



BRIGHTER CHOICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



THE BUZZ AT BCCS



WELCOME TO OUR

# Monthly Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Dear Brighter Choice School Community,

Welcome to our First Edition of The Buzz!!! This month, we have many exciting events and activities planned, including our National Women's History Month In Class Parent Engagement Activity, Lucky Day, PTA Popcorn Fundraiser, National Social Worker Day, Dress for Success Day, Purple Day, Family Literacy Night and much much more.

These events and celebrations are so crucial as they help improve academic/social learning, student attendance, staff morale, family engagement and the overall culture and climate at Brighter Choice.

I want to give a big shout to our students for showing up every day and putting in the effort and work as they continue to learn and grow each day, our staff and partners for their consistent hard work and dedication and to parents for their involvement in their child's education and our school community. I am beyond grateful for all of you and your continued partnership.

Let's continue to keep the momentum going and continue to build on our success as a school community.

Enjoy our First Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Petraglia  
Principal

718-453-4081 | @brighterchoicecommunityschool

[www.welovebccs.org](http://www.welovebccs.org)

Josh Petraglia, Principal

Kim Nunes, Assistant Principal

MARCH 2025

## Inside the March 2025 issue:

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Feature Article: Family  
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Classroom Insights from  
Black History Month

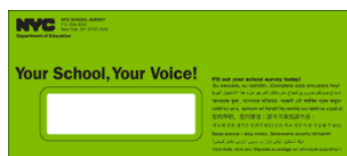
Upcoming Events

Staff Spotlight: World  
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Highlights

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This newsletter was  
compiled and edited by  
Deitra Wilder, Parent  
Coordinator or Brighter  
Choice community School



## FEATURE ARTICLE

# 2025 NYC DOE FAMILY SCHOOL SURVEYS ARE NOW OPEN!

The 2025 Family School Surveys are an important opportunity for your voice to be heard and to contribute to the ongoing improvement of our school systems and programs.

To increase participation, we are offering an exciting reward: the grade that achieves 100% survey participation first will win a pizza party! Additionally, all participating families who submit their survey or proof of completion will automatically be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate. For families opting for the paper survey, please complete it and return it in the sealed envelope to the school.

Alternatively, you can take the survey electronically by scanning the QR code or using this link:

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/nycdoe/login>.

To complete the online survey, you will need your child's 9-digit student identification number (OSIS#). If you have trouble locating this number, please contact your child's school for assistance. For any questions, feel free to reach out to Ms. Deittra at [dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:dwilder2@schools.nyc.gov).

Thank you for your active participation!



## Student Achievements: BCCS District 16 Debate Team

Do "the benefits of zoos outweigh the harm?"



On January 31, 2025, the esteemed BCCS Debate Team participated in a tournament where we proudly celebrated Lucas De Los Santos for his outstanding achievement of placing 5th in District 16.

Our dedicated team members who exemplify hard work and commitment, include Zion Edwards, Ayaan Brown, Lucas De Los Santos, Anwen Damon, Rochelly Echeverria, Xavier Coleman, Anya Morton, Juliza Martinez, Charlene Cogdell, and Gloryleen Paulino Bruno.

They are guided by our coaches, Ms. Jasmine Chino and Ms. Monica Shepherd, whose leadership has been instrumental in their success.

Let's continue to celebrate these scholars in their success.



# Black History Month Classroom Insights

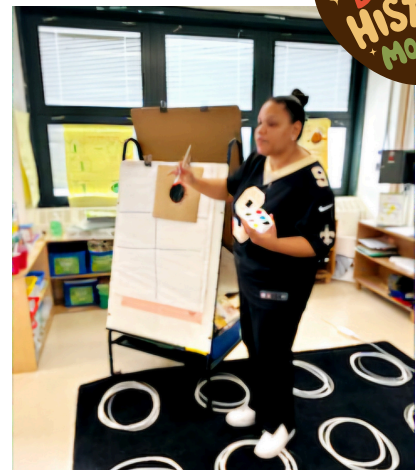


The enriching activities that took place in our classrooms during Black History Month culminated in a spectacular show on Friday, February 28, 2025. Throughout the month, students actively engaged in various projects that celebrated notable historical Black figures and influential Black women.

One classroom focused on the renowned artist Alma Woodsey Thomas, who, at the age of 81, became the first African-American woman to hold a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art.



Other classrooms explored the significance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, where students conducted research and performed cost analysis on school expenses and loan payments. In Music, students learned about Jazz chord progressions, while others watched documentaries and participated in panel discussions that encouraged thoughtful dialogue. This project-based research truly allowed our students to gain a deeper



understanding of the contributions of Black history and culture.

Our goal is to enhance our students' learning experiences and help us ensure that the contributions of Black Americans are recognized and appreciated throughout the year. Together, we can foster an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and encourages ongoing exploration of Black history.

*Empowered Women Empower Women*

## Up NEXT! In Person Women's History Month Family Engagement Friday, March 14, 2025, 9:00am



We invite families to join us in this commemoration of Women's History Month. Classrooms will engage in a variety of activities to honor the achievements and contributions of Women. Students will partake in stimulating classroom discussions, creative projects, and will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers. Additionally, some classes will be involved in community projects that emphasize the importance of our shared history. Remember to bring your ID to enter the building! See you there!





TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

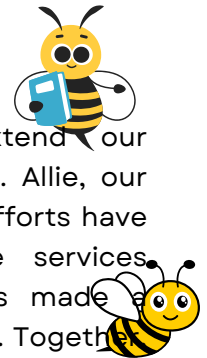
## World Social Workers Day! We appreciate you all!!

We would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and celebrate the remarkable contributions of Ms. Monica Shepherd and Ms. Mary Garcia, our dedicated Social Workers at Brighter Choice Community School.

Their unwavering commitment to the well-being of our students, families, and the extended community has been nothing short of exceptional. Through their expertise and compassion, they have positively impacted countless lives, fostering an environment of support and growth.

Moreover, we would like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Allie, our diligent Social Worker Interns. Their efforts have been invaluable in enhancing the services provided, and their enthusiasm has made a significant difference in our programs. Together, these individuals embody the spirit of service and dedication essential to our mission of creating a nurturing educational community. We are truly fortunate to have them as part of our team, and their invaluable work will continue to shape our school community positively.

Let's give a round of applause as we recognize the efforts of these outstanding professionals.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### March Birthdays

In our Stevie Wonder voice: Happy Birthday to Ya, Happy Birthday to Ya, Happyyy Birrrrtthday!

#### Early Childhood 3K & PreK

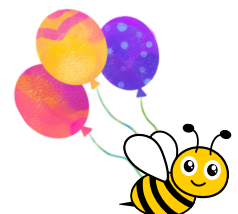
- Ajahni David
- Lars Jorve
- Angel Montes
- Naisa Sosa-Grano De Oro

#### Lower Grades Kindergarten - 2nd

- Kaycee Cuadrado
- Jeisson Valerio-Hernandez
- Amir Smiley

#### Upper Grades 3rd - 5th

- Kali Harris
- Aubriella Espinal
- Makayla Spencer
- Aniyala Summers
- Jahsir Armstrong
- Jeffrey Johnson







# Hive Mind Highlights!

**NYC Public Schools** | Department of Youth & Community Development  
New York City

## How to Apply to Summer Rising 2025

- 1 Visit MySchools.nyc and add your child to your account.**
  - Already have a MySchools account? Just log in!
  - To create one, go to [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc.gov) and click on "Create New Account." Enter the required information.
  - To add your child to your account, enter their 8-digit student ID number and MySchools account creation code. You can find this information by contacting your child's school.
- 2 Add programs to your child's application.**
  - Add all of the programs that interest you to your child's application to give them the best chance to receive an offer.
  - Only list programs that you genuinely wish for your child to attend. Rank them in your true preference order.
- 3 Submit your application.**
  - The application process is not first come, first served. Apply any time by Friday, March 28 at 11:59 PM—all applications will be received the same.
  - After submitting your application, you will receive an email confirming it has been received.
  - Offers will be released to you if your child receives an offer, be sure to accept it!

**Have questions or need support?**

- Visit [schools.nyc.gov/SummerRising](https://schools.nyc.gov/SummerRising)
- Email us at [summer@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:summer@schools.nyc.gov)
- Contact your school

**Don't wait! Apply for a Summer Rising seat using your MySchools account between Tuesday, March 4 and Friday, March 28.**



**A free summer program and adventure in learning for New York City students!**

All City students in grades K-8 during the 2024-25 school year are eligible to apply, including multilingual learners, immigrant students, and students with disabilities.

**Summer Rising runs from:**

- July 1 through August 14 for students in grades K-2
- July 2 through August 14 for students in grades 3-8

New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) have partnered on Summer Rising 2025, supporting students in their academic learning and offering enriching experiences. In addition to field trips, art activities, outdoor recreation and more, free and nutritious breakfast and lunch options will be provided for all students.



**NYC Public Schools** | Department of Youth & Community Development  
New York City

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## Spirit Day Matters

School spirit days are a wonderful way to foster community and enthusiasm within our elementary school. These special occasions, like the 100th day of school, bring students and their families together, celebrating milestones and encouraging creativity. Through themed attire and fun activities, kids can showcase their unique personalities while building lasting friendships.

Families play a vital role in making these events successful. By participating and encouraging our kids to get involved, we create a vibrant and supportive school environment.



## Attendance Party

As parents, we all know how vital it is for our children to attend school regularly. Every school day provides a unique opportunity for learning, social development, and building a strong foundation for their future successes. When students attend school consistently, they not only benefit academically but also engage in essential social interactions that are key to their development.

Each month we celebrate 100% attendance!

Thank you students and Families! We know it's not always easy!

## Summer Rising!

Attention parents! Summer Rising applications are now open for students Kindergarten – 8th Grade. This program offers a fantastic opportunity for your child to engage in enriching summer activities and educational experiences.

To apply, simply visit your My Schools Account or follow this link:  
<https://www.myschools.nyc/en/>

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 28, 2024



## Hive Community Resource: Dial-a-Teacher Homework Help!

**Dial-A-Teacher:** During the school year, students and parents can receive free homework help from teachers over the phone from Monday to Thursday 4 PM to 7 PM starting in September.

**What:** Homework helpline for students, run by classroom teachers

**Where:** Call 212-777-3380

**Who:** Students in kindergarten through 12th grade

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 4 to 7 p.m. when school is in session

**Languages spoken:** Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Spanish and Tagalog

**Subjects available:** English, math, science and social studies

<https://dialateacher.org/>



# Hive Spotlight Upcoming Events



**Double Good**  
BCCS PTA  
PRESENTS

**Support our team event!  
Give Good.  
Get Good.**

**Mar. 13 8:30am  
to  
Mar 17 8:30am**

**Mar.13 @ 5pm  
to Mar. 17  
@5pm**

When you buy Double Good's award-winning popcorn, 50% of your purchase goes to supporting PTA BCCS programming and you receive a delicious reward!

**THANK YOU!**

**Double Good**  
Raising Joy

BCCS PTA has set up a Double Good virtual fundraiser! It's 100% contactless, we keep 50% of all sales and the product ships directly to the buyer.

Follow these simple steps to begin selling now:  
1. Download the Double Good app  
2. Enter our event code XLBYSI in the app  
3. Create your Pop-Up Store

The app is available for free on iOS and Android.

## BCCS PTA

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**Thursday, March 13, 2025 - Monday,  
March 17, 2025**

It has never been easier to help raise funds for BCCS!

Follow these simple steps once the fundraising event begins:

1. Download the Double Good App
2. Enter the BCCS Event Code: XLBYSI in the app
3. Create your pop up store!
4. Share with your network of family and friends on social media, by email, or by text! 50% of proceeds go to BCCS!

The Double Good App is available for free on IOS and Android!

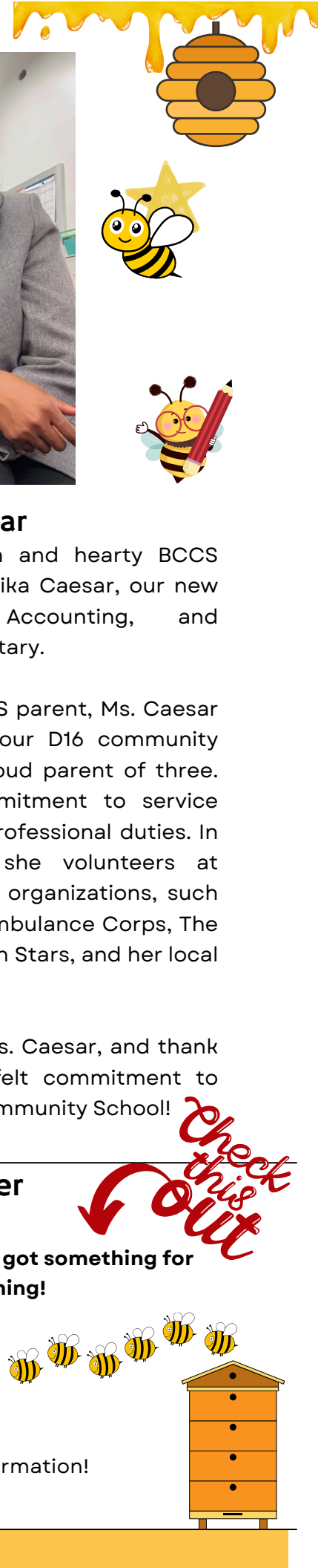


## Ms. Anika Caesar

Let's give a warm and hearty BCCS welcome to Ms. Anika Caesar, our new Payroll, Pupil Accounting, and Procurement Secretary.

As the former BCCS parent, Ms. Caesar knows BCCS and our D16 community well. She is the proud parent of three. Ms. Caesar's commitment to service goes beyond her professional duties. In her spare time, she volunteers at various community organizations, such as the Volunteer Ambulance Corps, The Order of the Eastern Stars, and her local PTA, and SLT.

We congratulate Ms. Caesar, and thank her for her heartfelt commitment to Brighter Choice Community School!



## Hive Community Resource: Family Enrichment Center

### Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Enrichment Center

**Whether you are job hunting, looking to network, or just curious, we've got something for everyone! Family enrichments, community closet, fun family programming!**

Bed-Stuy N.E.S.T. (Neighbors Embracing Strengths Together)

Provider Name: Little Flower

FEC Director Name and Contact Info: Edison King

FEC Address: 410 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216

FEC Neighborhood: Bedford-Stuyvesant (Bed-Stuy)

Social Media: Instagram @bedstuyfec Follow them for programming information!

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/fec.page>

