Good afternoon,

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the long weekend so I'll be brief today. I'll start with some words of gratitude and recognition. October is National Principals Month so I want to take the opportunity to celebrate and honor our school principals for their vision, leadership, hard work and for going above and beyond.

The job of a school principal can be very rewarding but every day is different and some can be filled with challenge. Principals are responsible for managing their schools which includes shaping curriculum, teaching and learning, coaching teachers, safety, communication, hiring staff, implementing programming, formulating a budget, and most importantly, they are responsible for the success of every student in their school.

A principal's work is never done. They are always "on," constantly moving and as we've seen with the pandemic, always have to be ready for change at any given moment.

Each week this month, I will be highlighting a few of our principals in my brief. Today, I recognize Laurie Timmis, Desmond O'Connor, John Perreault, and Chad Sitts, one of our newest principals. Their photos and more information is available to the right.

Please join me this month by taking time to say "thank you" to your school principal.
Last Sunday was National Custodian Day. Thank you to our incredible custodians and cleaning staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our schools safe and clean. They are often the first ones to arrive each day and they are always here to help whenever and wherever they are needed. Our school custodians are dedicated and care about our students and staff. They are important members of our school team and deserve to be celebrated. I thank each of you.

Pictured Above: Brad Hough, Custodian at Mont Pleasant Middle School and Central Offices. Pictured Below: Tim Horan and Steve Costello, Cleaners at Schenectady High School.

Congratulations to the Schenectady High School eSports team which participated in their first official match this week. Our League of Legends team won the match against Chittenango High School from the Syracuse area. Way to go!

Sgt. Plowden works with District Safety Team

Schenectady Police Sergeant Plowden met with our school safety team this week.

As part as the Safety Team professional development Friday morning, team members and parent liaisons circled up for team-building.

Elevating Student Voice
I speak often about the importance of community, partnering, and how we are all in this work together. Collaborating with the members, agencies and organizations in our community only serves to strengthen our city, our district and our families. We will be talking much more about this with the coming launch of our community schools.

Each and every week, many different partners step up to the plate to help our families out, especially during challenging times. Thank you to Ellis Medicine for scheduling another school vaccination clinic so that families can get their children vaccinated as soon as possible. The clinic will be held on Tuesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 12 from 2-6 p.m. at the McClellan Street Health Center. No appointment is needed. This is important for those families who have been unable to get an appointment quickly at their healthcare provider’s office.

I also wish to thank Schenectady Police Sgt. Plowden (an SHS graduate) who presented and worked with our district safety team today. The day's activities included professional development and circling up the safety team and parent liaisons to build trust and strengthen the team. I am grateful to our entire safety team, led by Jeff Russo, as well as the Schenectady Police Department and Sgt. Plowden for their continued partnership with us and in our work to keep our schools and community safe. Sergeant Plowden is also one of our district's Community Engagement Officers (CEO). It's all about teamwork.

This month is Fire Prevention Month and I wish to also thank the Schenectady Fire

Supt. Soler Reads to Students at King

Earlier this week, Superintendent Soler read to a class at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School.

Calendar Look Ahead

October 10: Indigenous Peoples' Day
No school and district offices closed.

October 12: Interim Reports for Secondary Students will be mailed.
Department and our local firefighters for taking time out of their schedules all month to visit with our elementary school students and talk about fire prevention and safety.

Earlier this week, we held our monthly leadership meeting at which all of our administrators come together to discuss current events, curriculum and instruction, and tools, systems and processes. Jay Jacobs and Nicki Foley from Clarkson gave an update about the "Grow Your Own Program." We look forward to presenting opportunities for our students and staff to jump on a pathway to higher education or elevated career change. They spoke about two students in the Clarkson MAT program who are now on track to become teachers in our district. One is completing a residency at SHS and the other is working as a long-term sub as an arts and theater teacher at Mont Pleasant. We will share more about them soon. If you are interested in learning more about the pathway, please reach out and let us know.

I want to acknowledge and thank five of our high school students who presented at the facilitator session "Elevating Student Voice," at Capital Region BOCES. Harmony Elliot, Damonni Farley, Isiah Roberts, Johnathan James and Oluwadamiloa Lawal are fantastic role-models and were participants this morning. Student voice is essential. The thoughts, ideas, opinions and values of our students make us better. They are a force that can drive change in the school and community. I am proud of our students, staff and district for continuing to empower student voice and helping our students feel invested in their own learning.

I continue to enjoy the Hispanic Heritage reading tour. I had a great time earlier this week reading to a class at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.

Schenectady High School held a festive and fun homecoming celebration last week. Thank
you to all involved in the planning of those events. By all accounts, it was a great time.

Lastly, just a reminder that Monday is a holiday, Indigenous Peoples' Day. The holiday honors and celebrates the history, cultures, and contributions of native American people in the U.S. The Old Farmer's Almanac provides information including why it is celebrated and how to celebrate.

I hope you enjoy, have some fun, get some rest and enjoy what looks to be a beautiful fall weekend. If you have the time, please come out and support our athletic teams. The schedule is online here.

Take care,

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

Fire Prevention Month

Each year during Fire Prevention and Safety Month the Schenectady Fire Department visits each elementary school for fire prevention and fire safety lessons with our youngest learners.

Above: Members of the Schenectady Fire Department meet with students at King School.
Firemen talk with students from Yates Elementary School.

Watch for more school visits with the Schenectady Fire Department throughout the month.

Safety Team Dedicated to Our Students

Our district Safety Team, including the Innovation, Equity and Engagement Specialists, came together on Friday for team-building and professional development.

Homecoming Flag Ceremony

Watch last week's homecoming game flag ceremony on our Instagram page. Thank you to JROTC, Steve Balogh, and Saratoga players and coaches for a great ceremony.

Homecoming Football Game

Varsity football enters through the inflatable helmet.
Visual & Performing Arts Student Featured

I want everyone to meet Bella- Our @SCSchools Visual and Performing Arts Featured Student! Bella is painting a welcoming mural in the Freshman Academy. She is part of Dance Connections and on the Volleyball team! She is even starting her own podcast! We are so very proud of you!

Grout Run

Alucien Gonzalez finished 3rd at Grout Run and earned his first win for Schenectady XC in Ballston Spa

Attendance Matters

Keane celebrated the end of September by recognizing 111 students in the N.B.A. (Never Been Absent)

A student in Carrie White's class improved her attendance and was rewarded with lunch in the classroom with the teacher

Let's work together to ensure that children are in school every day. It makes a difference. Students can fall behind if they miss just one or two days a month. These days add up. If you need assistance, please let us know.

#projectbehere

Community Notes
Vaccination Clinic

Ellis Family Health Center is hosting a School Vaccination Clinic on Tues. Oct. 11 & Wed. Oct. 12 from 2-6 p.m. at the McClellan Street Health Clinic. No appt. needed. Flyer [here](#)

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**School Vaccination Clinic**

Ellis Family Health Center is hosting their annual Back-to-School Vaccination Clinic to help children in the community get their school vaccinations in a timely manner and during hours that are convenient for families. This will be a walk-in service so no appointment is needed.

**WHEN:**
Tuesday, October 11
Wednesday, October 12

**TIME:**
2 pm – 6 pm

**WHERE:**
McClellan Street Health Center 600 McClellan St., Suite B Schenectady, NY (former Primary Care Plus office)

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**Clinica de Vacunacion Escolar**

Ellis Family Health Center está organizando su reunión anual Back-to-School Clinico de Vacunación Escolar para ayudar a los niños en la comunidad a tomar sus vacunas escolares en un momento apropiado y en el horario que sea conveniente para familias. Este será un servicio sin cita previa, así que no hay cita necesaria.

**Cuando:**
Martes, Octubre 11
Miércoles, Octubre 12

**Tiempo:**
2 pm – 6 pm

**Dónde:**
McClellan Street Health Center 600 McClellan St., Suite B Schenectady, NY

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Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp

**Fall Spooktacular**

Saturday, October 15

Noon- 4 p.m.

Around City Hall and Jay Street

Download [Flyer](#)

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**MOBILE APP SUPPORT**

Click here to watch a short video on how to set your school and language preferences on our mobile app: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saNc9ek2Lqg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saNc9ek2Lqg)

#SchenectadyRising
PREVIOUS BRIEFS: For the index of Volume 1 and Volume 2 Briefs, click here.