The following is a briefing for the week beginning May 4th on behalf of Dr. Cash.

Dear Colleagues:

McKinley High School, with the second largest teaching greenhouse outside of Cornell College, held its annual Mother’s Day plant sale this week. Usually, the horticulture students manage the sale, but this year, the teachers and administrators managed operations. Business was brisk and just a little bittersweet without the proud students on hand. As always, the legacy lives on, and Mother’s Day will be a little brighter this year thanks to the wonders turned out of the McKinley greenhouse. Kudos to all for their beautiful horticultural mastery!

Left to right: Mr. Harris (Director of CTE), Ms. Hughes, Mr. Callea, Ms. Mangano, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Robillard (Horticulture Teachers), Mrs. Cotto (Assistant Principal)

Each spring the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) celebrates the contributions and achievements of Western New York’s music educators, administrators and school music programs with the BPO Leadership in Music Education Award. This award honors individuals and organizations that show exceptional leadership and vision in promoting music education in our schools and community.

Congratulations to Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts principal Jody Covington, who was awarded the Leadership in Music, and Cara Calabrese, a music educator at Lafayette High School, who won the BPO and Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Music Education. See more at the BPO website.
As our families continue to adjust to online teaching and learning, Frank A Sedita #30 ENL teacher Miriam Kagan made an important discovery. With parents working during the day, 6:00 PM was the perfect time to get 17 out of 20 of her students to sign on for a virtual class! Below is what the students saw on their screens, and they were delighted! Kudos for your flexibility, Ms. Kagan, and for using your instincts in getting your students’ full attention!

Many of our teachers celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week by being their usual giving selves. This week, teachers celebrated teaching by filling our Facebook page with video love letters to their students, doing drive-by parades, and planting lawn signs at the homes of our seniors as a point of pride. This is why our teachers are stars in the eyes of their students! Hutch Tech students, who annually celebrate teachers by showing up at 6:00 a.m. to applaud teachers as they arrive and serve them breakfast, made a Plan B video this year. Enjoy it by clicking here. One thing is clear: Our teachers and students miss seeing each other at school!

In good times and in bad, we need to remember that you reap what you sow. BPS Supervisor of Mathematics Dalphne Bell certainly has imbued her daughter Alanna with the spirit of giving. Instead of having a COVID-times birthday parade and gifts, Alanna asked all of her friends and family members to drive by with canned goods that can be donated to Feedmore WNY. "She thought of it on her own, and she really just wants to help people. I’m just so proud of her that she wants to give rather than receive on her birthday, especially at a time like this,” said Dalphne Bell, Alanna's mother. See WKWB’s coverage by clicking here. Kudos to Dalphne for raising a child with a beautiful heart. Wherever Alanna’s future career takes her, we know she will benefit many more people along the way due to her generous nature. We hope she will consider being an educator, just like her mom!
Strong Community Schools Saturday Academy celebrates Moms this week. We have honored teachers and nurses all week long, and now mothers. For those of you who are all three – Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Be wise and be well!

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent