



# SUPERINTENDENT'S *Brief*



SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 10 2021 | VOLUME 1 ISSUE NO. 21

I want to start my note today recognizing some of our student athletes. Congratulations to the Che Samuel, Dior Roberts, Jelani Wells and Deron Davis, members of the Schenectady High School Indoor Track Team which won the 800-meter relay at both the North Shore Invitational and the Ithaca Bomber last weekend. Congratulations to seniors Moses Grant and Majestic Tyler on being selected for the 2021 Section II Football Senior All-Star Team. Congratulations and best wishes to Janessa Jones who, earlier this week, signed with Bryant and Stratton College where she will play basketball. She was interviewed for the Patriot podcast this week. Check that out here [on Apple](#) or [Spotify](#). #Schenectadyproud

Earlier this week we held our principals' meetings at the miSci Museum of Innovation and Science, located at Nott Terrace Heights. Thank you to the miSci team for allowing us to spend the day at their beautiful facility. We had two great meetings with secondary school leaders in the morning and elementary in the afternoon. We discussed many topics including grading, food service, and safety. We also discussed programs and resources to support leadership recruitment and development including a mentoring program and leadership program for aspiring school leaders. We look forward to sharing more soon. If you are interested in becoming a school administrator, please talk with your principal or reach out to Deputy Superintendent Rutnik. We are looking to grow our own at every level in the organization.

I'm excited to share with you that we are in the early phase of designing a new website and our district's first mobile app. Parents, staff, and community members will be able to download the app to your phones and have school and district alerts, news, announcements, and events at your fingertips. We are in the beginning stage but once our new platform and tools are developed and training complete, we will begin a launch campaign. We will share more as we move forward.

I can't say enough about the importance of school attendance and how vital it is to academic success. I know it is not always easy getting children to school. Our lives are hectic and let's face it, some mornings it takes a lot of work especially if your child resists. Know that you are not alone and that we are here to help. If you are facing challenges when it comes to getting your child motivated, please reach out to us so we can work together to identify the problem and find a solution. As I say each week, we are partners and are in this work together. Let's do it.

It's a busy time of year for all. Please find time to unplug, relax, unwind, and enjoy. Have a fantastic weekend.

Anibal Soler, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools



Earlier this week, Janessa Jones, Schenectady High School Senior Basketball Player signed to play basketball at Bryant and Stratton College.



Moses Grant and Majestic Tyler were named 2021 Section II Football Senior All-Stars



SCHENECTADY ATHLETICS- INDOOR TRACK



www.schenectady.k12.ny.us  
518-370-8100



# Alumni Profile

***"The thing I love most about working at SCSD are the students. Schenectady students are resilient and always rise up to face their challenges head on."***

**AARON ZHANG**

**Teacher, Mont Pleasant Middle School  
SHS Class of 2011**

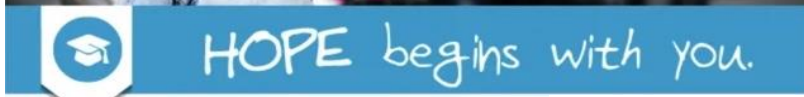


This week's Alumni Profile features Aaron Zhang, Band Teacher at Mont Pleasant. Aaron is a 2011 graduate of Schenectady High School who was heavily involved in the music program.

"Everything having to do with music were the highlights to my day. I also have great memories of bowling for SCSD. Coach Daffner was a force to be reckoned with, but her tough love shaped so many athletes into great human beings.

## Did you graduate from Schenectady Schools?

If you are a graduate of Schenectady Schools, we would love to feature you in an alumni profile. To share your information, [click here](#).



Schenectady High School Key Club is sponsoring a Blood Drive on December 29 from 12 – 6 p.m. at Proctors.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-73302767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: Proctors



**Proctors Blood Drive**  
436 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12308  
Drive is in Key Hall. Enter Key Hall from front State St.  
Front of Proctors Building  
Sponsored by Schenectady HS Key Club  
**Wednesday, December 29, 2021**  
**12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
To schedule an appointment call 1-800-733-0276 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: Proctors

Red Cross Blood Donor App  
RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-0276 | Download the Blood Donor App  
www.redcross.org

## NEW EPISODE



A new episode of the Schenectady Patriots Podcast is out now and features Varsity Girls Basketball Senior Captain Janessa Jones, who just signed to play with Bryant and Stratton next year while majoring in business. Plus, we meet the three senior captains of Boys Varsity Swimming and Diving Team. Listen, rate, and subscribe to the Schenectady Patriots Podcast [on Apple](#) and [Spotify](#), and be sure to follow @SchenectadyAthletics on Instagram.





# COVID-19 UPDATE

Here is the report on COVID-19 positive cases for the period December 3 (8 a.m.) – December 10 (8 a.m.)

**Total of 59 cases**

**42 students, 10 staff members & 1 transportation staff**

- Central Park: 1
- Hamilton: 1
- Howe 1
- Keane: 3
- Lincoln: 8
- MPMS: 4
- Oneida: 4
- Paige: 2
- Pleasant Valley: 1
- SCLA: 5
- Schenectady High School: 15
- Van Corlaer: 3
- Zoller: 9
- Bus: 2

Approximate Percentage of School Population  
COVID-19 Positive this week:

- Students: .44%
- Staff: .83%
- Percentage of Students and Staff: .55%

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness or are waiting for COVID-19 test results, **do not come** to school or work. You should instead do the following immediately:

## STAFF MEMBERS

Stay home, contact your supervisor and email Lindsay Baroody at [Lindsay.Baroody@neric.org](mailto:Lindsay.Baroody@neric.org) or call 518-312-8848

## STUDENTS

Parents please keep your child home and contact your school nurse immediately.

**If your child is exposed to a person who tested positive, you will receive a phone call immediately.**

[New York State School COVID Report Card](#)

## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Schenectady County continues to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations at a variety of locations throughout the month. All PODS are open to walk-ins. **The December schedule is available [here](#).**

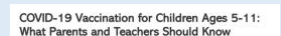
## VACCINATION RESOURCES

All you need to know about COVID-19 Vaccine  
and Children   English   Spanish

## 10 Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine Answered Here

## What Parents & Teachers Should Know

Albany Medical College Community will be hosting a virtual presentation on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine for young children, followed by a Q&A for parents and teachers on **December 13** from 7-8:30 p.m. via WebEX. Details are on the [attached flyer](#).



**What:** Albany Medical College Community Grand Rounds will be hosting a virtual presentation on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine for young children, followed by a Q&A for parents and teachers. We invite you to join us for this critical conversation between our health care providers and our community.

**Who:** Katie Goodspeed, Colin Duell, & Jamie Haskay  
**Presenters:** Dr. Brittany Taylor, MD - Internal Medicine & Pediatrics  
**Expert Commentators:** Jenna Peters - Albany Medical College Schaffer Library

**When:** December 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM via WebEx

**How to Join:**  
<http://www.italianamericanwriters.com/italianamericanwriters.htm>

Meeting number: 2311 113 074  
Password: M2SpN7OV93

Join by phone  
+1-855-797-9485 US Toll free  
+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

ANCC Community Grant Rounds is a group of medical students, physician assistant students, and pharmacy students from Alton Medical College and Liberty College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences. Started as a way for students to stay up-to-date with the



## WHEN YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

## If You Are Vaccinated

Fully vaccinated staff members and students and those recently recovering from COVID-19 **who have symptoms**, can provide a negative test result to stay in school (antigen or PCR). If a negative test result is provided, exclusion is not required.

## If You Are Unvaccinated

Unvaccinated staff members and students **who have symptoms** are still required to take a PCR test or be out for 10 days.

### What is the difference between a PCR and antigen COVID-19 test?

Each of these tests detects a different part of the virus and how it works influences the test's speed and accuracy.

**PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) tests** are sensitive and accurate. They require a skilled lab process that can take longer to produce results.

**Antigen tests** are easy to use, require no special training and can be taken at home. They produce results quickly and are inexpensive. However, they can be less accurate than PCR tests.



## Save the Date for the 2022 *Education Celebration*

Thursday, January 20, 2022

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Proctor's GE Theater

### **Crystal Apple Award Winners:**

Outstanding Graduate:

**Anessa Waheed**

Community Partner Award:

**Hannaford Supermarkets**

### **The Robert Ludwig Teacher of the Year:**

**Patty Wood – 2020 – Hamilton Elementary**

**Rick DeCarr – 2021 - Oneida Middle School**

**Catering by: SHS Culinary Arts Program**

**Music Provided by: SHS Students**

**Cost per Person: \$50 Teacher Rate: \$25**

**MC - Greg Floyd – CBS 6 News Anchor**

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED [HERE](#)**

## FOOD SERVICES

Some recipes the SCLA Culinary Students are making:

- Apple Butternut Squash Soup
- Butternut Squash Hummus
- Oven Roasted Butternut Squash

## FOR PARENTS

### ABOUT P-EBT BENEFITS

If you have reached out to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) with issues only to be referred to the district, please be aware that the deadline to resolve issues has expired.

If your child's benefits were reported incorrectly or are don't exist, please submit an appeal immediately. Resolution may take some time.

#### Things you can do:

Lookup the payment status for your child's school by clicking on the [NYS School List](#). This will let you know whether payments are in review, issuing or pending. It can take a few weeks in "issuing."

The [FAQ](#) may provide answers to some of your questions.

If you believe the determination is incorrect, you should submit and appeal using [the P-EBT Information Form](#). Once you complete the first page, additional questions will appear. Question 14 asks that you select your issue. Once an issue is selected, an answer will be provided. If it does not answer your question, select "no" and you will be given the opportunity to provide additional information about your claim or concern. Be sure to hit "submit."



## ON THE MENU

Breakfast and Lunch Menus [Here](#)

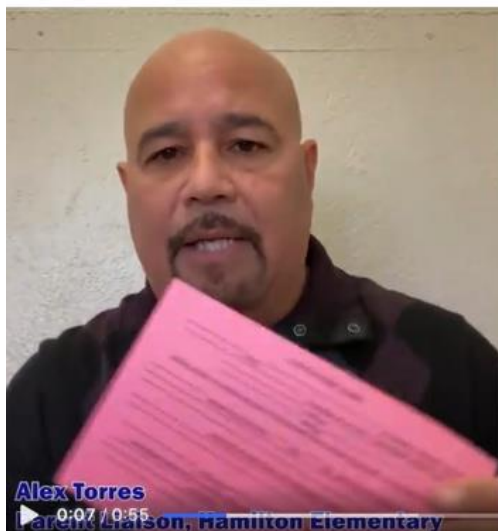
## IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS

Please be sure that you have filled out and returned the Health Information and Emergency Contact forms. If you need a new copy of either, please contact your school. It is vital that we have up to date contact information on file.



Watch this video message in Arabic [here](#)

Watch this video message in Spanish [here](#)



### IMPORTANT REMINDER

**Please be sure that you have filled out the Health Information Card and the Emergency Contact Information sheet. If you need another copy, please contact your school principal.**



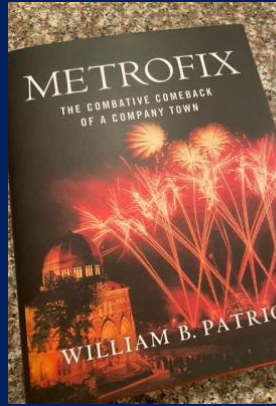
[www.schenectady.k12.ny.us](http://www.schenectady.k12.ny.us)



## BOOK LAUNCH EVENT



William B. Patrick and Neil Golub



On Tuesday evening, Superintendent Soler attended an event at Proctors celebrating the release of a new book, "Metrofix," authored by William B. Patrick. The book chronicles the comeback of the city.  
#Schenectadyrising

## ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN



## McKinney-Vento Program

Procedures for students and families living in temporary housing  
Fall 2021

If you know a student who may qualify for assistance, please contact the Liaison for Families in Temporary Housing, Mary Breslin at (518) 410-0290

## FROM THE OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEARNING December 2021 Newsletter

### December Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS... From the Office of Teaching & Learning



Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns.

Office of Teaching and Learning Staff Directory



On Wednesday, Oneida Students for Anti-Racism (OSAR) went on a field trip to the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore. During the trip, OSAR ambassadors met NY based multimedia artist, Lauren Kelley, and discussed some of her works that focused on black history and culture.

## Photo of the week

Check out this old oven that was converted into an awesome "Little Library" located in the Yates cafeteria.



Bill Schultz, vice president of the SCSD Educational Foundation spoke with principals Wednesday at miSci about the foundation's mission and upcoming celebration.



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