

# January 2021 BlueSky Online Newsletter

## Principal's Message

As we return from our holiday break please remind your student to stay on track with courses and reach out to any of our staff when your student is needing help. Part of the requirement of attending BlueSky is to return communications to our staff within 24 hours of being contacted. We have many pathways to help engage our students in school and keeping communication open is essential in that effort. A friendly reminder the last day of the semester and second quarter is January 20th.

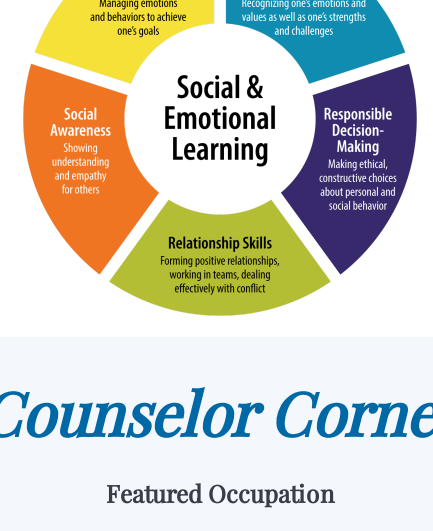
Our ongoing initiative has been to incorporate social emotional learning into every aspect of our curriculum. Research has shown that students perform academically better when they learn skills to set goals and make informed decisions. As we transition to second semester we hope to help students reflect on how their past performance has gone and the ways they might grow into the future through their own self awareness and decision making. These skills are necessary in the workforce and regarded as the top priority for success in any career. Additionally studies indicate that learning these skills indicated positive social behavior and an 11% overall gain in achievement. As a compassionate school we are excited to expand our holistic approach to building successful and happy students. For more information on parent resources for SEL check out this [site](#).

As always we are here to help and our virtual doors are always open.

Please stay safe and well.  
Renee'



Renee' Parcheta  
Student Services Director @ Principal  
651.202.2009  
[reneeparcheta@blueskyschool.org](mailto:reneeparcheta@blueskyschool.org)



## Counselor Corner

### Featured Occupation

- Hairstylists and Cosmetologists**
- Education Required:** Postsecondary training through a state-approved cosmetology program, and they generally require a license.
- Outlook:** 20,512 new openings from 2018 through 2028.
- Median Wages:** \$39,600/year
- Hairstylist and cosmetologist jobs vary depending on the size and type of salons where they work. Some salons may only do hairstyles while larger salons may hire manicurists to do nails only and leave the rest to cosmetologists.

### PSO Meeting

Info: BlueSky will be hosting an informational meeting about PSO for any students interested in learning more about PSO for next year. All parents and students are welcome to attend. (PSO is an opportunity for students to earn college credit while still in high school. PSO information can be found on our website under the [Courses Tab](#).)

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, February 2nd at 12 p.m.  
**Zoom Link:** [PSO Meeting](#)

\*If you are unable to attend the meeting, but are interested in PSO, please let your BlueSky counselor know.

## Social Work Spotlight

The Social Work team offers 3 support groups 2nd semester for elective credit. These groups provide a social emotional component to support our students. If you are interested in taking one of the following groups for credit next semester please reach out to your counselor.

### Attacking Anxiety

- This support group is designed for students in grades 9-12 who struggle with anxiety on a daily basis and want coping skills to help them manage it. This group provides a better understanding of anxiety and what causes it, and students will learn useful strategies to reduce anxiety and stress.
- Meets Fall and Spring Semester

### The Real You

- A support group for students in grades 9-12 that allows for personal reflection and growth, building healthy relationships, discussing media and the effects it has on young people today, and building self confidence.
- Meets Spring Semester



### Mind Over Mood

- A 9-12th grade support group to help students learn new skills to make changes in moods, behaviors and relationships. The skills are designed to help handle stress better, improve self-esteem, improve relationships, and become less fearful and more confident.
- Meets Spring Semester

## Supplemental



We are quickly approaching the end of Quarter 2/Semester 1 already. Where does time go? Important dates to keep in mind as we wrap up the first half of the year:

- Quarter 2/Semester 1 ends Wednesday, January 20. All assignments must be submitted by this date.
- Quarter 3/Semester 2 begins on Monday, January 25.
- Students have a bit of a breather between Semester 1 and 2 with no school on Thursday, January 21, and Friday, January 22.
- Please reach out with any questions regarding course changes for Semester 2! It's not too late to add a course (if there's still availability).
- Need extra support? Stay tuned for information coming regarding Zoom resource room dates/times the next few weeks. We'll offer several hours each week for students to meet with us for: accountability, organizational support, homework support, personal connection.

Bottom line...you're not in this alone, students! We're here for you. Here's to taking care of you and getting to the finish line this semester.

## Online Activities

BlueSky has been working hard to develop a program for student clubs. We are very close to having processes and policies in place and anticipate new virtual student club options to be available beginning Semester 2 (January)! Look for further communication regarding Clubs coming up. In the meantime, check out [this document](#) that lists non-BlueSky virtual events that can help your student stay involved and make the cold days cozier!



## BlueSky Stars

*BlueSky Star*  
Jasmin Romero Tapia

Jasmin is featured as a BlueSky Star Student this month because of her consistent hard work, her ability to balance responsibilities, and her positive personality. Jasmin puts in extra effort each week to work ahead in her classes and strives to earn high grades, along with working outside of school and helping her family. Jasmin shared that BlueSky has helped her to become more independent and to learn so much more from the help of her amazing teachers. Jasmin stays motivated by "telling myself that what I'm learning will help me in the future." It has been a joy to work with Jasmin - her caring and sincere personality shines through in all interactions. Jasmin truly values relationships and says, "The most important thing to me is having the people I love the most always supporting me and loving me back." Jasmin will be graduating early this year and we know she has a bright future ahead!

- Nominated by Hanna Coleman

## Shoutout to our awesome students!

Aussion James (AJ) Rind is a BlueSky Star Student this month. AJ started at BlueSky in the summer of 2020 after he realized he loved working at his own pace. AJ is extremely motivated and driven to complete his work. He consistently turns in 40+ quality assignments each week. In addition to the summer classes he took, AJ has already passed 6 more classes with flying colors and will complete 5 more on Jan 20th. When he is not working on school, you will find AJ drawing or taking photos. He hopes to pursue photography in his future. His advice for others is to have confidence in yourself and your work while also learning from your mistakes.

- Nominated by Kelly Hanson

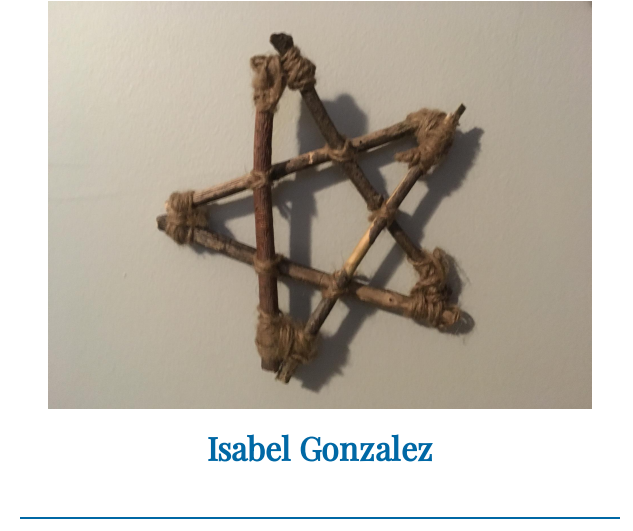
*BlueSky Star*  
AJ RIND

## Student Work

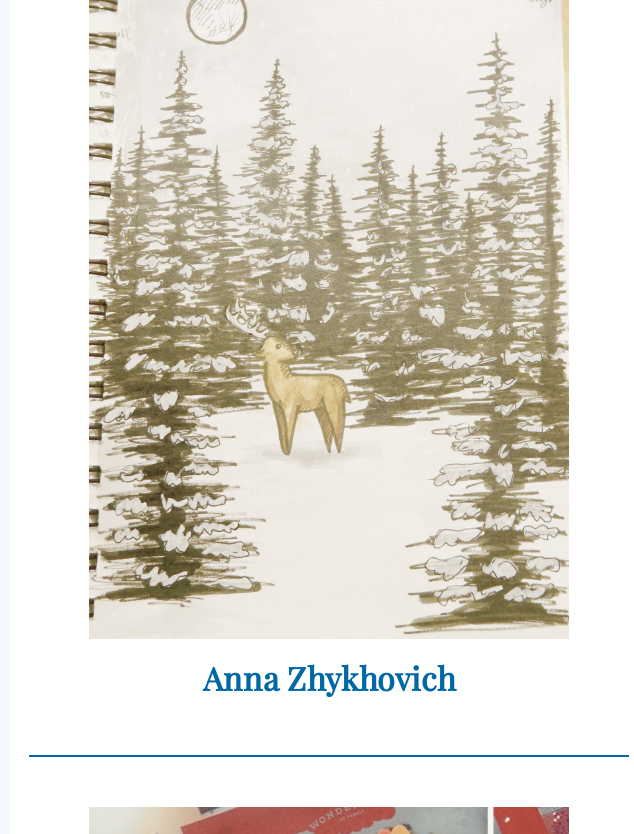
Over winter break, our students had some creative fun! Check out some of their work!



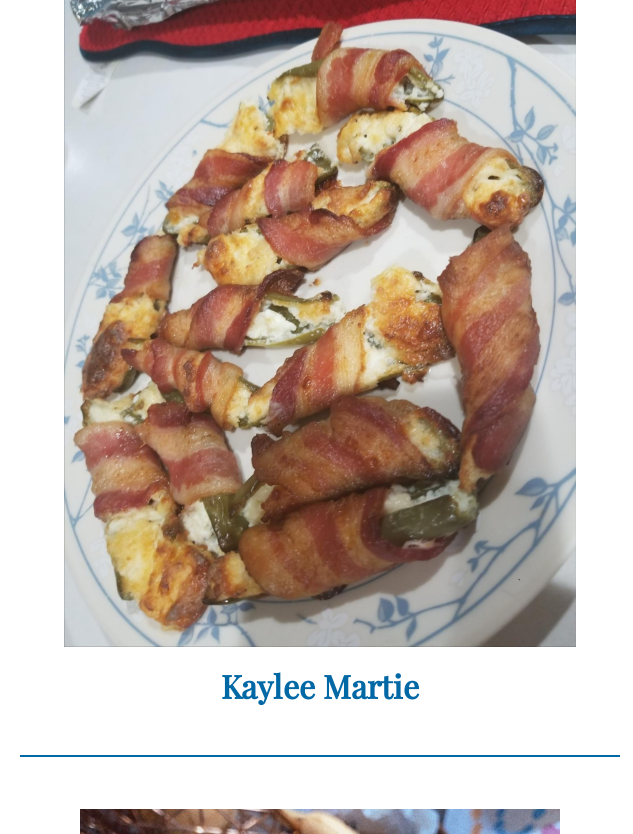
Lillian Szulim



Isabel Gonzalez



Anna Zhykhovich



Kaylee Martie



11th Grade Student



11th Grade Student

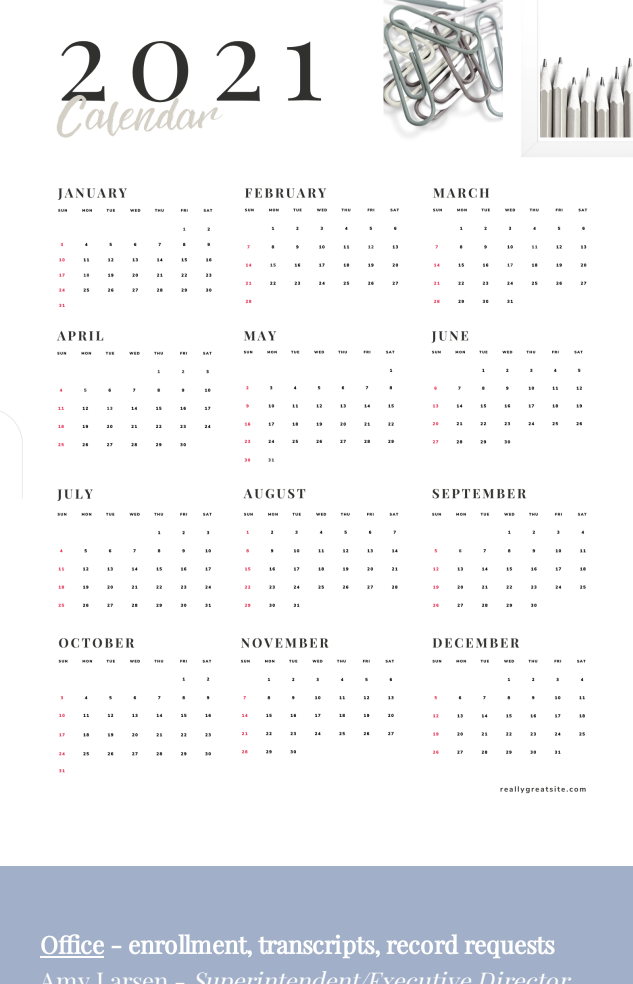
MacCayle Kobluk baked pan de muerto, or bread of the dead, for an extra credit assignment for Spanish 1. Pan de muerto is made for El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) that is celebrated on November 1 and 2 in Mexico and other Latin American countries.



## Mark Your Calendar

- January 21-22, 2021: No school (staff only)
- January 20, 2021: Last day of second quarter
- January 25, 2021: First day of third quarter
- February 15, 2021: No school
- February 26, 2021: TBD Field Trip/Social Event
- March 11-12, 2021: No school (staff only)
- March 26, 2021: Last day of third quarter
- March 26, 2021: Half student day
- April 7, 2021 - April 2, 2021: No school
- April 5, 2021: First day of fourth quarter
- May 31, 2021: No school
- June 3, 2021: Last day of school

[READ MORE](#)



## Resources

Contact Information for Questions and Resources  
Main Line: 651-642-0888  
Staff List with Contact Information



- Office - enrollment, transcripts, record requests  
Amy Jarosz - Superintendent/Executive Director  
Dan Onalich - Principal @ Assistant Director  
Renee Parcheta - Principal @ Student Services Director  
Cathy Parker - Dean of Students  
Heidi Kramer Hansen - Director of Special Education  
Soree Hjer - Student Information Specialist  
John Mizour - Registrar  
Melissa Yank - Testing Coordinator  
Leanne Bakke - Admin Assistant

- Counselors - scheduling and class changes  
Dawn Mensing  
Grant Cameron  
Amy Chicoline  
Jennifer Anderson  
Earli Anderson-Dickmann

- Advisory - navigating school  
Laura Weleck  
Danielle Packler  
Dawn Nicol  
Carric Ostman  
Scot Miller  
Jennifer Lindgren  
Kelly Hanson  
Hanna Coleman

- Social Workers - school, family, and personal concerns, well-being, crisis assistance  
Carlynn Ditch  
Casha Hanson  
Caryn Butler  
April Schombert  
Lynn Bielec

- Supplemental  
Heidi Jensen  
Till Hout

## COVID-19 Updates



### Staying Sanitary

Staying healthy and safe is our number one priority for staff, students, and our parents and guardians. At the office, we are practicing social distancing and keeping surfaces and offices sanitary.

Remember to check the CDC's guidelines and Governor Walz's regulations to stay safe!  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>  
<https://mn.gov/governor/covid-19/news/>



### Coming to BlueSky

In our current scenario, we are only having essential staff on site. If there is an essential need to come in, there is a form on Moodle for students to fill out if you are coming in. It is called "Learning Center Registration" and it is on the homepage under the "Student Learning Center" tab. Once they have filled it out, Katie Shealy will reach out to you to confirm if the time and date will work. Katie will also send out a reminder of the COVID protocols and other information for the learning center.

We will be requiring masks, sign-ins, and pre-screening for symptoms for everyone's safety!

[BlueSky 2020-2021 COVID-19 Plan](#)