

# Bruno Blast

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**Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy**

**January 2017**

## Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

Strategic Planning Update to the Community  
January 2017

Members of the JBMA strategic planning committee recently met to review previously set goals and monitor progress, as well as to look forward and plan for the future of Bruno Montessori Academy. Below please find the highlights of our progress to date on our 2016- 2021 Strategic Plan Goals. Members of all stakeholder groups are represented on the SIP Team and we appreciate their collaborative involvement.

- I. **Strategic Plan Goal 1: Improve student learning through the use of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)**
  - Coding Workshop held at JBMA –January 2, 2017 PD Day for JBMA Teachers “Computer Science Fundamentals” Dr. Jeff Gray – University of Alabama
  - STEM Professionals visit in the classroom
  - STEM Education Opportunities for Teachers (Calendar)
  - STEM Opportunities in the classroom for students
  - STEM Books in the Library- visit the new section in the library with STEM focused books
  
- II. **Strategic Plan Goal 2: Maintain and enhance our strong programming in musical, performance and visual arts and integrate the arts more comprehensively across the curriculum**
  - Classroom Fine Arts Sections
  - Fine Arts integrated in classroom projects
  - Communication- newsletters and blogs on value of arts in education
  
- III. **Strategic Plan Goal 3: Identify and prioritize the creation of outdoor classroom extensions to support the Montessori Curriculum and provide rich learning environments for JBMA students. Each area will be interactive/explorables/teachable, and support the “Peace Curriculum.”** Outdoor Learning Space for all levels- location and project decided (PTO funded) Look for a new outdoor learning area this spring near our current playground and soccer fields!
  
- IV. **Strategic Plan Goal 4: Strengthen connections among parents, alumni, and the faculty/administration of JBMA through increased and purposeful engagement of all stakeholder groups** Survey Completed
  
- V. **Strategic Plan Goal 5: Grow school’s revenue base through a combination of development initiatives, potential rental of the facility, grant writing, and expansion of levels that will support additional classrooms, etc.**
  - Created a Development Office and hired a development director for JBMA. Please welcome Katie Kirkland to the Bruno community. She is an experienced Director of Development and has worked with local private schools in the Birmingham area.

## JBMA Piano Students

Congratulations to these JBMA piano students who entered the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs' Piano Festival last month. Eleven of our students played in the festival and all eleven received Superior ratings! Pictured above from left to right are: Gaby Poczatek, Surabhi Nevrekar, Yasmine Ferzli, Savitri Sasse, Simone Bermudez, Elizabeth Tremblay-Cox, Gauri Gupta, Sebastian Bermudez, Aarush Chavar, Santiago De la Pava, Anna Grace Tremblay-Cox



## Akil Batchu Gets 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in USCF National Chess Tournament

Akhil achieved 2nd place in USCF National K-12 graded chess tournament in his category (2nd grade unrated). He finished with winning 4 of his 7 rounds. The tournament was held in Nashville where approximately 1500 students from all over the country competed. It was tough competition and Akhil had good exposure to players from all over the country.



## JBMA Talent Show

JBMA has many talented students and on January 20, 2017 many of them showcased their talents for family and friends.

The performers were:

**Surabhi Nevrekar** Piano  
**Elijah Stallworth** Violin  
**Anna Grace & Tessa Tremblay-Cox & Irfa Porbandereala** Song  
**Sarah Peter** Piano  
**Nayeli Petrik** Violin

**Christina Hillegass** Bongos  
**Gauri Gupta** Piano  
**Elizabeth Tremblay-Cox** Piano  
**Gaby Poczatek** Dance  
**Shahana Nanjee** Comedy  
**Vedika Shenoy** HulaHoop  
**Leilah Kooshiar** Violin  
**Suhanna Jan** Dance  
**Isabella Weber** Gymnastics  
**Aleah Ward** Song

## Bruno Soccer

It has been an exciting time so far with it being my first year at JBMA. Being the new physical education teacher and coach, I wanted to go all in on the sports and recreational activities at the school. As my first soccer season kicked off, it became pretty apparent that I had some very skilled players on the U10 team I was coaching.

I had heard of the Bruno soccer team's success prior to this school year, but I was able to witness it first-hand this year as we finished up our regular season with an undefeated 8-0 record. What struck me as odd, however, was that there was no scheduled postseason play for us. Being undefeated, I felt that the players deserved some kind of tournament play, so I decided to sign the team up for an invitational tournament in Liberty Park.

All of the teams in the tournament were very competitive and it was a much

bigger challenge for our team to succeed, but succeed they did! While we did not win the championship, we did play hard to earn a spot in the finals, where we lost a hard fought game. Getting second in the tournament earned all of the players a medal, but more importantly, valuable soccer skills that they will be able to use to improve their game.

I am very thankful to all who have participated in the entire soccer season and I am proud of all the players on my team that worked hard to get where we did. Not only did we get to win second place in a tournament, but we also had fun with friends and family and made some awesome memories, which is the most important aspect of it all. I look forward to next season and the opportunities it will bring!



Pictured Left to Right: Michael Bermudez, Gerardo Rodriguez , Thad Peacock, Nacho Giner, Sebastian Bermudez, Rayaan Rasool, Elijah Stallworth, Juan Martinez, Coach Jordan

## JBMA Parents' Night

January 26<sup>th</sup> was Parents' Night at JBMA. Students proudly showed their parents around their classrooms and demonstrated the jobs they work on every day. Then it is the parents turn to try their hands at the work.



## Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy

### Mission Statement

The community of the Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy provides the opportunity for all students to grow to their fullest potential:

- Cognitively
- Socially
- Emotionally
- Spiritually
- Physically
- Aesthetically

### Vision Statement

The vision of Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy is to provide children and families with an education according to the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. Our focus is not only to provide cognitive education for our students, but to also model a commitment to creating peace and care for the environment for years to come. In theory and practice, we will explore how the traditional Montessori curriculum can be combined with current best practices in education as well as technological advances in order to develop a successful group of 21st century learners. At JBMA we treat each child as an individual, building on their strengths and abilities to become life-long global learners.

### The Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy's Core Values Statement:

**Respect-** We embrace with respect all students regardless of racial, cultural or religious background, gender or the physically or mentally challenged.

**Peace-** We create an atmosphere that will promote the development of peaceful individuals. All students will become committed to creating peace, and taking care of the environment in their homes, school, and communities.

**Collaboration-** We provide each child a foundation for a lifetime of learning by having multi-age classrooms and multi-level collaboration.

**Independent Thinker-** We foster students' development of positive self-esteem; so they will become independent thinkers and accept leadership roles in the world of tomorrow.

## Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

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We're on the Web!  
[www.jbma.education](http://www.jbma.education)

## Upcoming Events in February

- 7 PTO Meeting 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- 7 Children's Theater – Upper Elementary
- 13 Exceptional Foundation – Middle School
- 14 Vision Screening – 5K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 15 Birmingham Southern Environmental Center – Lower Elementary Classroom 1 & 2
- 16 Birmingham Southern Environmental Center – Lower Elementary Classroom 3
- 17 Peace Ceremony 9:00 AM
- 20 President's Day – NO SCHOOL
- 22 Sloss Furnace – Middle School
- 23 Symphony – Upper Elementary
- 23 – 27 MUN in Vicksburg – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade