

CLUB HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Getting In The Groove!

School-year programs are well under way! Staff and members have worked together collaboratively to create a daily routine and a culture of kindness and respect. We've had our first two major fundraising events; the Chris Cutri Memorial Scholarship BBQ, and our annual Golf Tournament; our first large group volunteer event of the year with Regeneron, our first family engagement event, and have participated in a couple of community events. It's safe to say we've got our groove on! We are heading into the holiday season with big plans and a lot of optimism!

Celebrating Good Times!

On October 3rd, the Club turned 84! We celebrated with cake and by recognizing the achievements our members in our monthly Youth of the Month ceremony. We also took the opportunity to unveil our "Club Quotes" posters featuring photos of Club kids and words of encouragement and expectations such as "Kindness Matters", and "Learn New Things".

In October, we also had our very first Latino Heritage Month Celebration. We partnered with our Club families and local businesses to organize our first Latino Heritage Month Celebration. It was a huge success, with over 320 attendees. The celebration began with activities for the kids. In Healthy Lifestyles, the kids made bocadillos (snacks) popular in Columbia with crackers, guava paste and cheese. Members got to decorate their own banderas (flags) in art, play Loteria (Mexican bingo), and have a dance party in the gym! We ended the evening with a delicious potluck-style meal and raffled off prizes.



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Spotlight



Zac Hojnacki

Marlins Head Coach

This fall, Zac began his sixth year as Marlins Head Coach. Under Zac's guidance, the Marlins program was named a USA Swimming Club Excellence Bronze medal club for the first time in 2021-2022, and has routinely finished in the top 100 nationally in USA Swimming VCC. In his free time, Zac teaches Child Psychology and Adolescent Psychology at Iona University in New Rochelle. Recently, Zac was recognized as the Metro Swimming Senior Coach of the Year.



Connor White

Marlins Head Age Group Coach

Connor has been working with the Marlins since 2015, after swimming as a Marlin for 13 years. As a Marlin swimmer, Connor was a multi-event Junior National qualifier, HS Section 1 Champion in the 100 Fly & 100 Back, and was a NY State top 8 finalist. His hobbies include traveling, cooking, surfing, skiing, scuba-diving, wood-working, gardening and spending time with friends and family. Recently, Connor was recognized as the Metro Swimming Must Watch Head Coach of the Year!

Program Highlights

Early Childhood Education

In early summer, BGCNW partnered with the Office of Head Start to launch a Head Start preschool program at the Club. The Head Start program is free for eligible families, supporting preschool members through services centered around early learning and development, health, and family well-being. The program encourages engagement with parents, recognizing family participation throughout the program as key to strong child outcomes. We have also renewed our partnership with Bedford Central School District to provide spots at the Club for children enrolled in the Universal Pre-K program.

We began the school year with a total of 23 students in our new Head Start program and 6 UPK students, and 8 BGCNW ECE students. Twelve students will be rising Kindergarteners at the end of the school year. Each week, our preschoolers engage in literacy, math, science, music, nutrition, and social-emotional learning. In addition, they have twice-weekly swim lessons. Both of our Head Start classrooms are bilingual.



School Aged Afterschool Fun Club

We have 146 school-aged members registered in our afterschool Fun Club program. Each day, when the kids arrive, they are treated to a hot meal, lovingly made by our Ladle of Love family! After lunch, each group begins Power Hour - our educational enrichment period of the afternoon. Members receive help with homework or engage in math, reading, or literacy activities to reinforce what they are learning in school.

After Power Hour, groups rotate through our other enrichment activities, such as gym, art, Digi, healthy lifestyles, and more! Members also have the opportunity to sign up for 6 week swimming lessons.



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

Program Highlights

Spotlight

Teen Programs

There are 46 teens enrolled in our Teen Center programs who attend on a daily basis. Teens arrive to the Club as early as 2:45 p.m. and stay as late as 9:00 p.m. Ours is a drop-in program, that they come to at will. During afterschool hours teens get help with homework and participate in other enrichment programming such as College Quest (college preparedness), Career Launch (workforce development and job readiness), or Money Matters (financial literacy). We have 10 members participating in F.L.O.W (Financial Literacy Outreach Workshop) - a stock market investment simulation project facilitated by senior students from Horace Greeley High School, and 15 members in our Liberty Keystone Group - a community service initiative for high schoolers. Our Keystone group recently organized a soccer tournament as a fundraiser. They hope to raise enough funds to attend the National Keystone Conference in 2024.



Dr. Alana Pudlov
Mental Health Clinician

Dr. Alana Pudlov, DSW, LCSW, MAPP, SIFI is a new Independent Contractor/ Mental Health Clinician at BGCNW. As an experienced leader with over 10 years of working across cultures with patients throughout different stages in life, she is excited to share her knowledge, skills, and creativity with those at the Boys & Girls Club. Alana is enthusiastic about recognizing the strengths in others and supporting those around her in their journey to achieve personal, academic and professional goals.

Aquatics and Marlins Swim Team

Our Learn-to-Swim program had 241 registrants for the Fall 1 session, as well as 37 Kindergarten through 3rd grade Fun Club members.

The Marlins Swim Team has 250 athletes, ranging in age from 6 to 18-years of age. They have had a stellar year of achievements. Most notable are:

- Head Coach, Zac Hojnacki, and Coach Connor White have been named Senior Coach of the Year, and Must Watch Age Group Coach of the year, respectively, by Metro Swimming,
- The team achieved Bronze Level Club Excellence Status in the USA Swimming Club Excellence Program for the 2nd time in a row. They were one of only 6 swim teams to receive this status.



Bryant Srour
Mental Health Clinician

Bryant Srour, MS, MHC-LP, is the second of the Club's two onsite Mental Health Clinicians. With a background in therapeutic and mental health counseling, Bryant is experienced in delivering individual and group therapy with focus on adolescents. Bryant is a BGCNW alum. He spent most of his formative years at the Club and had his first job as a Fun Club assistant counselor his sophomore year in high school. He continued to work at the Club every summer throughout college while pursuing a degree in Psychology.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Events

November

21 Clubsgiving

December

14 Family Holiday Cookie Decorating Event Prep

January

8 Winter care package drive begins

March

20 SMART Girls Women's Appreciation Dinner

28 Easter Egg Filling Event

April

*8-19 Aluminum can tab collection

May

11 Mother's Day Brunch

June

15 Father's Day Brunch



Scan the QR code or visit our website to register for a volunteer opportunity.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

- Be a program volunteer, tutor, or mentor
- Lend a hand with planning and coordinating events
- Represent the Club as a social media ambassador
- Join us for the National Boys & Girls Club Days of Advocacy
- Participate in a group or corporate day of service

Program Highlights

Other Events & Activities

- Regeneron brought over 20 volunteers to engage in STEM activities with our members. For our K-3rd grade members, they did a Spooky Circuit of science experiments and for our 4th-8th grade members, they guided them in building Vibe Robots.
- Our Marlins Swim Team seniors threw their annual Halloween Carnival in the gym. Club members of all ages attended in costume. This event was also the kick-off for our Thanksgiving Food Drive.



Become A Corporate Sponsor!

Successful companies are investing their philanthropic dollars in the institutions that make a difference. At BGCNW, trained, caring youth development professionals guide our members to strive for academic success, build character and leadership skills, and develop healthy habits.

An investment in BGCNW is a powerful way for your company to advance its business objectives, while aligning your brand with the MOST recognized organization with a focus in youth development.

Your investment:

- Increases your brand visibility
- Provides opportunity for youth of underserved communities
- Sponsors youth advocacy and community leadership
- Strengthens and enriches the community

When you invest in BGCNW you are empowering 21st Century leaders, innovators and problem-solvers with the skills to be agents for change in their communities and beyond. When you invest in BGCNW you are supporting the who are globally competitive graduates who are motivated to learn and have a plan to succeed in the modern workplace. When you invest in BGCNW you are investing in a GREAT FUTURE for our youth, for the community and for your company.

For more information contact John Tunas at jtunas@bgcnw.com or 914-666-8069 x108.

#jointheclub

BGCNW offers multiple opportunities for community members to get involved:

- Become a volunteer or mentor
- Share your passion by hosting a workshop or hands-on activity
- Become a guest speaker or partner with us for Workforce Development
- Become a social media ambassador
- Become an advocate
- Donate! A gift to the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester is an investment in the Great Futures of tomorrow's leaders.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

Thanksgiving **FOOD DRIVE**

October 27 - November 15, 2023

We are collecting the following non-perishable foods:

CANNED

- Cranberries Sauce
- Gravy
- Yams
- Corn
- Green Beans
- Pie filling
- Beans
- Tomatoes
- Soup

BOXED or BAGGED

- Mashed Potatoes
- Mac and Cheese
- Corn Bread Mix
- White Rice
- Stuffing Mix
- Cookie Mix
- Marshmallows
- Sugar
- Flour



For more information or to donate perishable or prepared items such as turkeys and pies, please contact Shantae Artis at sartis@bgcnw.com.

Donations of grocery store gift cards are also welcome.

Items can be dropped off at 351 Main Street, Mount Kisco between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:30 pm.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

BGCNW Wish List

- Sidewalk Chalk
- Balls (kickballs, soccer balls, dodgeballs, playground balls)
- Outdoor Toy Shed
- Compressed Air Dusters
- Robotic Kits
- Electronic Pencil Sharpeners
- Easle Pads
- Permanent Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erasers
- Hand-held Rechargeable Vacuum
- Tickets/Admittance to museums, sporting events, stage shows, seasonal events, festivals, historical landmarks, etc.
- Small toys/novelties for rewards/incentives for school-aged members
- Gift cards to local restaurants and shops for rewards/incentives for teen-aged members



Become a Holiday Sharing Program “Secret Santa”

Help us to provide warm winter clothing and special gift items to our members and families in need.

Donors receive the name, age, gender, and wish list for a child. They can then purchase and wrap items or provide a gift card, or a combination of the two.

For more information, or to become a sponsor, contact Shantae Artis at sartis@bgcnw.com.



Stay Tuned...

In the next issue of Club Happenings, we'll update you on the Holiday Season at the Club!

Got Merch?

Take a look at our new online store. Get your own Club merch and rock that BGC Blue!

<https://bgcnw-store.myspreadshop.com/>



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