

BKS' Monthly Newsletter Lesson Plans



June 2020

Hello!

I hope that this message finds you and your families healthy and safe. This has been a time of tremendous transition and change. I want to thank you for your steadfast support of BKS and our students, and their families.

Covid-19 has turned our way of life upside down, forced us to revamp our teaching, learning, and working. It has allowed us to find different ways of connecting: via phone, FaceTime, Hangouts, Zoom, the list goes on. One of the ways we are responding to this crisis is to be more communicative with our friends and supporters. Because of this, we are introducing a new monthly newsletter called, *Lesson Plans!*

It is our hope that *Lesson Plans* helps make sense of the tremendous changes that are taking place, informs you about our work and our successes, and allows you to connect with our mission.

I am grateful for your commitment and support of BKS, and am delighted to reconnect with you. I hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of *Lesson Plans*. All of us at BKS look forward to continuing the conversation with you.

Sincerely,

Amerika Williamson
Chairperson, BKS Board of Directors

Neighborhood partner helps us feed our students during Covid-19 crisis.

With your support we have raised more than \$70,000 to support the needs of our families during the Covid-19 crisis. Since the beginning of April 2020, we have provided 55 students, nearly 20% of our student body, and their families with



affordable and would provide our students with healthy, hearty, and fresh food that would be delivered to the students.

We asked what this challenge and opportunity meant to Mr. Frantz and his restaurant, here is what he said,

2,500 meals.

We've been able to do this thanks to the Rustik Tavern, a small business located in Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, blocks from Pratt Institute. Frantz Metellus saw a need for a neighborhood spot to hear music, eat food, and gather. In 2008, to address this, Frantz Metellus created the Rustik Tavern. Rustik Tavern is a NYC Department of Education-approved vendor.

When Covid-19 hit, it shutdown our Education Centers. BKS recognized that with this shutdown, a significant number of our students would experience food insecurity. We quickly connected with Mr. Frantz and formulated a plan that was

"We receive these hot lunches three times a week along with a bottle of water, side veggie, and fruit. This has been a great asset and money-saving to my family. I am a single mom of 5 children and receiving these hot meals are a great benefit to us. Thanks, BKS!! You guys rock!!"

- Sumner Center Family

One of the 2,500 healthy, complete meals that Rustik Tavern has prepared and delivered to our students and their families during this crisis to date. Rustik Tavern provided safe and healthy delivery for all of the meals we provided.

once again provide assistance to those in need. It means that kids can see people that look like them serving them. It means that small businesses can be extremely useful in times of community need. Big businesses give funding to small businesses...small businesses will, in turn, take care of the people. Small local businesses are the grassroots entities of the community...they are the ones best equipped to directly reach the one in need."

- Frantz Metellus

To Mr. Frantz and the Rustik Tavern team, thank you for stepping up to this challenge and for helping fuel our students' learning!





More happy customers, ready to learn.

Ms. Menika C. Harris, MSW

Please meet one of BKS' essential workers



We would like you to meet Ms. Menika C Harris, MSW. Ms. Harris is part of the BKS social work staff. She helps identify student and family needs and helps ensure that they get the support they need to continue to learn.

"As a social worker at Brooklyn Kindergarten Society, I am concerned about the impact of the coronavirus disease and the effect that this pandemic has on the families that I serve. During these troubling times, I continue to ensure families are able to get the necessary services by reaching out to them consistently and reassuring them with whatever support is needed. I find that this new format of remote learning, although challenging can also be beneficial as it helps families to work in partnership with the BKS"

- Ms. Menika C. Harris MSW
Howard Social Worker

Some Final thoughts.

With the relaunch of the monthly newsletter, we hope it gives a glimpse into the work that is being done with your support. Your donations are valuable, changing lives, and shaping the next generation. Thank you!

Support BKS Today!

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Our mailing address is:

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society

25 Chapel St., Suite 900

Brooklyn, NY 11201-1916

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