



# alighieri ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A Note from Principal Jess

March 1, 2022

Dear Alighieri Families,



Welcome back! I hope you all had safe and joyful February vacations. Thank you for supporting our Student Council's Friendship Week before the break. It was an inspiring week - from witnessing the joy our oldest learners brought to our youngest ones during "Make A New Friend At Lunch" Day, to the incredible thoughtfulness and compassion that went into students' kindness letters to one another and to staff. As I've watched the devastating news out of the Ukraine, I have been reflecting on Maria Montessori's quote that "Education is the best weapon for peace." I believe that through our shared work, Alighieri students will truly be peacemakers and problem solvers, helping to shape a kinder, more peaceful world.

Below are several updates for the month ahead. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. And as always, thank you for your partnership.

Have a wonderful month!

Principal Jess

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## Important Dates



### School Site Council

Monday, March 7 @ 7pm  
[\[Zoom Link\]](#)

### Community Meeting [ERT]

Wednesday  
March 16 @ 6pm  
[\[Zoom Link\]](#)

### School Parent Council

Thursday March 24 @  
6pm  
[\[Zoom Link\]](#)

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## ALIGHIERI + BPS updates

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### Alighieri Accolades for Students and Families

Alighieri Accolades go out to:

- Thank you to families who helped your students participate in Friendship Week. We loved seeing so many students in red or pink, in pajamas, twinning with a friend, and writing kindness letters. And thank you for the cards and treats you sent in for staff! We appreciate them!
- Ms. Mary shouts out Marcelo, Simon, Sebastian and Lael: Thank you for your beautiful and thoughtful letters! It was an honor to be your Children's House guide. I know you are thriving and I am so proud of all of you!
- Thank you for sending your children to school with warm, weather-resistant clothing so that we can continue to have outdoor recess despite the snow [temperature permitting!]
- Thank you to parents who have been coming out for our SSC, SPC and Community Meetings. We appreciate your time and insight!



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## Monthly Newsletters by Class!

Our goal at the Alighieri is to communicate clearly and consistently with families so that you can be informed collaborators. Each month, your child's teachers will share highlights from their past month of teaching and learning and their goals for the month ahead. They will also share important reminders and suggestions for extending learning at home. Check out [this folder](#) to view a digital copy of December's classroom newsletters!



**5th and 6th Year Literacy**

★ September Recap

<b>LEARNING DATES</b> Back to School Event Thursday, October 7, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	<b>REMARKS</b> *Students will complete a Thinking Notes homework assignment each week in addition to reading chapters or related articles. *Thinking Notes and assigned chapters will be sent home on Tuesdays and due on Fridays.
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**SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT AT HOME**  
Monday night students do not have assigned chapters to read, please use this  
time to encourage your child to read for pleasure. If your child is interested in  
the topics we are exploring in class, attached is a list of related recommended  
independent reading books. These can be found at your local library.

**STUDENTS**  
Students have begun reading our core text, *Sensitids*. They  
have explored what it means to be part of a community and  
how the actions of one person can positively impact an  
entire community. Students have grappled with how being  
part of a community can help a person change and evolve as  
they discover new things about themselves. The structure  
of this text allows for students to begin exploring the key  
5th/6th grade standards, comparing and contrasting two  
or more characters and describing how a character's or  
speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Connect With Us Through Talking Sheets, via Email, or Phone: 360-488-0000 or 360-488-0001

## Peacemakers and Problem-Solvers

**Peacemakers and Problem Solvers**

All students and homeroom teachers will engage in a read aloud and discussion surrounding peacemakers and problem solvers. All books can be shared with families to extend the conversation from school to home. Book selection will align with our Montessori virtue study. Please enjoy this week's selection with your children.

**Virtue: Individualism**  
**Title:** *Alma* by Juana Martinez Neel

**Peace Vocabulary from the Text:**  
poetry, sailor, plazas, ancestors' heritage

**Special THANK YOU to Isabella Restrepo Castrillon, our Alighieri community guest reader!**

**Questions to consider:** This year we will learn the names of many different peacemakers and problem solvers as our whole school comes together as one to enjoy one book each week, just like we did last year! As we begin this year's study, we introduce you to Alma and invite you to think about what makes you unique and special. Here are some questions to consider about Alma (and yourself) as you read: What does Alma mean about her name not fitting? How does she feel about her name in the beginning? How does she feel once she learns about her name? How do you think Alma's classmates would feel if they knew the history of her name? What is your name? What is the story behind your name? What story do you hope it will one day tell?

Thank you to those who gave feedback on our Peacemakers and Problem Solvers program at last month's SPC meeting. If you haven't gotten a chance to make some text suggestions, or volunteer to be a guest reader, please take a moment to complete [this form!](#)

## Social Emotional Learning @ the Alighieri

### Introducing "Second Step"!

With the support of our Wellness Committee, the Alighieri is adopting a new Social Emotional Learning curriculum called Second Step, since our Open Circle Curriculum has been discontinued. Second Step lessons begin this week! Our March lessons will give explicit instruction to students on Skills for Learning [Learning to Listen, Focusing Attention, Following Directions, etc.]. Here are letter to Families explaining more about the program and how you can sign on. [\[Children's House/ Lower EI/ Upper EI\]](#)



## Changes to BPS COVID-19 Protocols

Please note that BPS has made several changes to their COVID19 - protocols. Among the major changes include opportunities for students to test twice weekly [through an at-home test and weekly pool testing] and the end to the "Test and Stay" program. Please see these letters in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for more details, or to attend a community meeting.

## Attendance Matters @ the Alighieri!

Please note that attendance for travel-related reasons are considered "unexcused." Each day a student is absent results in nearly 6 hours of lost instructional time [a missed week is 30 hours, 2 weeks is 60, etc.] Often

times, when students return, they struggle to adapt to classroom routines or to get caught up on missed work. In addition, excessive unexcused absences may be cause for a court filing for truancy. While we appreciate that there are several reasons families may wish to travel during non-vacation times, we want to impress upon you just how important their attendance in school is, and to try to plan your trips accordingly. Please see the [BPS Attendance Circular](#) for more details, and feel free to reach with questions or concerns.

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## March Family Wellness Calendar with Ms. Wanny!

February Act's of Kindness 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Thank a teacher	2 Write a poem for a friend at school	3 Smile	4 Give someone a compliment	5 Do a chore without being asked
6 Share your toys	7 Recycle	8 Give your pet a tasty snack	9 Help cook dinner	10 Give a friend some encouragement	11 Give a hug	12 Do something kind to yourself
13 Donate old books	14 Tell someone special you love them	15 Compliment the last person you see today	16 Tell a joke	17 Open many doors for the person behind you	18 Thank someone special in your life	19 Bake someone a dessert

Thank you to all who joined in for February Acts of Kindness! This month's Family Wellness Calendar aligns with our monthly Second Step lessons. We hope you'll join us in fun activities at home - and send us in photos for Good News!

[March Calendar!](#)

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## Nurse Patsy's Corner

**Winter Illness Letter.** Please see this winter illness letter from BPS [English/ Spanish] to help keep your child and our community safe this season.

**Free Dental Care from Smile Dental:** Do you want your child to receive a **free** dental appointment at the Alighieri? Smile Dentistry would like to come to the Alighieri in March, but we still need a few more families to fill out permission slips [\[English/ Spanish\]](#) in order for them to come. Please reach out to [Nurse Patsy](#) for more information!



### Keep in mind:

- \* Services offered include: cleaning, screening, fluoride, sealants, x-rays and basic restorative procedures if needed
  - \* All children are eligible (12 months -18 yrs old)
  - \* No charge to your School or District
  - \* Our Community Dental Care Coordinators will contact the guardians of patients with emergent and urgent needs and refer them to dental providers in our network
  - \* Child is followed up on throughout their PreK-12 schooling
  - \* Our paperwork satisfies the state mandate for dental exams
- <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/dentists-turn-children-16206596>
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## NAEP Assessment for 4th Graders

This year, the Alighieri has been selected to participate in the annual NAEP exam, given to 4th and 8th graders across the country each year to measure our





country's educational progress. The assessment will take place on 3/7/2022 in the morning. Please see [the attached notification](#) letter to parents with more information.

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## Spring 2022 MCAS Study Group



Attention 5th and 6th graders! Ms. Scheid [and some surprise guests] will be running a 4 week MCAS prep tutoring program - Wednesdays after school from 2:15 - 3:00. Please complete [this form](#) if you are interested!

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## Good News Videos from February!

Did you miss our Good News Videos? Check Them out! Check them out on [our unlisted Youtube channel!](#)



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## School Site Council Meetings

All Alighieri School Site Council Meetings are open to the public, although only elected members have voting power.

Here is [our rolling agenda](#), and the [presentation from our last meeting](#). Our next meeting will take place on Monday 3/7 @ 7pm.



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## Community Meeting/ Equity Round Table

Our last community meeting was combined with February's SPC meeting and we discussed our SEL Plan and Second Step SEL curriculum. [See

presentation ].

Our next community meeting will take place on Wednesday, 3/16 @ 6pm [[Zoom Link](#)], where we will be discussing \_\_\_\_\_



## Community Meeting

SY 2021-2022  
The year behind and the year ahead  
[SBERT]  
September 17, 2021

## Cafeteria/ Food Updates

Please remember that we are a nut-free school, due some severe student allergies. Please do not send products with peanuts or tree nuts into school with your child.

Check out the "My Way Cafe" [Menu for March!](#)

Also, please note that per BPS policy, there is a charge if your child would like a second breakfast or lunch. While the first meal is free, the second breakfast costs \$2 and the second lunch costs \$3.

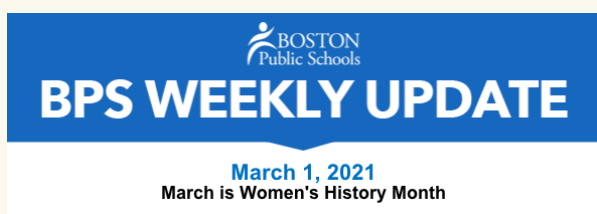


## Operational Guidance for Families



- Our School Day begins at 7:30, and drop-off begins at 7:20. Thank you for bringing your children on-time! We know that mornings can be challenging.
- Families are not allowed to enter school buildings, due to new COVID protocols.
- All staff and family members should remain masked at drop-off and pick-up, per the Superintendent's letter to families on 9/30/21.
- Please do not double park at dismissal or block the bus parking spaces. We appreciate your patience with the limited parking availability and your collaboration to keep the street clear.

## BPS Weekly Updates for Families



### Stay Up to Date with BPS Programs for Families

BPS updates families with a weekly newsletter. Click [here](#) for important information about BPS specific programming.



## Dante Alighieri Montessori School

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**Contact Us  
Today!**

