

Leaf! Vol. 58

The Future AND BEYOND

Nov 27 "Early" dismissal @ noon

Nov 28-29 No School- Thanksgiving Break

Dec 6 Snowball Dance

Dec 19 Arts Night Showcase

Dec 21 -Jan 5 No School - Holiday Break

Jan 6 Three Kings Day

Respect
Responsibility
Restraint
Reciprocity
Redemption









Updated Attendance Policy SY 24/25

Multi-Tiered System of Support for Attendance

Tier 1Teachers/Advisors

When a student misses **3 days**, it is important for the advisor and/or teachers to:

- CheckIn:Reachouttothe student to ensure everything is okay and address any concerns they might have.
- OfferSupport:Provideany necessary support or resources to help the student get back on track.
- RemindofAttendancePolicy:
 Remind students of the school's
 attendance policy and the
 importance of regular
 attendance.
- Notifyappropriateschool counselor for attendance monitoring purposes.

Tier 2

Teachers/ Advisors + SST

When a student accumulates 4 unexcused absences:

Attendance Team Communication: The Attendance Team will notify the advisor / teacher of the students.

Advisor Action: The advisor should call home using the provided script [LINK HERE] to discuss the absences and provide support.

Subsequent Absences: For each additional unexcused absence beyond the initial 4, another call home and/or email should be made. This communication should:

- Informparentsofthecontinued absences.
- RemindfamiliesoftheBGA attendance policy.
- Inquireifthestudentorfamily needs any additional support or resources.

Tier 3

SST + Student Re-Engagement Coordinator

Lower House:

- 6Absences:Anin-personfamily meeting is required.
- 8Absences:Anattendanceplan will be created in Panorama. ACRAfilingwillbeinitiatedfor students under the age of 16 (Re-Engagement Coordinator).

Upper House:

- 8Absences:Anin-personfamily meeting is required.
- 10Absences:Anattendance plan will be created in Panorama.
- Studentsundertheageof16 will also have a CRA filing.
- Saturdayschoolwillbeassigned.

Saturday School:

- AttendanceMonitoring:
 Students will be monitored for 2 weeks following Saturday school.
- 1or2UnexcusedAbsences:The student may attend Homework Club to make up for the absences.
- Morethan2Unexcused
 Absences: The student will return to Saturday School for additional support.



GET INSIDE THE "MONEY" GRABBING MACHINE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO EARN SNACKS, GIFT CARDS, LUNCH AND OTHER PRIZES.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE 90% OR HIGHER ATTENDANCE WILL BE SELECTED AT RANDOM. GOOD LUCK!



For More Information see your school counselors







Boston Green Academy

MEET OUR

*School Family *Council

School Year 2024-2025





Dwayne Cartagena
Co-Chair
Parent of an 8th grader



Yara Perez Co-Chair Parent of a 12th grader



Stephanie Sibley Secretary Parent of a 7th grader



Sonia JorgeSecretary
Parent of a 10th grader



Jewell Williams SPEDPAC Rep Parent of a 7th Grader



Ana Ramirez
DELAC Rep
parent of a 7th grader

BOSTON GREEN ACADEMY

SCHOOL FAMILY COUNCIL (SFC)

6PM SFC ZOOM MEETINGS ONCE A MONTH

Click Here to Join ^c



December 17, 2024
January 21, 2025
February 18, 2025
March 18, 2025
April 15, 2025
May 20, 2025
June 17, 2025

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

9

These meetings provide a chance to interact with fellow BGA parents, board members, and staff. We encourage you to ask questions and invite other BGA parents to help foster a stronger community.



2 STAY INFORMED

We will share a calendar of events that highlights important happenings at our school, designed to benefit all families.

Coming Soon: link to BGA website/calendar



Participation in our meetings helps build confidence. You are not alone; we are here to support one another in creating an environment where our children can thrive.



RESOURCE ACCESS

We will provide easy access to valuable resources to support you and your family.





ADVOCACY AND VOICE

Your voice matters! Get involved in discussions that shape our school community and advocate for the needs of our families.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In honor of Native American Month, we are spotlighting 5 essays from students in Ms. He's Ethnic Studies class

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE

INDIGENIOUS NEWS TODAY

MS. HE'S ETHNIC STUDIES CLASS TAKES ON OP-

A LETTER FROM MS. HE

In today's world, where we confront injustices on many fronts, I have committed to empowering my students to become informed and empathetic learners—aware of the challenges around them and, most importantly, the people who are impacted.

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor the rich culture and heritage of Native American and Alaska Native communities while also recognizing the federal government's history of failed policies and broken promises toward these communities.

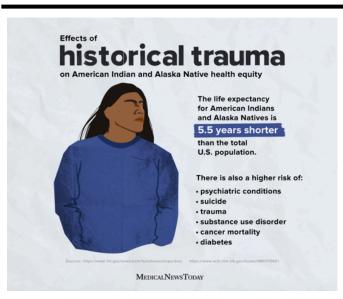
In Ethnic Studies, we examine the injustices faced by people of color in the United States. We explore how the various facets of our identities—such as race, gender, and more—interconnect to shape who we are, how we perceive ourselves, and how we navigate the world. The intersectionality of our identities is what makes each of us unique.

To begin the year, my students write op-eds on issues affecting Native American and Alaska Native communities. Confronting colonialism requires acknowledging the tragic history and ongoing challenges these communities face. The following op-eds explore critical topics such as mental health, access to water, the lasting effects of Indian Boarding Schools, the epidemic of violence against Native women, and the connection between food and mental well-being.

I hope these pieces resonate with you and inspire deeper reflection.

Sincerely, Ms. He

HOW MENTAL HEALTH IS DEALT WITH FOR NATIVE AMERICANS



Source: Medical News Today Infographic that shows life expectancy of Native Americans and how it's shorter than life in the U.S. also there are risks of what they can go through.

Historical Trauma plays a role in the mental health concerns of Native Americans. This population has higher rates of (PTSD), addiction, and suicide than the U.S. From wars, genocide, disease, forced removal from land. Massacres, incarcerations and suppression are still with many Native people today and it has resulted in poverty. I think that mental health is strenuous on everyone but do we think about how it affects people of different and where it could root from. That is why I am going to explain why it is important that we focus on something else than only the U.S. because these issues come from past trauma in their countries like wars, getting taken away from their families, etc. They also were here before and I feel like that plays a part as to why they discriminate towards them. This topic is important because it needs to be heard about how these people from different places around the world feel and what they have gone through and how they can get better. Native Americans are affected by mental health across the board due to so many traumatic things. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, having a close attachment to land, family bonds and meaningful traditions are a part of these peoples life, their identity.

Taking these poor people away from those things that mean a lot to them and are an important part of their life and their culture really ends in messing them up mentally in the long run. Then people ask why they are so sad or low energy all the time. "Traditional Native life is organized around a deep respect for the land and the resources provided by "Mother Earth" to feed, clothe and shelter us."

Kaylynn Morales Updated 11/11/2024 6:08 PM
From the source, they are telling that they were born into that life and it should've stayed that way. But since terrorists and bad people wanted to invade their land and resources they couldn't get to keep what they deserved. Colonization was happening in a lot of countries in the world that they felt like they couldn't keep control of. Indigenous communities faced mass violence, displacement and forced removal as colonizers imposed borders, cut down trees and blocked waterways. The effects of this historical trauma and economic impact is still felt today.

Many Native American people experience stigma around seeking mental health care. They go through discrimination. Their human.rights are routinely violated by state authorities, and they face high levels of marginalization and discrimination. Indigenous Peoples face eviction from the ancestral lands they have inhabited for generations, as well as restricted access to education, health care and housing. While there are federal programs like the Indian Health Service to help with healthcare, they are often insufficient due to systemic inequities and underfunding. Indigenous people are more likely to live in extreme poverty and suffer higher rates of landlessness, malnutrition and internal displacement than other groups.

There are still systemic barriers and policies that contribute to the complex issues among Native Americans. I think that mental health is strenuous on everyone but do we think about how it affects people of different and where it could root from. That is why I am going to explain why it is important that we focus on something else than only the U.S. because these issues come from past trauma in their countries like wars, getting taken away from their families, etc. These people should get the help they need and deserve. They should not have been stripped of the only culture they know. I think that treating these people like they are not humans is not okay and they need all the help and healing from their past.

TO ADDRESS WATER CONTAMINATION AFFECTING HUNDREDS, WE AS THE PEOPLE MUST TAKE ACTION AND SUPPORT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO BELIEVE IN SUSTAINABILITY.



Source: Rayne Water Contaminated sewage water ends up in our ponds and rivers.

<u>United States Geological Survey</u> scientists report national estimates of PFAS occurrence in untreated groundwater that supplies water to public and private wells. The research provides the number of people across the country who are potentially affected by PFAS-contaminated groundwater.

Obtaining access to clean water is an important necessity in a family household but also an incredible health issue for millions. Economic stability and social justice have been some of the reasons for accessing clean water. Communities, especially Communities of color, are targeted and unfortunately have to suffer from incompetent access to water infrastructure, which leads to water contamination and a huge health-crisis.

Clean water is an important necessity that every person should have access to. Economic stability, especially discrimination plays a role in access to clean water because different industries and government officials built gas lines and structures that can pollute our water, throw garbage, or contaminate our water from their industries. We as the people need to take a stand and stop water contamination by bringing down industries that are polluting our clean water.

<u>Water contamination</u> results in industrial actions like mining, manufacturing, and agriculture, which are key components of economic growth and can also create jobs. Stern environmental regulations measures to fight against water contamination could determine these industries leading to job losses, reduced economic output, and consequences for communities that depend on these elements for their livelihoods. It's important to balance between environmental protection and the economic needs of a growing global population.

This topic is significant because according to the evidence under <u>"Sources of contamination"</u>, the manufacturing process is one of the sources of water contamination which is connected to the claim. Industries have ruined green agriculture by creating buildings, pipelines, factories, etc and those components all create a conflict which in this case is water contamination. Industry wrongdoings have harmed families

Adrian Bosco Updated 11/11/2024 5:00 PM

and communities to have access to clean water because of all of the pollution from their infrastructure affecting not only hundreds but millions worldwide. Water contamination affects communities worldwide due to industries and government officials failing to enforce environmental regulations. For example, on April 25th, 2014, hundreds of families in Flint, Michigan suffered from water contamination, showers, sinks, drinkable water were all affected because their government didn't want to fix the conflict but instead made it worse, worse that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were involved in this crisis and demanded a solution to stop water contamination. Pipes were filled with rust and lead was spread out throughout their town. This conflict caused families to become sick because they couldn't shower in clean water which causes skin illnesses as well as different variants of illnesses involving water contamination.

This topic is significant because according to the article <u>"Impact of Water Pollution on Human Health"</u>, unsafe drinking water and poor hygiene can cause and lead to gastrointestinal illnesses making it impossible for humans to have access to nutrients the body needs to absorb as well as malnutrition. These effects are incredibly dangerous for kids because children do not have a fully developed immune system and could be affected heavily by different diseases water contamination could carry. This topic also connects to environmental justice because people who are affected by this conflict are mostly people who have trouble accessing clean water, especially communities who are not noticed by the government or the city because of where or who lives in that area.

Clean water is an important necessity that every person should have access to. Economic stability, especially discrimination plays a role in access to clean water because different industries and government officials built gas lines and structures that can pollute our water, throw garbage, or contaminate our water from their industries. We as the people need to take a stand and stop water contamination by bringing down industries that are polluting our clean water. In summary, the United States government as well as the local government haven't taken steps to stop water pollution and they are violating environmental regulations causing this issue to begin with. What we should do as the people previously mentioned is to take a step and protect our families, friends, and loved ones from water pollution and the sicknesses that it can cause people. People deserve to have access to free and clean water, people deserve to have the opportunity to drink clean water, people deserve to have accessible water in their household.

HOW NATIVE FOODS HELP WITH MENTAL HEALTH

Areli Lopez Updated 11/11/2024 11:53 PM



Source: Lydia Jerry

Shereena Baker, who is from the Karuk and Southern Ute tribes, holds a basket of fresh vegetables.

Some people would say they could go to therapy instead of complaining about it. When therapy doesn't work for everyone, but their traditional way of healing does many things for them that therapy doesn't.

<u>Native mental health</u> and drinking problems started when the settlers took away their traditional food sources and made them eat the settlers' food; now they are getting back their traditional food, and they are slowly going back to their roots little by little, but not all of them some are still suffering from these issues.

When Shereena got out of college, heartbreak lead to drinking alcohol and losing herself to addiction to drinking, which took a toll on her mental health. She turned to her native food with the spiritual link natives have with food, healing them physically and mentally. Native Americans have barriers when it comes to availability, accessibility, and acceptability when it comes to mental health, and it's worrying because they shouldn't have those barriers to begin with. After all, it's what they deserve. This issue should concern everyone because Native Americans face significant mental health challenges that demand urgent attention.

<u>Most people assume</u> Native Americans' mental health is fine and don't suffer through much, such struggling with suicidal ideation, PTSD, or depression.

If all native Americans can reconnect with their cultures and traditions and we give them respect and do not disturb the peace of their reserved land and their food sources grow and give them what they deserve after all this time is at least half of what they deserve for their mental health, not including mental health groups that could help with trauma and PTSD from their traumatic past. It is our collective responsibility to address these inequities and support Native communities in their efforts to heal and thrive. We owe it to them.

MENTAL ISSUES IN NATIVE AMERICA CONTINUE TO GROW DUE TO NON—INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TREATING NATIVE AMERICANS WRONG IN DIFFERENT INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS



Source: Unknown This is a picture of Native children enrolled at the Carlisle Indian Industrial Boarding School.

These are traumatizing moments in Native Americans lives when being <u>forcibly enrolled in these boarding schools</u> in the United States, and treated unfairly due to their ethnicity. "Between 1819 through the 1970s, the United States implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools across the nation. The purpose of federal Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children by forcibly removing them from their families, communities, languages, religions and cultural beliefs. While children attended federal boarding schools, many endured physical and emotional abuse and, in some cases, died" (Department of Interior).

Native American students from these boarding schools have to go through mental issues with non-indigenous people treating them poorly. Students would be taken away from their families, and their culture completely, and then are forced to attend these boarding schools. In these boarding schools there are many different challenges students face everyday, and this could become traumatic events, which lead to mental problems. This connects with Environmental justice due to the injustice that occurred around this time in the Indian boarding schools, too their students.

Although some may say that Native American students were treated well in Indian boarding schools, in fact the Native Americans experience for the boarding schools was more poor treatment, and loss of cultural tides. This is similar to environmental justice, due to how the people treat the environment.

"Cut off from their families and culture, the children were punished for speaking their Native languages, banned from conducting traditional or cultural practices, shorn of traditional clothing and identity of their Native cultures, taught that their cultures and traditions were evil and sinful, and that they should be ashamed of being Native American" (Native American Rights Fund). These native students weren't allowed to be open with their cultures or else there would be bad consequences. These boarding schools affected the lives of many native students, and created different mental health issues inside these native people's lives. Similar to environmental justice a sense of place, and connection to a place could be lost if being away from it for a long enough time.

"Many children faced beatings, malnutrition, hard labor and other forms of

Caleb Gauthier Updated 11/11/2024 5:40 PM

of neglect and abuse. Some never returned to their families. Hundreds are known to have died, a toll expected to grow as research continues" (New York Times). It is shown that as a whole these students were being tortured just by attending school. There are <u>many examples</u> of what these people did to the kids. Deaths did occur in these schools due to poor conditions, disease, and abuse. Also the students weren't even eating well, they didn't have food while they still were put to work.

The government passed a law to make sure the Native students would secure their attendance at the school they are at. "Congress passed a law in 1891 authorizing the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to make and enforce rules that would secure the attendance of children at the new schools. And more children in the schools meant more money for the people running them" (Washington Post). The evidence shows that Indian boarding schools could be beneficial. In the quote it mentions how there will be more money due to the massive amounts of native students that attend these schools. The people who own these schools would be getting paid a lot more, which could help benefit the greater good of the country. Also this wealth can get to the government, and they will be able to use this to improve our country, and native peoples lives. Some may say that Indian boarding schools aren't beneficial, however when money is brought up in the conversation, Indian boarding schools would be more beneficial to Native students.

Although some may say that Native American students were treated well in Indian boarding schools, in fact the Native Americans experience for the boarding schools was more poor treatment, and loss of cultural tides. Native students weren't allowed to do anything remotely similar to their culture or they will be punished. These kids didn't experience a good school or good teachers, instead they experienced torcher. In conclusion, the Indian boarding schools were not-beneficial for native people.

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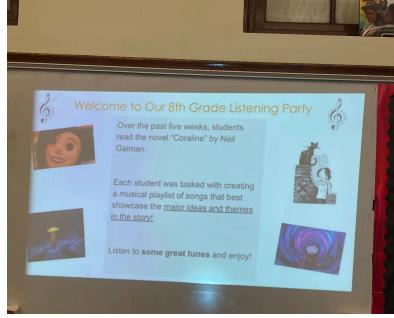
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Our 8th grade students read
"Coraline" by Neil Gaiman.
They were tasked with creating
a musical playlist that
demonstrated the major ideas
and themes of the story. They
followed that by presenting
their finished products during
Ms. Phifer's Listening Party.
Students worked very hard on
their playlists and were eager
to share them with students,
BGA families and staff. Here
are a few photos from their big
day. Enjoy!













We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the students. staff, and families who showed their support for our amazing students. A special thanks to Ms. Phifer for her efforts in organizing this event and encouraging the students to step outside their comfort zones.

























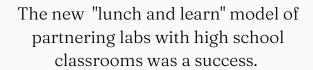


The lab showed students how medicine is derived from plants. The lab has been designing medicine for Alzheimer's using tobacco plants for reference.

Students got first hand experience with fragrant molecules, medicines from

fragrant molecules, medicines from plants, glow in the dark leaves, and so much more

















A VISIT BY BRIAN
SWETT, THE CITY OF
BOSTON'S FIRST
CHIEF CLIMATE
OFFICER!

BRIAN FIELDED
QUESTIONS FROM
OUR 11TH GRADE
CTE STUDENTS AND
TOOK A TOUR OF BGA
STUDIOS, THE
FREIGHT FARM, AND
OUR OUTDOOR
CLASSROOM.







MS. ZENG. CREATED A BRILLIANT LITTLE SCAVENGER HUNT FOR OUR 7TH GRADERS. THEY WENT OUTSIDE IN THREE GROUPS OF THREE KIDDOS EACH DURING HER B BLOCK CLASS. LATER THEY WENT TO THE AUDITORIUM AND ENJOYED STEAMING CUPS OF HOT CHOCOLATE SERVED IN COMPOSTABLE CUPS.









BGA Thanksgiving Dinner 2024













Boston Public Schools Respiratory Virus Illness Protocols



THIS GUIDANCE OUTLINES THE ISOLATION AND EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS FOR MANAGING RESPIRATORY VIRUSES, INCLUDING COVID-19, INFLUENZA (FLU), RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV), AND OTHER COMMON RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS. IT PROVIDES CLEAR, ACTIONABLE STEPS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THESE ILLNESSES AND ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES.

ISOLATION PROTOCOL



INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ABLE TO MASK:

ISOLATE UNTIL THERE IS SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL SYMPTOMS AND YOU ARE FEVER FREE WITHOUT THE USE OF FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS.

RETURN TO SCHOOL **24 HOURS AFTER THE CRITERIA ABOVE ARE MET** AND CONSISTENTLY WEAR A WELL-FITTING DISPOSABLE MASK AROUND OTHERS FOR THE NEXT 5 DAYS.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNABLE TO MASK:

ISOLATE UNTIL ALL SYMPTOMS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED, AND YOU ARE FEVER FREE WITHOUT THE USE OF FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS.

RETURN TO SCHOOL 24 HOURS AFTER THE CRITERIA ABOVE ARE MET.

EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

NO QUARANTINE IS NECESSARY.

IT IS RECOMMENDED TO WEAR CONSISTENTLY WEAR A WELL-FITTING

DISPOSABLE FOR 5 DAYS

MONITOR CLOSELY FOR SYMPTOMS AND STAY HOME IF SYMPTOMS

DEVELOP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TRANSLATION IN
OTHER LANGUAGES,
CLICK HERE

Don't forget to always wash your hands with soap

Boston Green Academy Presents

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL!

JANUARY 17-19

Modern Theater

More details to come



4:00 - 6:00 PM *EXCEPT AS NOTED

LIBRARY

ADDRESS

NIGHT(S) OPEN

ADAMS STREET BRIGHTON CENTRAL LIBRARY –

COPLEY SQUARE

CHARLESTOWN CHINATOWN

CODMAN SQUARE

CONNOLLY EAST BOSTON

EGLESTON SQUARE

FANEUIL

FIELDS CORNER GROVE HALL

HONAN - ALLSTON

HYDE PARK JAMAICA PLAIN LOWER MILLS

MATTAPAN

NORTH END PARKER HILL ROSLINDALE ROXBURY

SOUTH BOSTON

SOUTH END
UPHAMS CORNER

WEST END WEST ROXBURY 690 Adams Street 40 Academy Hill Road

700 Boylston Street

179 Main Street 2 Boylston Street

690 Washington Street

433 Centre Street 365 Bremen Street 2044 Columbus Avenue

419 Faneuil Street

1520 Dorchester Avenue

41 Geneva Avenue

300 North Harvard Street

35 Harvard Street 30 South Street 27 Richmond Street

1350 Blue Hills Avenue

25 Parmenter Street 1497 Tremont Street 4266 Washington Street

149 Dudley Street 646 East Broadway

555 Tremont Street 500 Columbia Road 151 Cambridge Street 1961 Centre Street Wednesday Thursday

Monday through Thursday

Monday & Thursday

Monday Monday Monday Thursday Wednesday

(closed for renovations)

Tuesday Thursday Wednesday Thursday Thursday

Monday & Thursday (*3:00-5:00 pm) Tuesday & Thursday (*3:00-5:00 pm)

Wednesday Thursday Thursday Monday

Monday & Thursday (*3:00-5:00 pm)

(closed for renovations)

Thursday Thursday Monday

Sponsored by the

BOSTON TEACHERS UNION • MAYOR OF BOSTON
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



ENGLISH

For other languages



Jobs Corner

WE ARE HIRING

PEER LEADERS

Youth, Purpose, and Partnership (YPP) Program

- Participate in multimedia storytelling, including podcasting and digital storytelling, and engage in open dialogue between youth and community leaders.
- Engage in volunteer opportunities, community-based projects, and collaborate with other youth programs in Boston.
- High school students ages 14-18

APPLY TODAY!

Learn More & Apply At: WWW.CSTOX.OFG







Children's Services of Roxbury is Hiring Peer Leaders

Join Hyde Square Task Force's School Year Program

JOVENES EN ACCIÓN

WHERE ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER.

In Jóvenes en Acción, teens learn Afro-Latin arts (dance, music, or theatre) and participate in education and civic engagement workshops.

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 8 - 12







APPLY TODAY



Visit: Hydesquare.org/join-jovenes-en-accion or scan the QR with your phone. Follow us on Social Media @HydeSquareTF



Jrgent Care

for Mental Health

For Questions and Intake:

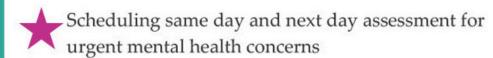


Email us now



Visit our Psychology Today "Brighton Allston Mental Health Association"





- Masshealth Members access to mental health services same and next day appointment
- Extended hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Every other Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Referrals and follow up care provided





ARE YOU A STUDENT INTERESTED IN:

Fighting climate change

Joining a team of students, educators, and local climate leaders to campaign for climate action at your school

Developing leadership and teambuilding skills for climate action JOIN OUR YOUTH COHORT!

PAID OPPORTUNITY



LEARN MORE!



bit.ly/youthcohortapp



APPLY HERE!



Believe. Grow. Achieve.

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return."

- Eden Ahbez, "Nature Boy"



Want to submit content for the next issue?

Need more info?

Contact Ms. Velez at bvelez@bostongreenacademy.org

To view previous volumes of the *Leaf*, click here!