degree weather, who knows? Reminder: February Break is the 16th through the 20th.

Student Highlight

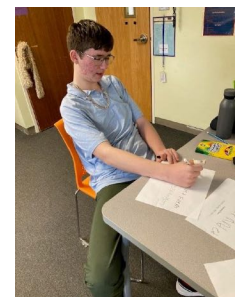
Embracing the art of problem-solving not only sharpens a crucial skill but can also be surprisingly enjoyable! In the realm of mathematics, we embark on a captivating journey exploring myriad approaches to crack open a problem. This exploration isn't just about finding the solution; it's a dynamic process that unveils the intricacies of algorithms and the sequential dance of steps leading to resolution. In this collaborative endeavor, our team of students has been tirelessly crafting valuable resources for both the classroom and their personal binders. The beauty lies in the fact that students need not be



walking encyclopedias; instead, they should possess the knack for knowing where to seek information pertinent to their learning. By empowering students to curate their own resources, we enable them to forge meaningful connections between mathematical concepts and their rich tapestry of background knowledge and life experiences.



Engaging in lively discussions and sharing examples, students not only articulate their ideas but also delve into the mechanics of why specific methods succeed. This collaborative spirit fosters an environment where students become more receptive to experimenting with alternative problem-solving approaches. Kudos to this dynamic team for a job well done!



2024 Year of the Dragon

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is a significant traditional Chinese celebration marking the beginning of the lunar new year. It is the most important and widely observed festival in China and among Chinese communities worldwide. The festivities, lasting for 15 days, are



characterized by family reunions, elaborate feasts, the exchange of red envelopes containing money for good luck, and vibrant cultural performances. Each year is associated with one of the 12 Chinese zodiac animals, contributing to the festive atmosphere with parades, dragon dances, and fireworks. It symbolizes a fresh start, with a focus on good fortune, prosperity, and the dispelling of negativity from the past. Our Lower School students created their own dragons to take on parade, tried dumplings and mooncakes, and celebrated with their school families.



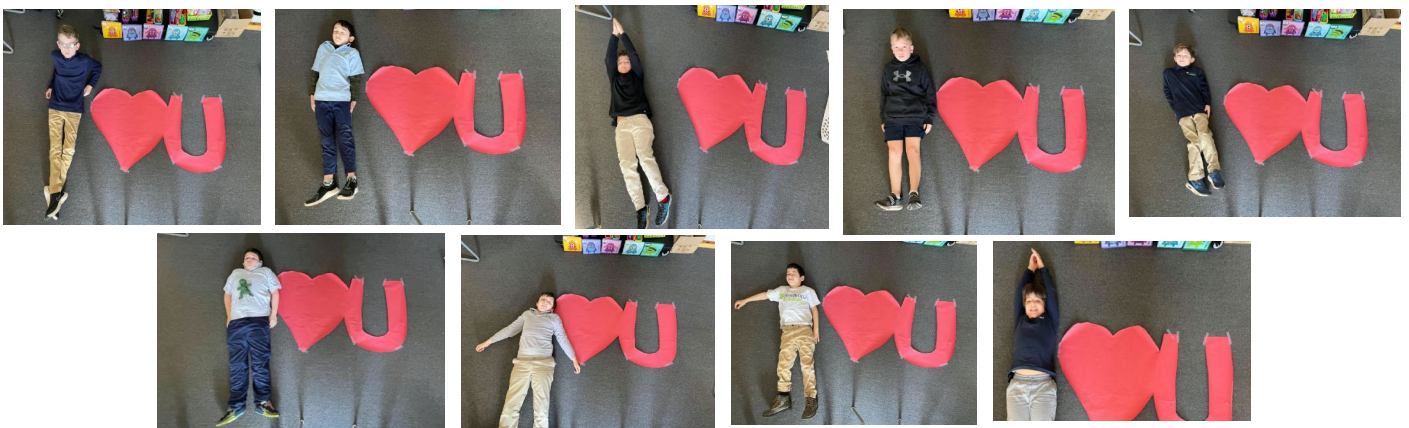
Student Council Corner: Mystery Messages, a student buddy program

This Student Council event took place Mon 2/12 - Wed 2/14

All students participated during homeroom on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday by completing mystery messages Google forms. Each day, a question was asked and answered between the buddies in hopes that they could guess who their buddy might be. Clues were posted by the students' names in the main hallway as they learned more about their mystery buddy. Wednesday was the big reveal day, where students learned who their buddy was. The Student Council's goal was to foster a more united and connected student community. We are proud of the work they put into this first event that they planned. The snow day did not deter the fun, Wednesday students met the authors of the mystery messages and discovered who their buddies would be. Thanks to the Student Council for this tremendous unifying event. Great work.

Spreading Kindness Back to Families

To brighten the day for our lower school families, we turned our students into Valentine's messages for their families. The students loved creating these images to send home.



REMINDERS

Save those dates: An email was recently sent out from elaine@benbronzacademy.org alerting families of the [Revised 2023-2024 School Calendar](#), asking that you please alert your transportation companies and mark your calendars. On March 18th, Ben Bronz Academy will be buzzing with excitement as we close our doors for the day to students so that our dedicated staff can take part in an extraordinary professional learning opportunity at the renowned Bushnell Theater in Hartford. This is a golden opportunity for our staff to get a sneak peek at the creative work we will embark on next year through a collaborative project that will connect BBA and the creative learning opportunities offered to our students by the Bushnell Theater Education Department. This will be a focus for our staff next December when the Bushnell Theater will be our playground for our annual staff retreat, where inspiration and innovation will take center stage.

Additionally, we would like to share the [2024-2025 School Calendar](#) with you. The links will provide you with additional easy access to this key information.

Art Club

Ben Bronz Academy will soon begin an Art Club for students! This will include art activities and learning during and after the school day. Students will take part in the planning, designing, and painting of the school walls and courtyard. In addition, students will visit a local museum for a guided tour and also meet and learn about locally active artists. Art Club meeting times will vary. Students will have the opportunity to participate during and/or after school. They will not have to attend all to be included. More specific scheduling information is in the works and will be made available soon. Also, stay tuned for a student-designed BBA Art Club logo!

A Message from the Executive Director

Firstly, I would like to commend our students for their outstanding achievements in reading and math as evidenced by some significant growth in their iReady benchmark assessments. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment have led to noteworthy progress and success in these crucial subject areas.

In regards to the Chinese New Year: may the *Year of the Dragon* bring prosperity, joy, and good fortune to everyone.

I am thrilled with our Student Council *Peer Buddies Program* initiative. This initiative embodies the spirit of empathy, support, and inclusivity, fostering meaningful connections and friendships among our students. I commend our Student Council members and Peer Buddies for their dedication and compassion in making BBA a welcoming and supportive environment for all. Kindness is a cornerstone of our school community, and I am inspired by the countless acts of kindness demonstrated by our students each day. Whether through simple gestures or meaningful actions, they exemplify the values of compassion, generosity, and empathy that define our school culture.

With regards to the Art club (and other in-school clubs that are being formed), I am excited that BBA is starting to offer student clubs that reflect the diverse interests and passions of our student body. Clubs provide invaluable opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and forge lasting friendships.

Finally, please stay tuned for information regarding our Spring fundraising event. Your generous support enables us to enhance educational opportunities, support initiatives, and invest in the continued growth and success of our BBA community.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the academic year, let us remain committed to fostering a culture of excellence, inclusivity, and kindness within our BBA community. Together, we can inspire, empower, and support each other in reaching new heights of achievement and success.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.



Attention all Alumni! We invite you to showcase your remarkable achievements since your tenure at BBA. Assist us in inspiring our current students by sharing your success stories. Express your interest in being interviewed by emailing either Cfries@benbronzacademy.org or clamphere@benbronzacademy.org. If you have a special talent you would like to bring to our students in person, please reach out to us. We would love to see you!

Upcoming events:

February 16-20, 2024

March 11, 2024

March 15, 2024

March 18, 2024

March 25, 2024

March 28, 2024

March 29, 2024

No School Winter Break

HSA

Half day/Mediator Training

No School/Mediator Training

Parent Information Session

End of Marking Period/Half Day/Mediator Training

No School

Next issue: 3/01/24