



### NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

Students at Westminster Community Charter School and Highgate Heights Elementary, part of the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood, took to New Era Field on Saturday, May 5, for their first official NFL FLAG football game.

The new co-ed NFL FLAG football program, made possible by the Buffalo Bills Foundation, began in both schools in 2018 for students in grades 3 to 5. The season consisted of practices held at the respective schools, culminating with the game at New Era Field.

The Highgate players were led by Highgate Physical Education Teacher and NFL FLAG Football Head Coach William O’Hare with support from Joe Olgin as Assistant Coach. The Westminster team was led by First Grade Teacher and NFL FLAG Football Head Coach Andrew Stella with assistance from Colin Shoemaker and Antoine Martin.

Players from both teams were cheered on by Buffalo Promise Neighborhood staff, Highgate and Westminster teachers, as well as their families and friends. An amazing experience for all involved!



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### ABOUT BPN

- Public/private partnership seeking to improve academic performance at the neighborhood’s three schools while revitalizing the surrounding community
- In Partnership with M&T Bank
- Non-profit organization managed by M&T Bank



**Buffalo Promise**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

**Saturday Academy at Westminster Community Charter School**  
**BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED**  
**A BIT OF THE IRISH at Saturday Academy:**  
 \* Dinner with LA Macdonald  
 \* Create a Shamrock Wreath with AmeriCorps  
 \* Farm fresh fruits and veggies  
 \* Reading Corner with Mr. Stella & "some bunny special!"  
 \* Soccer Clinic with Ms. Courtade  
 \* Create a mini book!  
 \* Virtual Tour of Ireland (Sign-up required)  
 \* Wick6 open house - take a tour of the school!  
**Free!!**

January truly came in like a lion causing the few first Saturday Academies to be postponed due to inclement weather. In February, “Princess Hoppie” the school bunny drew numerous families to Mr. Stella’s classroom where reading activities were in full swing while volunteers trained on new building security procedures.

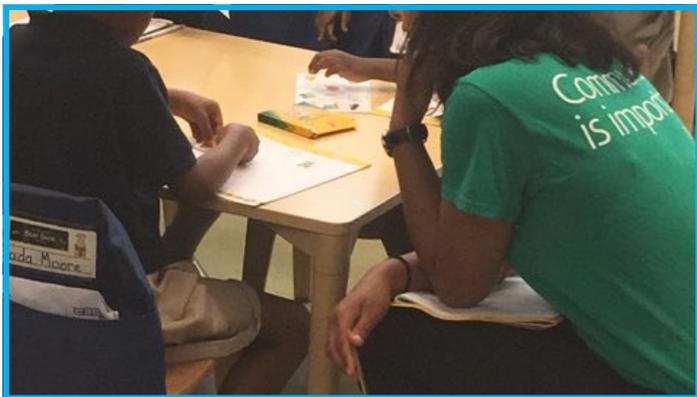
The mid-March Saturday Academy fell on St. Patrick’s Day this year. In addition to creating shamrock shaped mini books, students and families learned how to make Irish soda bread with Ms. Hidalgo, paired with a delicious recipe for fresh butter shared by Mrs. Wisner. The finished products provided more than enough to be enjoyed by everyone at lunch time! April’s Saturday Academy demonstrated how to make bird houses and fairy gardens led by BPN AmeriCorps members. Buffalo Zoo staff Q&A presentation featured a gecko, milk snake, Brazilian cockroach, and other

intriguing guests. Wegmans was on hand offering samples of Greek yogurt while representatives from SUNY Buffalo led a “Fun with Finance” activity.

The season drew to a close Mother’s Day weekend. A delicious brunch was served while families posed for professional family portraits; students created homemade Mother’s Day cards and purchased donated items with proceeds to support the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip.

**Highgate Heights Elementary**  
**SATURDAY ACADEMY** MAY 12th  
 Face Painting with Squid  
 make a mug!  
 Zumba  
 Great Leafy Mini Book  
 Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breakfast begins at 9:00am  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch: 11:30am  
 Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Buffalo Zoo, AmeriCorps, SUNY Buffalo, ONE ON ONE

## M&T IN THE BPN COMMUNITY



Each year, M&T Bank's Management Development Program takes part in a Leadership Project as part of their graduation from the program.

This year, with the help of BPN’s partners at Junior Achievement of WNY, the MDP participants were able to teach the Junior Achievement curriculum to students at Westminster Community Charter School and Highgate Heights Elementary.

The curriculum is designed to teach students about financial literacy, learning everything from how to establish the difference between a want and a need, to why it’s important to know how to balance a check book. It’s hard to tell who had more fun, the students or the volunteers! Thank you to everyone that participated in the training sessions and a big thanks to our partners at Junior Achievement!

M&T employees from Western New York celebrated a Day of Service in Buffalo Promise Neighborhood to honor our late Chairman and CEO Bob Wilmers.

Mr. Wilmers firmly believed it was our responsibility to constantly strengthen the communities we serve, and this is one way we’re honoring his legacy.

Employees worked at the Bailey Dartmouth community garden, Westminster and the Children’s Academy—thanks for making us look so good!



## FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES



To ensure your children don't forget all of the amazing things they learned during the school year be sure they read something every day during the summer months. Have your little ones read aloud to keep them in practice and a trip to your public library is always a great

way to spend a rainy summer day!

Take "virtual" field trips at [www.discoveryeducation.com/Events/virtual-field-trips](http://www.discoveryeducation.com/Events/virtual-field-trips) where you can meet the animals that call the North Pole home, see the stars through the Discovery Channel telescope, explore the science behind your food or scale Mt. Kilimanjaro...the possibilities are endless!!

Enjoy your summer vacation!!

## CHILDREN'S ACADEMY UPK FIELD TRIP



On a drizzly day in April Pre-K students at BPN Children's Academy by EduKids visited Kelkenberg Farms in Clarence Center, New York to meet some brand new baby animals.

They held a two-week old bunny, got to pet a five-day old calf, rode a pony, took a hayride, and milked a goat!

Exploring a farm to see where some of our favorite foods are grown and getting up close and personal with some friendly animals was a great learning experience for all. Just look at those smiling faces!



## LIONS SEE PROGRAM

Since 2004, the Lions Clubs of New York have been participating in a special program to screen children for vision problems that could potentially result in permanent vision loss if not treated early.

Kindergarten and first-grade students at Westminster Community Charter School and Pre-K students at the Children's Academy received eye screenings this year.

According to education experts 80% of a child's learning is visual. If your child can't see well, he or she can't learn well. Early detection is vital so please take advantage of these free on-site vision screenings when they are offered!





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Only have a Twitter? Not a problem! We're there too!

Follow us @**BuffaloPN**



Don't have either? Find us on LinkedIn! **Buffalo Promise Neighborhood**



**Buffalo Promise**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

## FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Buffalo Promise Neighborhood in partnership with the African Heritage Food Co-op will continue to sell farm fresh seasonal fruits & vegetables in 2018. A full box is \$30 and a half box is \$15. If you are interested in hearing more please contact Beverly David-Lewis at (716) 536-9395.



Interested in becoming a African Heritage Co-op member? Price of membership is \$50 per year. Benefits include discounts, fiscal perks, voting rights and committee/board participation.

Visit African Heritage Food Co-op at [myahfc.com](http://myahfc.com) for more details.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—INDEPENDENT HEALTH



We recently spoke with Carrie Meyer, Executive Director for the Independent Health Foundation. She stressed the main focus of the Independent Health Foundation is the development and creation of health and wellness programs to impacted communities. Their existing partnerships are community focused through collaboration and partnership with like-minded organizations with particular focus on at risk,

underserved populations.

Independent Health Foundation believes a healthy community benefits everyone who lives in it. They focus on providing the Western New York community with the support and resources people can use to lead healthy lifestyles – today and in the future. In addition to their signature programs and events, the Foundation provides additional opportunities to learn more about your health through a variety of free events, such as colon cancer screenings, diabetes education classes and mammography screenings.

The Foundation began working with Buffalo Promise Neighborhood about 6 years ago, and has been proudly hosting quarterly Good for the Neighborhood events at our Westminster Community Charter School. These events feature free health screenings such as blood pressure, cholesterol testing, blood sugars and BMI. You can also speak with an on-site medical expert, view food prep demos and there are always fun activities for kids.

When asked what she is most proud of Carrie stated “Decades ago we were asked to assist restaurants that participate in Taste of Buffalo come up with a healthy food option. We helped restaurants take existing recipes and put them through a thorough nutritional analysis. This was ground breaking for the annual food festival and now every restaurant that participates must have a healthy option. As it turns out, those choices are usually their best sellers!”

Finally, Carrie states that the best part of her day-to-day is the ability to give back and help others. She enjoys getting out in the communities the Foundation serves, meeting people where they live and above all listening to what they need and how she can best support those requests.

Buffalo Promise Neighborhood is proud to call the Independent Health Foundation one of our community partners!