



# BRIDGE BOSTON CHARTER SCHOOL

## October Newsletter



### Looking Back...

**August 26:** First day of school!

**Sept 11:** Parent Community Dinner (K1-2nd Grade)

**Sept 17:** First Grade Paper Violin Night

**Sept 18:** Parent Community Dinner (3rd-8th Grade)

### First Grade Paper Violin Night





Led by our brilliant music teachers, Julie Davis and Susanna Johnson-Chelaru, the First Grade had their Annual Paper Violin Night on Tuesday, September 17. Bridge Boston's music curriculum, El Sistema, enables all students to learn how to play string instruments, starting with the violin in first grade. In order for students to learn the proper playing positions, how to read music, and how to understand the responsibility that comes with playing a string instrument, Ms. Davis teaches them through using the "paper violins" that they, along with family members construct themselves. It is a

joyful night filled with smiles, feelings of accomplishment, and excitement for the learning and music to come!

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## Bridge Boston Updates:

This year marks a year of exciting change for Bridge Boston Charter School

### **Staff:**

This year, Bridge Boston welcomes a new Executive Director, Mr. Craig Martin. Mr. Martin comes to Bridge from the Michael J. Perkins School in South Boston where he led the school in an impressive turn around, raising achievement in ELA and Math as well as reducing chronic absenteeism. Additionally, he won the Principal of the Year Award in 2018. As an experienced classroom teacher and principal, Mr. Martin adds Executive Director to his already admirable resume. We are so excited to work with Mr. Martin and cannot wait to see what the future holds!

### **Fellows:**

Since our first year in operation, Bridge Boston has depended on our Fellows program for essential classroom support. This year we have a strong cadre of our first and second year Fellows who work to assist Lead Teachers in and out of the classroom. The Fellows are crucial to the success of our students because they provide individualized attention and instruction to students that need it. They also support Lead Teachers in curriculum planning, and provide life to our school with their enthusiasm and energy. We are so pleased to be able to support the next generation of Urban Educators.

### **Scholars:**

Bridge Boston has finally reached maturity. This is our first year with an eighth grade class. We also welcomed two K1 classes. Many of our Bridge Students encourage their siblings to attend Bridge as well. We are happy to have a close-knit community within our school.

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## Staff Spotlight!

Bridge Boston's very own Jamaal Bonnette was honored with the Champion of Change Award at the 2019 Coaching4Change Gala for his mentorship work in schools throughout Plymouth County. He was recognized for his dedication to education, as well as his personal work as an artist and published author.

Mr. Bonnette is a member of the Student Success Division, but his influence and mentorship extends far beyond Bridge Boston's reach. In addition to working as a behavioral coach at our school, he mentors students in the fourth through

eighth grade in Randolph and Taunton, Massachusetts. He also mentors high school students who are en route to college.

Mr. Bonnette is one of the many amazing individuals working everyday to enrich the minds of our students and ensure they have the support they need to succeed. He is currently working to get his Masters in Education. We are so proud of Jamaal and cannot wait to see what he has yet to achieve.



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## Helper Highlight: Forsyth Dental



On Wednesday October 9, Bridge Boston welcomed Forsyth Dental Hygienic Clinic. Throughout the day, students visited a non-traditional dental office--the Bridge Boston gymnasium! Here, they were able to get dental examinations and meet the generous dentists who provided this service. Bridge Boston's partnership with Forsyth is just one example of how we work to provide a full-service learning environment to all children.

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## The Bridge Boston Summer Program



The Summer Program 2019 was a successful one! Run by Jennifer Daly, Anna McTigue, Diane CullenMoore, Quinn Sturges, and other teachers and administrators, students in K1-Fourth Grade engaged in productive learning in the classroom while also enjoying field trips in and around the Boston area. Students worked on the academic program Bell Xcel to help prevent "summer slide," the idea that students may decline in academic skills and

abilities during the summer months. Thanks to the success of the program we prevented summer slide and enjoyed exploring the city with our students.

This past summer, the program added a swimming component through the YMCA. The students loved going to the YMCA to learn about water safety as well as different strokes and techniques. We are very grateful to all of our partners and especially the YMCA for making this summer program an enjoyable and educational experience!

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## Looking forward...

**October 24:** K2 Field Trip to Shelburne Farm

## Donate to the Bridge Boston Annual Fund

Unrestricted annual fund gifts allow us to offer a longer school day, augment our academic curriculum with field trips and professional development, fulfill our full-service mission by coordinating partnerships to provide services like vision and dental check-ups, offer instrumental music to all students, and much more. Please consider supporting us with a gift of any size. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you!

[Donate Now](#)

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