

BUFFALO PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



PROMISE SCHOLARS CELEBRATION

The past graduation season was especially meaningful for us as we were able to celebrate the high school graduation of our very first cohort of Promise Scholars!

Each year, we name a handful of exceptional eighth grade graduates Promise Scholars. The awards, cover the FULL COST of each student's private high school tuition. How incredible is that?!

The eight individuals who were named Promise Scholars in 2014 excelled in high school and were accepted into some of the region's top colleges and universities (Niagara University, Syracuse University, Canisius College, SUNY Binghamton, Fredonia State and Alfred State, to name a few.)

We congratulated the students with a celebration at the Marcy Casino in Delaware Park on August 8 and look forward to hearing about their future studies!



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ABOUT BPN

- ◆ Buffalo Promise Neighborhood is an education initiative aimed at supporting our children from cradle to college and beyond.
- ◆ Buffalo Promise Neighborhood in partnership with M&T Bank also includes community residents and numerous community based organizations as part of our team.
- ◆ We are committed to providing children with access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support.

2018-19 BPN COMMUNITY SCHOOL ACADEMY

Please join us for another exciting year of Saturday Academy events. There is something for everyone to enjoy! We look forward to seeing you!

Date	Location	Theme	Time
October 5, 2018	Buffalo Zoo	Field Trip	5:30pm-8:30pm
October 13, 2018	Westminster	Falling into Fall Harvest Fest	9:00am-1:00pm
November 3, 2018	Highgate	Breast Cancer Awareness	9:00am-1:00pm
November 17, 2018	Westminster	Giving Thanks	9:00am-1:00pm
December 8, 2018	Highgate	Winter Wonderland	9:00am-1:00pm
December 15, 2018	Westminster	Around the World	9:00am-1:00pm
January 26, 2019	Westminster	New Year, New You	9:00am-1:00pm
February 9, 2019	Highgate	Black History Celebration	9:00am-1:00pm
March 2, 2019	Westminster	Health & Wellness Fair	9:00am-1:00pm
March 16, 2019	Highgate	Career Readiness Fair	9:00am-1:00pm
April 6, 2019	Highgate	EGG-stravaganza	9:00am-1:00pm
April 13, 2019	Strong Museum	Field Trip	TBD
May 11, 2019	Westminster	Mother's Day Brunch	9:00am-1:00pm
May 18, 2019	Highgate	Family/Friends Dance	9:00am-1:00pm
June 1, 2019	Westminster	Carnival	9:00am-1:00pm

M&T IN THE BPN COMMUNITY

We're fortunate to have had several groups from M&T Bank help spruce up our community over the last few months.

Members of M&T Bank's Management Development Program (MDP) recently prepped bulletin boards, cleaned lockers, reorganized the fitness room, and so much more at Westminster Community Charter School. Outside of the school, a group worked on the Teaching Garden and at Nazareth Baptist Church to paint hallways, bathrooms and doors. It was a wonderful day and we are so grateful for all the amazing work that they completed.

And there's more! The M&T Insurance Department worked in the Teaching Garden. The M&T Executive Associates visited the Bailey-Dartmouth Garden. The M&T Risk Management Department stopped at the Children's Academy! M&T interns from Technology ("Tech Terns") came in to take care of our beloved Teaching Garden, once again. The M&T Bank-Wide Transformation Department had a large group volunteering at multiple locations, including painting Nazareth Church, weeding Bailey-Dartmouth Garden and cleaning the Children's Academy.

We can't thank M&T Bank enough for all of their support.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS

Back to School Tips

1. Get to know your child's teachers
2. Make homework the number one priority
3. Take charge of TV and social media time
4. Keep consistent bed times
5. Make healthy snacks and meals
6. Read to your child every day
7. Set strong and reachable academic goals
8. Create a morning routine
9. Talk to your child about their day
10. Create a calendar to track your child's activities



BPN CHILDREN'S ACADEMY GRADUATION



Great news! The pre-k students at our Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Children's Academy have officially graduated and are headed off to Kindergarten.

To celebrate, they performed on the Varsity Theater stage for their families and friends, and afterwards we held a family picnic on our playground with hotdogs, face paint and plenty of photos.

Congratulations to all our graduates! They are ready to shine bright and continue on with a lifetime of learning and success.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

Lareek Livingston, a 6th grade student at Westminster Community Charter School, can tell you a thing or two about 21st century skills.

He was nominated by his science teacher Ms. Worral to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) Pathways to STEM, a five-day program where attendees program robots, train as doctors and investigate a crime, all while making new friends.

Staff from our Parent Achievement Zone (PAZ) helped his family raise more than \$2,500 to cover tuition and travel expenses, and then generously chipped in rest!

This year's Pathways to STEM was held on 10 college campuses throughout the U.S. Lareek selected Villanova University, and said his favorite part of the trip was getting to build a robot!



BPN COMMUNITY EVENTS

We had our 2nd annual Welcome Back Community Block Party on a beautiful Saturday in August at Westminster Community Charter School. The event, organized by our Community Council in conjunction with our Parent Achievement Zone (PAZ) and Community Schools, hosted more than 250 community members and their families.

Attendees enjoyed live music, squiggly art, family obstacle course, Zumba and basketball, free haircuts by 100% Cold Cuttz, and free back packs filled with school supplies, just to name a few! We thank M&T Bank, Roswell Park's National Witness Project Pilot, Daemen College and Nell Sensual for coming out and supporting this great community event.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—THE TEACHER'S DESK



We wouldn't be able to do what we do without partnerships! Here's a look at one of them.

The Teacher's Desk is the store where teachers shop free for books, school supplies and teacher resources for students in their classrooms. Its mission is to distribute free school supplies to students in need to encourage teachers and to provide purpose through volunteerism.

John Mika, Director of The Teachers Desk, states that the biggest reward is his ability to provide purpose for hundreds of weekly volunteers and knowing that together they are giving 150,000 students the tools they need to succeed throughout their educational journey.

Did you know that teachers from Buffalo Promise Neighborhood schools have been shopping at The Teacher's Desk since opening day in October 2011? The stats are astounding: 6,000 teachers shop every year for 150,000 students in need from 250 eligible schools. That's approximately \$6 million dollars per year!

If you are interested in getting involved, please visit their website www.theteachersdesk.org.



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We're on Facebook and we think you are too.

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