

## 2019-20 Parent Newsletter #6

**“Time is an illusion.”**

— **ALBERT EINSTEIN**

This week on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will all be experiencing a loss of one hour in our day because of daylight saving time. The following article highlights some things about this event that many people might not know. Do you?

**Springing forward and falling back may seem simple enough, but daylight saving's history has actually been quite complex—and misconceptions about it persist today. As you prepare to reset your watches, alarms and microwaves, explore eight facts about daylight saving time that might surprise you.**



### 1. It's "daylight saving time," not "daylight savings time."

Many people render the term's second word in its plural form. However, since the word "saving" acts as part of an adjective rather than a verb, the singular is grammatically correct.

### 2. Though in favor of maximizing daylight waking hours, Benjamin Franklin did not originate the idea of moving clocks forward.

By the time he was a 78-year-old American envoy in Paris in 1784, the man who espoused the virtues of "early to bed and early to rise" was not practicing what he preached. After being unpleasantly stirred from sleep at 6 a.m. by the summer sun, the founding father penned a satirical essay in which he calculated that Parisians, simply by waking up at dawn, could save the modern-day equivalent of \$200 million through "the economy of using sunshine instead of candles." As a result of this essay, Franklin is often erroneously given the honor of "inventing" daylight saving time, but he only proposed a change in sleep schedules—not the time itself.

### 3. Englishman William Willett led the first campaign to implement daylight saving time.

While on an early-morning horseback ride around the desolate outskirts of London in 1905, Willett had an epiphany that the United Kingdom should move its clocks forward by 80 minutes between April and October so that more people could enjoy the plentiful sunlight. The Englishman published the 1907 brochure "The Waste of Daylight" and spent much of his personal fortune evangelizing with missionary zeal for the adoption of "summer time." Year after year, however, the British Parliament stymied the measure, and Willett died in 1915 at age 58 without ever seeing his idea come to fruition.



#### **4. Germany was the first country to enact daylight saving time.**

It took World War I for Willett's dream to come true, but on April 30, 1916, Germany embraced daylight saving time to conserve electricity. (He may have been horrified to learn that Britain's wartime enemy followed his recommendations before his homeland.) Weeks later, the United Kingdom followed suit and introduced "summer time."



#### **5. Daylight saving time in the United States was not intended to benefit farmers, as many people think.**

Contrary to popular belief, American farmers did not lobby for daylight saving to have more time to work in the fields; in fact, the agriculture industry was deeply opposed to the time switch when it was first implemented on March 31, 1918, as a wartime measure. The sun, not the clock, dictated farmers' schedules, so daylight saving was very disruptive. Farmers had to wait an extra hour for dew to evaporate to harvest hay, hired hands worked less since they still left at the same time for dinner and cows weren't ready to be milked an hour earlier to meet shipping schedules. Agrarian interests led the fight for the 1919 repeal of national daylight saving time, which passed after Congress voted to override President Woodrow Wilson's veto. Rather than rural interests, it has been urban entities such as retail outlets and recreational businesses that have championed daylight saving over the decades.

#### **6. For decades, daylight saving in the United States was a confounding patchwork of local practices.**

After the national repeal in 1919, some states and cities, including New York City and Chicago, continued to shift their clocks. National daylight saving time returned during World War II, but after its repeal three weeks after war's end the confusing hodgepodge resumed. States and localities could start and end daylight saving whenever they pleased, a system that Time magazine (an aptly named source) described in 1963 as "a chaos of clocks." In 1965 there were 23 different pairs of start and end dates in Iowa alone, and St. Paul, Minnesota, even began daylight saving two weeks before its twin city, Minneapolis. Passengers on a 35-mile bus ride from Steubenville,

Ohio, to Moundsville, West Virginia, passed through seven time changes. Order finally came in 1966 with the enactment of the Uniform Time Act, which standardized daylight saving time from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, although states had the option of remaining on standard time year-round.

### **7. Not everyone in the United States springs forward and falls back.**

Hawaii and Arizona—with the exception of the state's Navajo Nation—do not observe daylight saving time, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands also remain on standard time year-round. Some Amish communities also choose not to participate in daylight saving time. (Around the world, only about one-quarter of the world's population, in approximately 70 countries, observe daylight saving. Since their daylight hours don't vary much from season to season, countries closer to the equator have little need to deviate from standard time.)

### **8. Evidence does not conclusively point to energy conservation as a result of daylight saving.**

Dating back to Willett, daylight saving advocates have touted energy conservation as an economic benefit. A U.S. Department of Transportation study in the 1970s concluded that total electricity savings associated with daylight saving time amounted to about 1 percent in the spring and fall months. As air conditioning has become more widespread, however, more recent studies have found that cost savings on lighting are more than offset by greater cooling expenses. University of California Santa Barbara economists calculated that Indiana's move to statewide daylight saving time in 2006 led to a 1-percent rise in residential electricity use through additional demand for air conditioning on summer evenings and heating in early spring and late fall mornings. Some also argue that increased recreational activity during daylight saving results in greater gasoline consumption.

Source: History.com

# PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the  
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## Announcements

- Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm and on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.
- The following is the schedule for AP exams:



<b>Wednesday, May 6, 2020</b>		<b>English Literature and Composition (8 am)</b>
<b>Thursday, May 7, 2020</b>		<b>Spanish Literature and Culture (8 am)</b>
<b>Friday, May 8, 2020</b>	<b>United States History (8 am)</b>	<b>Computer Science A (12 pm)</b>
<b>Monday, May 11, 2020</b>		<b>Environmental Science (12 pm)</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 12, 2020</b>	<b>Spanish Language and Culture (8 am)</b>	<b>Psychology (12 pm)</b>



- Parent environmental surveys will be backpacked with students. Please complete these and have them return them to Ms. Bernabel (Parent Coordinator) upon entry. The 8<sup>th</sup> period class with the most returned surveys will receive a pizza party.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> marking period ends on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be handed out during parent teacher conferences as well as mailed out on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- We would like to thank parents for their support. As a result of our partnership we have improved attendance in our school from 74.5% last year to 81% this year. Additionally, we improved our College and Career Readiness Rate by 8% due to the January Regents exams. We also have more students than ever before on track to pass the required 10 courses during the school year in order to promote from one grade to the next.
- In light of the Coronavirus spread in many parts of the world and here in the U.S. our custodians have been diligent in disinfecting many parts of the building on a regular basis.
- Please stay tuned for information regarding our National Honor Society induction ceremony.



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Oxiris Barbot, MD  
*Commissioner*

February 26, 2020

Dear Families,

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discussed possible options for what could happen if there is local person-to-person transmission of the novel coronavirus in the United States, including recommendations for school systems to consider.

At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Currently there are no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in New York City and the risk to New Yorkers remains low.

However, transmission of the virus in other countries has raised our level of concern, and we are preparing for the possibility of person-to-person transmission in New York City. The measures that are put in place should local person-to-person transmissions begin will depend on the number of individuals affected and the general severity of illness we experience in our city. The NYC Health Department is vigilantly preparing for all possible scenarios, and we will continue to monitor and communicate about any possible impact to our school communities.

There are no plans to close schools at this time. This is an extreme measure that can be disruptive to day-to-day life, and the decision to implement will be at the direction of public health experts.

All New Yorkers should continue to practice general flu prevention measures including:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Get your flu shot – it's never too late
- Stay home if you're feeling sick. Call your doctor and let them know your symptoms and travel history.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions sheet](#) attached to this letter for more information, or visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) at any time for important updates.

We will continue to clearly communicate with our school communities about our ongoing efforts regarding the coronavirus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oxiris Barbot MD".

Oxiris Barbot, MD  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene



A message from Ms. DeGregorio:

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, JKO was able to be a part of history by attending the first Broadway play to ever be performed at Madison Square Garden - "To Kill a Mockingbird." The experience was tremendous! There were 18,000 students from public schools across the 5 boroughs. Mayor DeBlasio and his wife were there along with Spike Lee to introduce the play. The waves of emotions in the play were amplified by the roars of the young people in the crowd. There's nothing like seeing a racist get what he deserves accompanied by the cheers of 18,000 - wow!

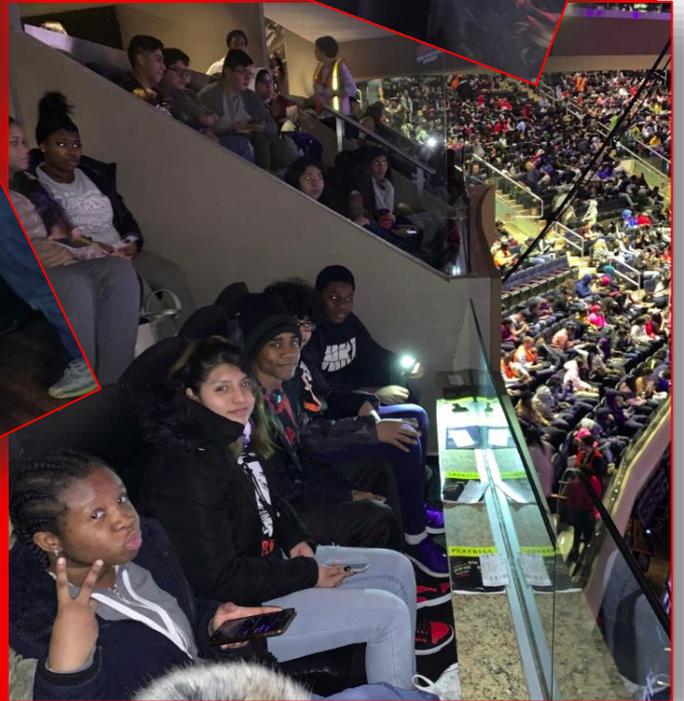
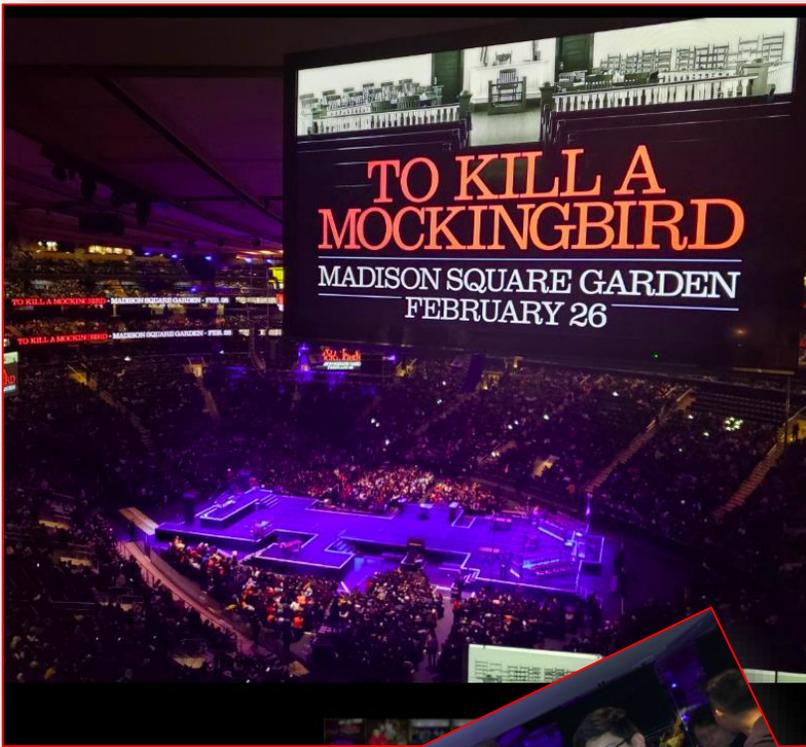
JKO was sitting in the private corporate suites! It was just incredible! We went from being put on stand by the morning of Friday February 14<sup>th</sup>, to me being notified at 5:30PM that same day, as we were on break, that we got tickets. Thanks to Mr. Vincent and Ms. Wicks we were able to put a plan in place for when we returned from break Monday.

Teamwork makes the Dream Work! A BIG thank you to Ms. Wicks and Ms. Kadison for helping to organize the trip! Ms. Okwabi for helping with permission slips and for being a chaperone. Our wonderful chaperones Ms. Nieves, Ms. Denisi and Mr. Vincent! Mr. Williams for picking up the tickets for us! Mr. Urena for saying yes and making this possible!

Ms. Acosta for helping with transportation passes and announcements! Ms. Bernabel for helping with permission slips! And of course all of you for signing the slips and being so understanding of the opportunity for our students! For a lot of them, it was their first time at Madison Square Garden.

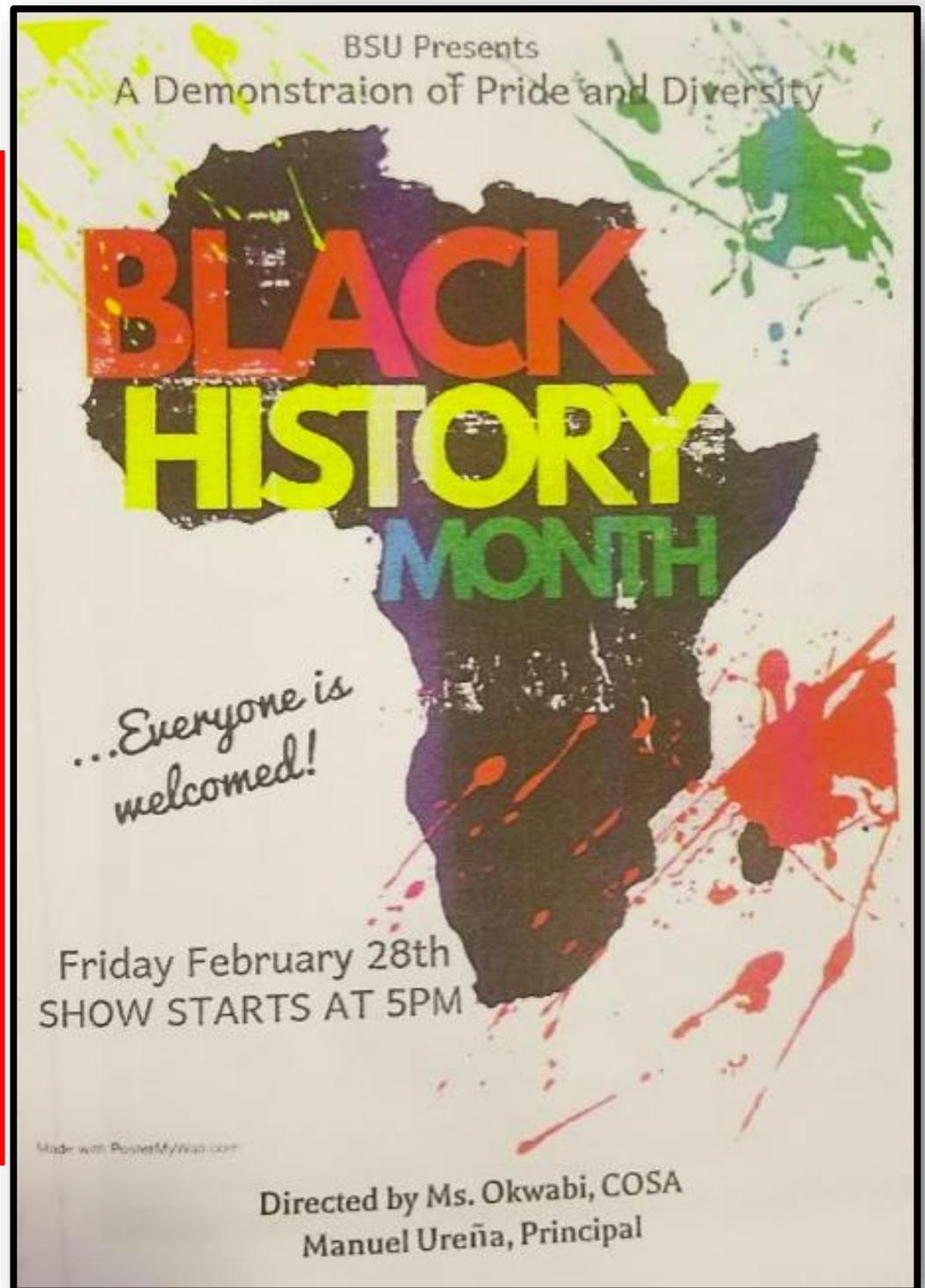
It was just beautiful and even more so because of how many people worked together to make it happen for our students. (See pictures below)

Thank you!





On February 28<sup>th</sup>, BSU presented JKO's Black History Month Show. It was an AMAZING display of talent!!! Congratulations to all performers and a big thank you to Ms. Okwabi for facilitating this event. See pictures below.





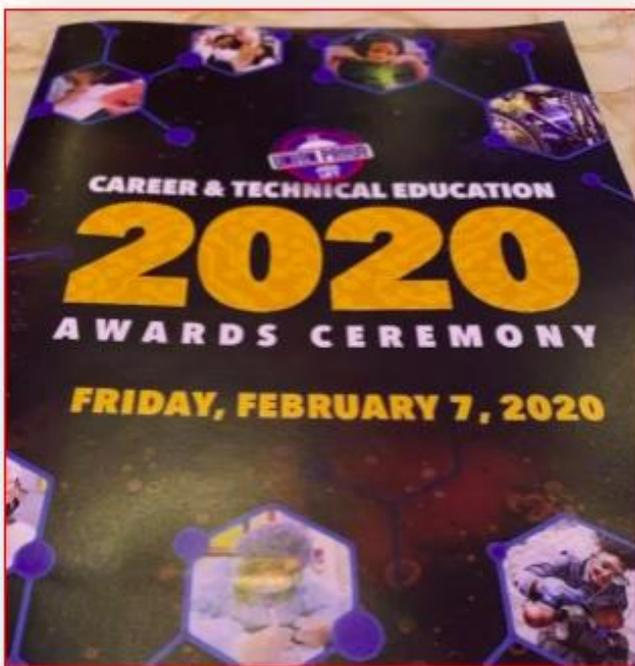


CELEBRATE  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
FEBRUARY

The banner features a background with a rainbow color gradient (green, yellow, red) and a repeating chevron pattern. On the right side, there are three circular portraits of historical figures: a man in a baseball uniform, a man's face, and a woman with glasses.

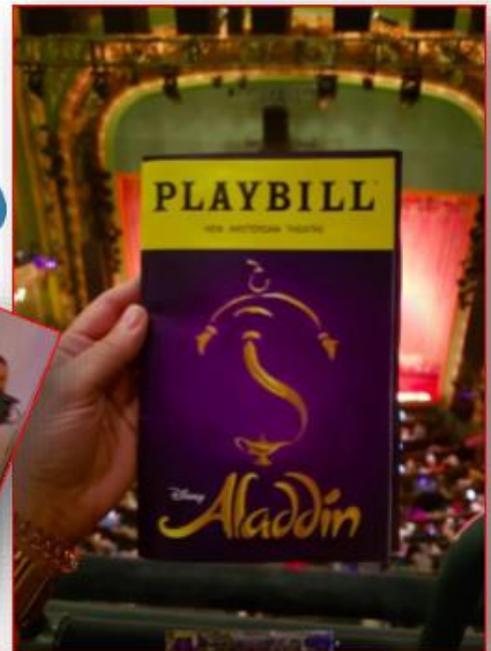


On February 7, Ms. McMahon was honored at the JFT headquarters for being an **OUTSTANDING CTE EDUCATOR**. Congratulations Ms. McMahon!!! Below are some pictures of the event:





On February 6<sup>th</sup>, many of our students attended the Broadway show Aladdin. It was quite magical!!!





On February 11<sup>th</sup> many of our students attended a Career Discovery Week trip to Marsh & McLennan Companies as part the collaboration of the Partnership for NYC and the DOE in highlighting Career Exploration Month. Thank you Ms. Milan for spearheading this trip!!!





More highlights from Career Discovery Week!!! Our students also visited the Travelers Insurance Co. Again, thank you Ms. Milan for spearheading this!!!





# GOODWIN PROCTER

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, we kicked off our mentoring program with Goodwin Procter. This is an amazing opportunity for our students. Thank you **AGAIN** to Ms. Milan for spearheading this. You are **AMAZING!!!**





On Wednesday, February 12, the Smash Arts club and BSA held their annual Love Lane dinner fundraiser. It was a loving success!!! See pictures below.















