

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week January 26, 2018

Here is a highlight that reminds us of how special our community of learners are. I was just contacted by Assemblyman Charles Lavine's office because a parent wanted a way to recognize a special act of kindness. The parent shared a wonderful story about a text his son, who is diagnosed with autism, received from a high school student asking his son for lunch plans. It was the first time his son received a text from a friend or had an invitation for weekend plans. The parent attributed this to his son's participation in Best Buddies.

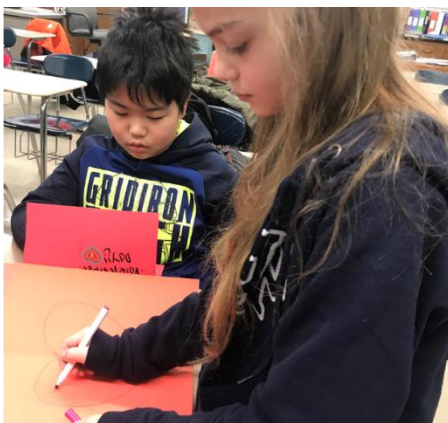


Best Buddies is an international organization that is dedicated to creating opportunities for one-to-one friendships for people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our high school chapter has



over 100 student members and each middle school has a Best Buddies chapter. Middle school students recently wrote Valentine's Day cards for the children at Cohen Children's Hospital and will be participating in an upcoming dance.

Best Buddies meet regularly in school and after school sharing fun activities, lunch dates, and shopping. Many of the clubs at the high school have joined Best Buddies in special events after school such as Paint Night, an upcoming Valentine's Day photo booth, and SEPTA Bingo Night.



There will be a whole lot of fun and dancing going on in March when we host all Long Island chapters at the annual Best Buddies Friendship Ball, with approximately 500 students from Southampton to Oceanside, in our JFKHS gymnasium.

How fortunate we are to have the support of parents, staff and students to foster such an inclusive and accepting environment!!! POB is indeed a great place to learn and grow.