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January 19, 2020

This Week at BFS Week 1

Mon Jan 20 SCHOOL CLOSED Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**Mon Jan 21** Re-enrollment for 2020-21 begins through My BackPack**Sat Jan 25** 10am to 1pm. Horizons Saturday Event. All are invited.

Honoring Dr. King



"I HAVE A DREAM . . ."

(Copyright 1963, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Speech by the Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING
At the "March on Washington"

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago a great American in whose symbolic shadow we stand today signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree is a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But 100 years later the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later the life of the Negro is still badly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land. So we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

New Generations Engage in the Teachings of Dr. King

The commemoration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at BFS is always a special time. Traditionally for the past eight years (or several more!), Preschool children hold a march and have a "sit in" in the lobby to honor Dr. King and listen to parts of his "I Have A Dream" speech. They did just that on Friday morning – and more – singing "Happy Birthday" and "This Little Light of Mine," while holding their hand-crafted candles and posters reflecting their own dreams for a fair, kind and peaceful world.

Meanwhile in the upper gym, the Lower School held their annual Dr. King Assembly. This annual tradition honors Dr. King as well as the Change Makers of our past, present, and future. Also acknowledged was the obligation of all present to build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world. The children sang many songs together, including "We Shall Overcome" "Woke Up This Morning" and "We Are a Gentle, Angry People." As part of the program, each classroom invited a special guest – someone they considered to be a Change Maker – to join the gathering in spirit. [See the list of Change Makers HERE.](#)

This week during their advisory periods, Middle School students will learn more about Dr. King and the civil rights movement. [See an outline of the discussion HERE.](#) They will discuss how the themes of freedom and justice connect to their lives, asking themselves:

- What kind of person do I want to be? In the world? In school? In my home?
- What do I think Dr King's idea of freedom and justice might look like?
- What actions can I take to help realize this dream?

Also, eighth grade students were inspired by Dr. King as a man of action (as well as words) to research and share volunteer service opportunities for them to pursue.

Read a copy of the Dr. King "I Have a Dream. . ." speech from the National Archives [HERE.](#)

What Are *Your* Dreams for BFS as We Enter a New Decade?

For our schoolwide **MLK Simple and Powerful** tribute the Office of Equity and Inclusion has launched a project similar to last year's #IHAVEADREAM campaign. While last year's programs focused on our students' aspirations, this year, the adults in the school community are invited to share their thoughts about their dreams for BFS as we enter a new decade.

[**PLEASE GO HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.**](#)

Because we wish to provide the opportunity for as many people as possible to participate, the deadline for responses will be Friday, February 7, 2020.





The Bee-Bots of Friendsville

Technology meets neighborhood study in the first grade when students learn programming skills for a "Be Bot" robot. This edition of THE LIFE, narrated and with interviews by Upper School student Nina H, explores how students use math and computer skills, partner work, goal setting, their imaginations and creativity to accomplish an important task.

[Season 4 Episode 8 Friendsville](#)

Reenrollment Begins Jan. 21 with Contracts to be Returned by Jan. 28

Re-enrollment contracts are contingent upon good academic standing and fulfillment of financial obligations with the school as of January 2020. The re-enrollment process begins on **Jan. 21, 2020** and returned contracts with the required and non-refundable deposit are due back by 4pm on **Jan. 28, 2020**.

If there is a possibility that your child will not attend BFS for the 2020-2021 academic year for any reason, including a possible move, a new job or change in schools, or if you have any other questions, please contact the **Division Head** and **Enrollment Office** prior to signing the contract and submitting the deposit and before the January 28 deadline.

Advancement Report



Thank you to friends, families, alumni, and colleagues who contribute every day to make our community thrive. Together, we have raised over **\$750,000** for Brooklyn Friends School. Additional programming and school enhancements are made possible by the generosity of every community member.

If you haven't made your voluntary, tax-deductible donation to the Brooklyn Friends Fund, now is the time! BFS participation rate is historically among the highest in NYC independent schools - help us continue this tradition and make your gift today at brooklynfriends.com/donate.

Double your impact by applying for a matching gift from your respective companies!

Make a Gift



Help Promote the Lower School's Horizons Reading Challenge!

Parent volunteers are needed to help with our sign up tables for the Horizons Reading Challenge. Time slots are 8am - 8:30am and 2:30-3:30 pm on January 22, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 29. Any period of time you can give is needed and appreciated. To volunteer, please e-mail [Aubrie Therrien](mailto:Aubrie.Therrien@brooklynfriends.org), Horizons Executive Director. *As a thank you, Horizons would like to offer all parents who volunteer tickets to the Celebrate Horizons gala at City Vineyard on March 11, 2020.*



Afterschool Updates

- The last day to make schedule changes is Monday, Jan 27. After this date there will be no refunds or credits given.
- There are spots open in Middleschool Homework Clinics- email oroberts@brooklynfriends.org if you are interested.
- Drop-in charges for December will be billed by end of January. Look in your My Backpack account for those charges.
- If your child attends an outside program at the end of the day, please communicate directly with that program regarding pick up and drop off information/issues. The BFS Afterschool office does not coordinate those schedules.

HORIZONS SATURDAY



SIP & PAINT • SERVICE • SNAP

Join us on January 25, 10am to 1pm, for Horizons Saturday

BFS students and families are invited to join Horizons at BFS students and families for several fun activities that will take place at 375 Pearl Street.

- **Sip and Paint:** Lower school students will make hot chocolate and art, plus make customized smocks and mugs to take home
- **Service:** Older students and parents can participate in a clothing drive for MONET's Closet and learn about Horizons. Monet's Closet donates gently worn suits, dresses and accessories to students in need for their proms and graduations. **Tiayana Logan**, founder of the organization, will be speaking with families about service.
- **Snap:** Our amazing photographer at LeVue, **Gabriel Johnson**, has generously offered to do a **free family photo session** with all families! Each signed up family will receive 10 -15 min sessions and a free 8X10 digital print. Sessions will take place in Brooklyn Friends School in Conference Room. Dress up if you'd like! (There will also be digital and print packages available for purchase) First Come First serve as slots are limited!

ALL AGES WELCOME to participate. Brunch will be provided.

[Sign up HERE](#)

ARE YOU READY TO READ?

Sign-up for the Horizons Reading Challenge is happening NOW! Join us as we read for Horizons and support important educational programs for students in need.

[You can sign up online HERE](#) or in the lobby on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th at 8am and 2:30pm!

Catch your BFS and Horizons Students supporting the Reading Challenge in our video [HERE](#).

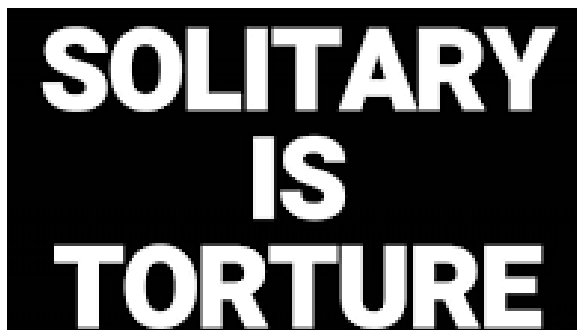
Also some exciting news! [Stories](#), our local Bookshop, has agreed to generously donate 10% of every book purchased in honor of The Reading Challenge to Horizons! Simply show them your pledge page on your phone and say you are reading for Horizons!

We still need lower school parents to volunteer for our sign up table - please email Aubrie at atherrien@brooklynfriends.org to sign up!

Service Learning and Civic Engagement



Members of the BFS community are planning to organize a coordinated, all-school response to the earthquakes in **Puerto Rico** and the bushfires in Australia, as we have done in the past to help those recover from devastating natural disasters. If you have information and resources to help BFS's all-school community response, please reach out to Natania Kremer as well: [E-Mail](#); phone [718-852-1029 ext. 511](tel:718-852-1029)



On Tuesday, January 21, a group of 8th grade students, accompanied by BFS colleagues Tian Yi and Kevin Cooney, will travel to Albany for the HALT Solitary Advocacy Day. The students will be on the front lines to support passage of the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act. Advocacy for change in prisons and criminal justice is a long term interest among many in the Middle and Upper School.



A Winning Week for the Panthers

- Girls Varsity Basketball defeated Bay Ridge Prep 58-7 and lost to Trevor 47-25 and Grace 64-20
- Boys Varsity Basketball Leman Prep 85-65, Lycee Francais De New York 73-45 and Bay Ridge Prep 84-52
- Boys JV Basketball defeated York Prep 55-29, Bay Ridge Prep 65-42 and Leman 69-60
- MS Girls Basketball defeated Saint Ann's 37-29
- MS Boys Basketball defeated Saint Ann's 51-38
- US Boys & Girls Varsity Squash participated in a Match against Grace
- MS Boys & Girls Swim participated in a Meet

Read game highlights [here](#) and follow all the action at bfsathletics.org

All winter athletic games, home and away, are now on the [BFS website calendar](#).

- For detailed schedules of all team practices and games [Click Here](#).
- For the BFS Athletics Resource Site [Click Here](#)
- For Weekly Game Highlights [Click Here](#)



A Fashionable Fundraiser

The Prom Committee is selling BFS long-sleeved T-shirts, designed by BFS senior students, to raise money for prom. There are all sizes available for children and adults. Shirts can be purchased for \$30 each in room 308 at Lawrence and at Pearl Street when other spirit wear is being sold. Please consider supporting the seniors while getting cool SWAG at the same time!



Guided by the Quaker belief that there is a Divine Light in everyone, Brooklyn Friends School cultivates an intellectually ambitious and diverse community that celebrates each individual's gifts. We challenge our students to value and embrace difference as they develop critical thinking skills and apply their knowledge and intelligence both in and out of the classroom. In this rich learning environment, we inspire all members of our community to voice their convictions, to discover and pursue their passions, and to seek truth. Our graduates are compassionate, curious, and confident global citizens who let their lives speak in the spirit of leadership and service.

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