



# BOGOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prepared by Dr. Vincent Varcadipane - Interim Superintendent for Parents, Students, and members of the community OCTOBER 2016

## SUPERINTENDENT ON BOARD



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement and gratitude for my recent appointment as the Interim Superintendent for the Bogota School District. My first day was October 24, 2016 and I have been very impressed with the staff, students, and dedicated board members. I've been interacting with students, teachers, and members of the school community and will continue to make this a daily priority.

I come to Bogota with 36 years experience in the field of education. I served in the Totowa School District as Superintendent from 1998 through 2015 and as principal from 1994 to 1998. Previous to my tenure in Totowa, I was employed in Atlantic, Bergen, and Essex Counties as an educator/administrator.

I look forward to contributing to the continuing process of providing quality educational programs to the students of Bogota in cooperation with our teachers, administrators, and members of the Bogota Board of Education.

-Dr. Vincent Varcadipane

## HALLOWEEN AT STEEN



## Boys Cross Country Excels in 2016

By Jay Mahoney - Cross Country Coach

Congratulations to the boys cross country team on their 5th place finish last Saturday at Darling-ton Park. The boys 5th place finish is the highest by a Bogota Boys team in the 44 year history of the Bergen Meet of Champs. The teams average time of 16:29.40 is the fastest time ever run by a group 1 team in Meet History.

James Draney finished 4th in the race with a school record time of 15:39. Danny Daurio finished 12th in the race ( after getting trampled at the start of the race. ) Danny has the second fastest time in school history. 15:51. Ryan White ran a 16:33 which is the 7th fastest time in school history. Cole Geraghty ran a 16:54 which is the 11th fastest time in school history. Danny Rivera ran a personal best of 17:18 and Jimmy Gutierrez ran a personal best of 17:42.

This group of young men will go down as the best Group 1 Team in the history of Bergen County Boys Cross Country.

CONGRATS TO A SPECIAL GROUP

NJIC Cross Country  
DIVISION: Patriot - Boys  
TEAM CHAMPION: Bogota  
COACH OF THE YEAR: Jay Mahoney School: Bogota

### FIRST TEAM

Name	Grade	School
Danny Daurio	12	Bogota
James Draney	12	Bogota
Jake Cooper	11	Park Ridge
Ryan White	12	Bogota
Jeremy Bronstein	10	Dwight Englewood
Matt Rosnagel	10	Midland Park
Daniel Rivera	12	Bogota
Cole Geraghty	12	Bogota
Michael Pantaleo	10	Park Ridge

### SECOND TEAM

Name	Grade	School
Zane Diaz	12	Dwight Englewood
Jimmy Gutierrez	10	Bogota
Dante Gonzalez	12	Palisades Park
Joe Mili	11	Cresskill
Jason Finn	11	Dwight Englewood
David Khym	10	Dwight Englewood
Aidan Triana	11	Park Ridge
Matthew DiLorenzo	12	Park Ridge
Tyler Semus	12	Waldwick

### HONORABLE MENTION

Name	Grade	School
Michael Kavalier	12	Dwight Englewood
Joseph Parsons	11	Waldwick
Steven Baker	10	Midland Park
Rohan Afflick	12	Bergen Charter
Sebastian Portieles	12	Park Ridge
Venkat Abbaraju	11	Park Ridge
Julian Palacio	12	Park Ridge
Mike Brennan	11	Cresskill
Jacob Hosier	12	Midland Park



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE REAL LIFE LESSONS



Sgt. Timothy Shoemaker  
Ramsey Police Department

BOGOTA HS - Sgt. Timothy Shoemaker from the Ramsey Police Department spoke with all students at Bogota High School on Thursday, October 27, 2016. A multimedia presentation was shown in conjunction with Sgt. Shoemaker's personal presentation.

At the conclusion of the presentation in a video clip, a runner was shown competing in a race but fell and was injured. Heartbroken that he would not win the race, he insisted on continuing, hobbling on one leg, inspite of attempts from personnel to stop him. Next, a man came running out the stands on to the track, it was the runner's father. Together arm-in-arm, with his father's help, he completed the race. Many tears in the auditorium after that clip. Much of the presentation can be found on Timothy Shoemaker's Facebook page.



## A Message from Mr. Kenndy, Principal of Bogota Jr/Sr High School

*By Damian Kennedy - Principal*

### BOGOTA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

The Bogota Junior Senior High School opened for students on September 6th. This is my first September as Principal along with Ms. Kelly Foley-DeCongelio as Vice Principal.

We started the year with ninety students in our class of 2017, with 36 of our seniors going to either Bergen Community College to begin obtaining college credits or an internship in areas such as finance, medicine, and education. These opportunities give our students exposure and experience to their future careers and offers a jump on their college degree.

Our upper classmen have also begun to apply for college admission, and are continuing career exploration on Naviance.

In September we hosted our evening Financial Aid Night presentation preparing the parents and students for the FAFSA which, for the first time ever, opened in October 2016 instead of January 2018. Please remember to submit your applications to the Federal Student Aid Office.

I look forward to serving the community of Bogota.

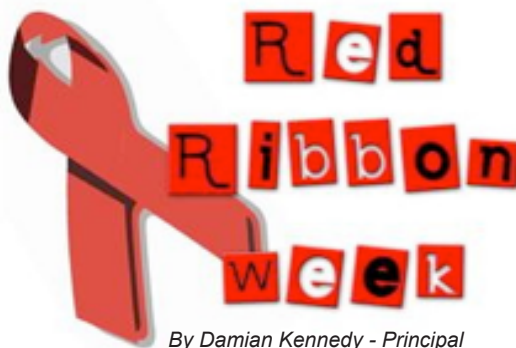
## A WISE 'OLE OWL

*By Damon Engle - Principal*



*Mia Pimentel, Edwin Morales  
Leslie Aparicio, Emely Cabrera*

BIXBY - Mrs. Breiner's 6th grade science class worked in groups dissecting owl pellets to determine which animal species was part of the owl's diet. They explained how the bones are identified, inferred about the owl's diet, and explained the biome where the owl lived.



*By Damian Kennedy - Principal*

BOGOTA Jr/Sr HS - October was another very busy and productive month for our students and staff. The month kicked off with the Week of Respect. Throughout the week students were given activities to help them learn the importance of respecting and helping others. Our students were recognized for their good deeds by earning dots for specific acts of kindness they showed throughout the week.

The following week was School Violence Awareness week where Sergeant Lynch came to address our students. He spoke about the dangers and repercussions of violence both in and out of school along with the need for effective practice during fire drills and lockdown situations.

The last week in October was Red Ribbon Week which emphasizes the importance of staying away from drugs and alcohol. The Junior BACSA club started the week by planting red tulip bulbs that will blossom in the spring. A Red Ribbon was given to each student and staff member in an effort to show our commitment to being drug and alcohol free.

The middle school and high school also welcomed Timothy Shoemaker, a motivational speaker that taught our students about making the right choices, not succumbing to negative behaviors that may be around us, and to persevere despite any obstacles that may be put in their way.



*Catherine Petrucci and Max Mendez  
planting red tulips for Red Ribbon Week*

### BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Charles Severino-President, Patrick McHale-Vice President  
Consuelo M. Carpenter, Jo-Ellen Granquist, Lisa Kohles, Eileen Lewis  
Amanda Montgomery, Jim Moore, Kathy VanBuren,



*Ulises Ortega, Allie Racioppi,  
Author Peter Catalanotto, and  
Jayden Gonzales*

## AUTHOR VISITS STEEN STUDENTS

*By Dayle Santoro - Principal*

STEEN SCHOOL-Author and illustrator Peter Catalanotto visited with the students at Steen School on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Mr. Catalanotto is the author of many children's books such as *Matthew A,B,C* and *Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know It All*.

During the presentation, students watched Mr. Catalanotto demonstrate how he illustrates a story. His artwork will be displayed in the Art Room at Steen so that students can be inspired while creating their own artwork.

Mr. Catalanotto demonstrated to students how to create interesting and imaginative writing pieces. He inspired students to be inquisitive by encouraging them to ask: "What if?"

The students in 3rd and 4th grade outlined a story about a kid wanting a dog. Mr. Catalanotto challenged the students to create stories where the outcomes are not obvious and to think "outside of the box."

Students were inspired after the assembly and used their experience to learn to create new seeds of stories in their writer's notebooks.

### Upcoming artistic events:

*Fall Play production  
"Myths Busted"  
December 2nd and 3rd*

*Holiday Concert  
December 15, 7:30P.M.*