FROM THE PRINCIPAL

After a wintry start to the new semester, spring seems to have taken hold and BCEC students are making great strides in their high school and college classes.

Please note the following changes to our academic calendar:

March 30 -- Student Day/Early Release
May 29 -- Student Day/Early Release
June 5 -- Last Student Day (Years 1-4)

We are in the middle of our recruitment season, which means that 8th grade students from across the county have visited campus to learn more about BCEC. We are also hosting information nights in each of the base districts. Each year, we look forward to receiving applications from prospective students who want to be a part of the Early College family.

This spring we also turn our attention to graduation and to students' successful completion of their chosen pathways. Year Five students are focused on Graduation Projects and college admissions. Year One and Year Two students will be exploring options for their course sequences, and we will be meeting with Year Three and Four students who may need extra support.

Thanks, as always, for your commitment to our school.

Donna Lanahan
Principal

FROM THE CLASSROOM

Year 2 Students at District Poetry Out Loud Competition

After rescheduling three times due to snow, the third time was the charm on Friday, February 2. Three Year 2 students represented BCEC at the annual district competition of Poetry Out Loud. Mira Stacy, Raquel Juarez-Rivera, and Hollie Cutshall memorized and recited two poems for judges and audience members at Nesbitt Discovery Academy. They competed against their peers from Nesbitt and North Buncombe High School. Mira Stacy was awarded third place for her performance of "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye and "Eating Poetry" by Mark Strand.

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest. Created and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, the competition has reached over 3 million students since 2005. The program helps students build confidence with public speaking skills and foster a love for poetry. All Year 2 students are required to participate in Poetry Out Loud at the classroom level by reciting a poem in Mrs. Meadows' English 2 classes. Winners at the classroom level advance to the district competition for a chance to compete at the state level.

FROM OUR PARENTS

Calling All Buncombe County Early College Parents!

What? Eagles Wings Membership drive
When? 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 6th
Where? Birch Building, Room 209, AB-Tech campus
Visit www.bcec.buncombeschools.org or call 232-4123

We need help! Please join us as we reinvent BCEC's parent association – Eagles Wings. We want to boost our membership as we seek to invigorate the organization as it works to support our school's mission. This is the best time to join as we are reorganizing with new members, officers, plans, and ideas.

We love our students and school and want to help make it the best school in Buncombe County! We hope to see you there.
FROM OUR STUDENTS

Early College Student Government and Student Ambassadors have taken the lead in planning and implementing tours for the 8th graders of Buncombe County Schools. Five middle schools will be visiting the A-B Tech campus during February and March. Tanner Jennings, a first year student who was involved in this process of improving our tours says that, "the Student Government strove to create the most efficient and effective system for the way the tours to run."

Some highlights include smaller tour groups and the addition of Paideia seminars this year, where three Early College students lead groups of ten 8th graders in a discussion that mirrors our classroom practices. "Our goal in doing the Paideia during the tours is to let the students experience what we do here," reported first year Student Ambassador Georgina Provencio-Martinez, who has lead two Paideia seminars with 8th graders from Valley Springs Middle School.

We are extremely proud of all that our Student Government and Student Ambassadors have done to show others what Early College means to them.

FROM THE FIELD/COMMUNITY

This winter BSEC continues to provide authentic learning experiences outside the classroom to connect students' future goals to real-world experiences, including job shadowing. Through these partnerships, job shadow hosts help develop a pipeline of talent by connecting with promising young students to introduce its careers, culture and industry to students and to support students to develop the skills these employers are seeking.

Year Four student Samantha Zuniga shadowed Evans Prater of Mount Inspiration, an apparel company based in Asheville that focuses on sustainable outdoor lifestyle clothing. Samantha is interested in starting her own business someday and shared, "What I enjoyed best about my visit to Mount Inspiration is that it really [gave] me the perspective of how hard it is to create a functioning business. It made my dream much more realistic, but also verified my decision that I wanted to own my own business." She continued, "I now view the business world in a more realistic light. That said, I am much more motivated and convinced I know my path because it also made it seem more attainable. Mr. Prater did not go to school for business and never intended to have the one he does. Yet, he got an idea, stuck with it, and it grew. Mr. Evans story and his advice is what I will keep with me. I believe now more than ever that anything is possible if you have enough nerve."

If you are interested in helping our students connect their learning to the community and careers, please contact Mr. Fleckenstein the College, Career and Community Coordinator for BSEC at jeffery.fleckenstein@bceemail.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 23 -- Early Release  
NCDAP Testing for Year One students  
February 27 -- ACT for Year Three students  
Year One Visit to Mars Hill University  
March 6 -- BSEC PTO (Eagles' Wings) Meeting at 6:00  
March 7 -- All-School Meeting at 12:35  
March 12 -- Early Release  
March 16 -- Year Two visit to ETSU  
March 19-23 -- AB-Tech Spring Break -- No School for Students  
March 30 -- Student Day -- Early Release  
April 2-6 -- BCS Spring Break -- No High School Classes