

New Bedford High School students producing footwear for \$75,000 Vans Culture Competition

New Bedford High School has been chosen as one of the top 50 schools in the 2019 Vans Custom Culture Competition, which carries a \$75,000 grand prize. Vans Custom Culture was created to inspire and empower high school students to embrace their creativity through art and design and to bring attention to diminishing arts education budgets.

As one of the top 50 semifinalists selected from 500 schools around the country, NBHS art students are asking the community to vote for their design submissions for a chance at the Grand Prize. Vote online at customculture.vans.com. Voters may vote every day through Friday, May 3. Four runners-up will also be selected from the competing high schools, each school receiving \$10,000. Vans will announce the winners on Monday, May 6th.

In addition to their design submissions, the NBHS team had to explain how the \$75,000 grand prize money would be used to benefit their school community if they won. The NBHS team includes Lucas Amaral, Liliana Moreno Cornejo, Jennifer Dinh, Eryn Evangelho, Tiara Hatchett, Nicholas Letourneau, Keegan O'Malley, Aries Robertson, and Jerahmell Valentin.

High school art students across the country were commissioned with two pairs of blank Vans shoes, tasked with illustrating the themes of "Local Flavor" and "Off the Wall."

Lynn Souza, NBPS director of fine arts, noted how art students applied their collective talents to the competition. "This has been a great opportunity for students to follow through on a

project from drafts to a completed product. Students worked together to execute the designs and really had to think about the themes.”

Art teachers used the design templates given by Vans for the students to individually submit ideas. Teachers then discussed the work as a team and reached out to the students who incorporated the strongest design elements based on the themes. Those students, and others interested, chose to work after school to combine their ideas and execute the final designs on the shoes.

Vans, a Division of VF Corporation, is a “leading action sports lifestyle company and the original skate shoe manufacturer since 1966, designing, marketing, and distributing footwear, clothing and accessories.”

Congdon School teacher details rodent infestation, severe mold and bats at school

New Bedford City Councilor Joe Lopes submitted a copy of an email and pictures to the City Council from Christine Pereira-Vasquez, a teacher at Congdon School regarding the condition, health and environmental dangers at the Congdon School:

Dear City Council:

It was with great dismay that I read about your decision to “nix” plans to build a new school

for the J.B. Congdon and the DeValles Elementary Schools. As a life-long resident and "NorthEnder" of New Bedford, as well as NBPS teacher at the Congdon School for close to thirty years, I can truly say you have made a "mistake" on this one. I understand your concern for the northend schools, but the condition, health, and environmental dangers at our two schools far supersedes anything that the north-end schools are experiencing.

Although I cannot speak for the condition of DeValles- although I hear that it may, in fact, be worse than Congdon, I can give you first hand information of what students and staff face every day here at Congdon. I, for example, am unable to keep any posters up on certain walls of my room because of the water that drips down when it rains. I have used buckets in my shared closet to catch the water as it drops from ceiling to floor. I am not alone in this. I need to cover my shelves, books, and other materials near these walls as they not only get wet from time to time, but the paint curls and peels because of the moisture. This leads to the paint "bubbling" on the walls and then crumbling over everything, leaving a big mess to clean. We are constantly breathing this "dust" in the air as well as the musty smells from the dirt-floor basement that enters through our vents.



I have had very “hairy”, black mold grow in a shared closet. The principal at the time, was “afraid they would close the school down” so did nothing about it for two years. When it got so bad and he could no longer ignore it, a custodian came in to scrape and clean it with bleach, never following the proper protocol in securing the area and cleaning black mold, putting all children and staff at risk for the spreading of spores. I had a child that year in remission from leukemia. I was truly petrified for her wellbeing. We had a teacher test positive for mold who became ill from it, and there are many of us that suffer chronic sinus, throat, and cough related conditions. Whether this was related to the incident or not, I can’t say. But mold and mildew in the air exist. What is this doing to the children whose immune systems and bodies are developing? The school is a giant health hazard.



We also have an infestation of rodents. It is rampant in our school. We are not able to leave food-based materials (pasta, fish crackers for graphing, etc.) unless in plastic or glass containers- in our shelves or closets as they are eaten through by the mice and/or rats. Their droppings are everywhere- on floors, in cabinets, behind shelves. Again, we are all breathing this in on a daily basis. As if this is not enough, we have had issues with bats on the third floor. I believe DeValles has its problems with birds and their droppings.



We also have run out of space at Congdon. We are utilizing old storage rooms for small group space- no windows or ventilation, some with cement walls. The nurse shares space with the school secretary in the main office and our specialists use the auditorium stage for their space. We need a new school!

– Christine Pereira-Vasquez, a teacher at Congdon School
April 13, 2019

UMass Dartmouth to host

mobile app development summer camp for high school students

The UMass Dartmouth College of Engineering's Mobile App Development Camp will be held on campus from August 19-23, 2019. The camp, which is also sponsored by the university's Society of Women Engineers group, is ideal for students aged 13-16 who are interested in software development and mobile technology.

The 2019 summer App Camp teaches students Apple iOS mobile app development with the Swift programming language. Students will learn the fundamentals of problem-solving, programming, and computing. Students will learn at their own pace in a fun, lab-style learning environment. The collaboration will be fostered through team building, idea sharing, and rewarding creativity. The camp is ideal for students considering a career in science and engineering.

During the last two days of the camp, there will be a hackathon-style competition. Students will form teams and compete to create the best mobile application. Prizes will be awarded for the top three teams.

Students will create their app in the College of Engineering's renovated laboratories designed with workstations for team projects. Snacks and refreshments will be provided during breaks, campers will need to bring their own lunches. Each camper will receive a t-shirt and a certificate of completion.

The camp fee is \$150 per student. Please complete the application no later than May 8, 2019. To learn more, please visit the Camp's website.

Accepted applicants will receive a letter of welcome and method of payment. Do not send any payment until you are contacted. For more information, contact Christian Ellis via

email at cellis3@umassd.edu or Raymond Laoulache at rlaoulache@umassd.edu.

“Drive 4UR School” Fundraiser at Fairhaven High School, Sat. May 4th

Between 9:00am and 4:00pm on Saturday, May 4th, the team at Empire Ford of New Bedford is proud to host the annual Drive4UrSchool Event, located in the back parking lot of Fairhaven High School on 12 Huttleson Ave in Fairhaven, MA. This is a **rain-or-shine event**, and we look forward to detailing this event and what the proceeds will go towards!

What is the Drive4UrSchool Event?

Empire Ford and Ford Motor Co. pledge to donate \$20 towards the FHS junior and senior classes with every test drive of a new Ford model as part of this event. From the award-winning F-150 to best-selling SUVs in the Escape, Explorer and Expedition, you can preview vehicles that will make a difference for daily travel experiences, all while benefitting a good cause!

Who Does this Event Benefit?

With a goal to raise \$6,000 for the junior and senior classes of Fairhaven High School, a scheduled test drive can go a long way towards supporting the future development and college aspirations of these students! From new Ford sedans, to trucks, a range of different body styles are readily available to review from behind the wheel during this test drive event. And knowing that the proceeds will go towards an education cause you care about provides extra incentive to join Empire

Ford of New Bedford on Saturday, May 4th!

How Can I Learn More?

For more information on the upcoming Empire Ford Annual Drive4UrSchool Event, contact Linda Ferreira at 888-693-0925 extension 6118 or visit facebook.com/events/332917504000871/.



The poster features a dark blue background with various school-related icons like a bus, pencil, book, and globe. At the top center is a white box with the text "DRIVE 4 UR SCHOOL" and the Ford logo. Below this, the main title "EMPIRE FORD IS PROUD TO HOST DRIVE 4 UR SCHOOL" is displayed in large, bold letters. To the left, the date and time "Saturday, May 4 9am-4pm" are written in red, with "RAIN OR SHINE" in white below it. The location "Fairhaven High School 12 Huttleston Ave. Fairhaven, MA" is listed, followed by "LOCATED IN THE BACK PARKING LOT". A red starburst graphic on the right says "FREE Pick A Ride & Drive!". Below this is a photo of a smiling woman waving from a car. Further down, a white bulldog head logo is on the left, and text on the right says "Help us Earn \$6,000 for FHS Junior & Senior Classes!". Below that, it states "For every test drive of a new Ford vehicle, Empire Ford & Ford Motor Co. will donate \$20 to the FHS Junior & Senior Classes!". At the bottom, contact information for Linda Ferreira is provided, including a phone number and a website URL. A red footer bar at the very bottom contains the disclaimer: "Must be 18 years of age or older with a valid driver's license. One eligible driver".

DRIVE 4 UR SCHOOL

EMPIRE FORD IS PROUD TO HOST
DRIVE 4 UR SCHOOL

Saturday, May 4
9am-4pm
RAIN OR SHINE

Fairhaven High School
12 Huttleston Ave.
Fairhaven, MA
LOCATED IN THE BACK PARKING LOT

FREE
Pick A Ride
& Drive!

Help us Earn \$6,000
for FHS Junior &
Senior Classes!

For every test drive
of a new Ford vehicle,
Empire Ford & Ford Motor Co.
will donate \$20 to the FHS
Junior & Senior Classes!

For more information, contact Linda Ferreira 508-996-5611, ext. 6118
or on-line @ EmpireFordofNewBedford.com/drive-4-ur-school.htm

Must be 18 years of age or older with a valid driver's license. One eligible driver

Junior Achievement holds successful Titan Business Challenge at Umass Dartmouth

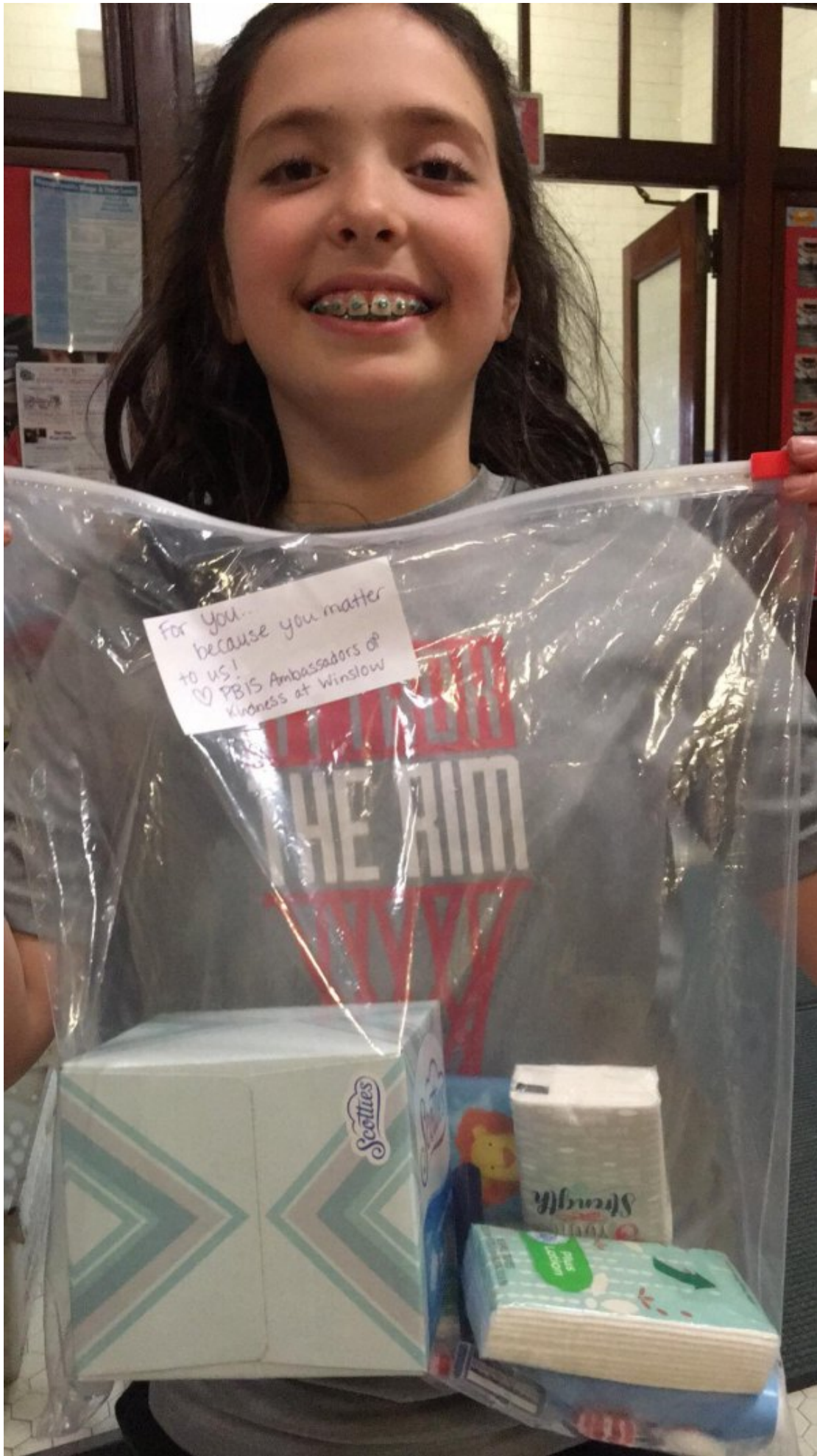
Each year hundreds of students from dozens of high schools head over to Umass Dartmouth to compete in Junior Achievement of Southern Massachusetts' Titan Business Challenge. This year's event was held on March 12. Here's a highlight reel of the event with the winners of this year's competition.

Find out more about Junior Achievement of Southern Massachusetts [**here**](#).

Winslow School students extend their kindness to New Bedford's homeless

"At Winslow School in New Bedford, we have a student team that is called the PBIS Ambassadors of Kindness. They work hard to spread kindness in their school and in their community. Recently one of the members, Cameron wanted to start a collection for the homeless people in New Bedford.

Through many generous donations from Winslow Families- the students were able to make 42 care packages for the homeless.
?" – Kris Nightingale Pires.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to share our **new community service project** with you. Our PBIS Ambassadors of Kindness have been working hard to spread kindness around Winslow School. One of our fourth graders, Cameron, decided that it was time that we start spreading kindness outside of our school. We would like to help the homeless people in New Bedford by providing them with care packages. If you are able to donate any of the items listed below, we would greatly appreciate it.

- Hand warmers
- Granola Bars
- Wet Wipes
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Water bottle
- Mints/gum
- Kleenex
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Gallon Ziplocs
- Fruit Snacks



HELPING THE HOMELESS
ONE BAG
AT A TIME

Sincerely,

Kristen Nightingale

Kristen Nightingale

PBIS Coach





New Bedford Public School leaders in more than 1,000 classes this school year in New Bedford

Over 1,000 classes have been visited by Superintendent Thomas Anderson and district teams since the beginning of the school year. New Bedford, like many urban districts across the country is shifting from a compliance mindset to one of

openness and true support. "I view my role as a support to our schools so amazing things can be accomplished for our students by helping to reduce anxiety and for me to have some firsthand knowledge on how the culture and climate is impacting both children and adults," Superintendent Anderson stated.

The District Learning Walk teams, comprised of the school principal, Deputy Superintendent and several departments representing Student Services, Special Education, English Language Learners, Fine Arts, and Athletics, have visited 90% of our schools at least twice as a group with more visits scheduled. Members of the New Bedford School Committee have also participated in some visits to observe schools in session.

The 90-minute visits are structured, so the school staff identifies the priority classroom 'lookfors' which are aligned to the school's strategic plan and is based on the district plan.

The observations focus on trends and patterns within each building and then expanding to see the similarities across all district schools. It is part of a holistic approach to gaining improved understanding of all learning environments in real-time in a way that is more personal and more fully student-focused, Superintendent Anderson noted.

Most recently, the Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School welcomed a Learning Walk. In noting that the visit highlights Brooks' initiative to emphasize its positive and welcoming culture, Principal Jenn Medeiros said that the learning takeaway is just as important from the perspective of students and staff.

"The benefits of the District Learning Walk vary depending who you talk to. For myself, it allows me to see the goals and initiatives that have been implemented within my school through the eyes of other educational leaders. They are able

to give me objective feedback regarding what elements of my initiatives are going well and what needs to be strengthened.

For staff, it validates the hard work they are doing to impact student learning and growth each and every day. Most importantly, for students, it lets them see that what they are doing each day is important to their teacher, their principal, and to the district as a whole.”

The learning walks have also included New Bedford High School. “It’s an excellent opportunity to get direct real-time feedback from the team,” said Headmaster Bernadette Coelho. “And the personal interaction fosters real collaboration across the board.”

Major renovations underway at New Bedford High School Auditorium

Two comprehensive renovation projects at New Bedford High School are underway: an overhaul of the Philip Bronspiegel Auditorium and the swimming pool locker rooms and showers.

Both projects are funded by the City of New Bedford’s 2018 Capital Improvement Program, which provided the school district with a budget of \$750,000.

The projects will be completed at budget, said Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, the district’s School Construction Facilitator. He expects renovations to the auditorium to cost \$629,883. A change order issued by the district during construction will add approximately \$6,000, increasing the total to \$635,994.

Renovations to the pool locker rooms will cost approximately \$620,000. The \$577,944 not covered by the Capital Improvement Program will be paid by the district's School Department.

Mayor Jon Mitchell noted "These important improvements are some of the best investments the city can make in its future. Maintaining and improving our school facilities demonstrate that we as a community are committed to enhancing the education of every student, as well as the wide spectrum of extracurricular activities they participate in, from athletic programs to fine and performing arts."

Mount Vernon Group Architects, which has managed past renovations at NBHS and at other public schools in the city, is overseeing both projects.

Renovations to the auditorium are the largest since the school's construction in the 1970s. When complete the auditorium will boast a LED lighting system with all new fixtures, cabling and master console for creating Broadway caliber stage lighting and atmospheric colors effects. The system is custom designed for the school's many performing arts programs produced throughout the year, including the NBHS Drama Club's fully staged musical productions. Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. is the contractor.

The work also includes installing new backstage rigging used to control scenery and replacing the safety lighting system that illuminates the aisles of the auditorium.

Finally, a new state-of-the-art theatrical sound system will ensure audiences a superior acoustical experience during every program. The auditorium-wide A/V upgrade includes new amplifier towers stage-left and stage-right, full subwoofer ensemble, new 24-foot projection screen, and fully revamped projection booth equipment featuring new mixer board and mobile mixer interface. The auditorium's existing 16-foot screen will be relocated to the school's Little Theater. The

Ockers Company of Brockton is the contractor.

“We are so excited for the completion of this project,” said Lynn Souza, the district’s Director of Fine Arts. “Our students and staff always work hard to put on high-quality productions and we look forward to seeing what they create with a fully functioning, cutting-edge production system.”

Dr. Rabinovitch said that he expects the auditorium renovation project to be completed by April 15 and operational by May 1. The high school will train its staff to maintain the new facilities and will require outside organizations that qualify to rent NBPS facilities to hire trained technicians before renting the auditorium.

Renovations to the swimming pool locker rooms, which include ADA improvements, private showers and changing areas, are expected to be completed in August.

– Allison Goodwin, UMass Dartmouth Intern, Superintendent’s Office, NBPS

New Bedford High School Drama Club presents The Secret Garden

By Jamie Roballo, sophomore, NBHS Drama Club

New Bedford High School Drama Club is perfectly poised to usher in spring with its musical production of The Secret Garden, this weekend only, April 5-6-7 at Pulaski School Auditorium.

The Secret Garden is a classic children's novel, written over a century ago by Francis Hodgson Burnett (1849-1924), continues to have great popular appeal, moving audiences young and old with feelings of comfort, nostalgia, and fantasies of the English countryside.

The story, staged as a musical, centers around Mary Lennox, a young girl who has spent her childhood living in India. When her parents are stricken with cholera, Mary, played by Jayden Lima, is sent to live with her mysterious uncle at Misselthwaite Manor in London, Archibald Craven, played by Trevor Lopes. The Uncle has kept himself busy ever since his wife, Lily's, death ten years before. He remains away from the manor, away from their son Colin, played by Aydan Sullo, and far from the walled garden that Lily loved so dearly. When Mary finds the key to the garden door, she enlists the help of her new friend, Dickon, played by Quinn Mulvey and others to make the neglected garden bloom yet again. In doing so, she discovers flowers that appear dead only need a little bit of care to flourish again – and that the same can be true of the people we love. Dr. Craven is played by Jakob Braz.

Sophomore Sara Cravo, playing the role of Lily, says that the garden is a metaphor for everyday life. "Anyone can grow from their struggles. There's a certain point where everyone gets sad but there will always be people to lift you up and help you grow again." Freshman Kyanna Morse, plays Lieutenant Wright and a member of the ghostly ensemble, agrees. "Like the garden, everyone here at drama club has helped me blossom into my best self and truly express myself."

A prevalent theme in The Secret Garden is the way in which our past is always with us, as represented visually by the chorus of ghosts – the 'dreamers' – who aid in telling the story.

Jessica Brito, a sophomore, notes "The ghosts symbolize things lost, and are a metaphor for the way your past can follow you. We all have things that we cling to, and that hold us back."

Jessica plays the ghost of Ayah, Mary's childhood nursemaid in India.

For Drama Club co-Director Sarah Cadieux Pacheco, this musical represents a special moment from her past: "This was the last musical I performed as a member of my own high school drama club. The music is beautiful, and it has always been one of my favorite stories, so when I was thinking of a warm, family-friendly show to juxtapose last year's dark performance of Sweeney Todd, this seemed like the perfect fit."

The Secret Garden the novel is a poignant tale about embracing the past and of self-discovery. The musical is no different, as the tale of the eponymous garden is told in sweeping songs, narrated by a ghostly chorus – manifestations of Mary's memories from her life in India, Archibald's old family and friends, and the spirits of the garden itself. Though the story centers on the garden, it is truly about the effects of the past that we cling to, and the way we can reconnect with the people around us to help one another to fully bloom.

Production of this year's NBHS Drama Club musical is being performed at Pulaski Elementary School Auditorium, as extensive renovations are being completed at New Bedford High School's Bronsiegel Auditorium. Pulaski School is located at 1097 Braley Road, New Bedford, MA 02745.

Seating is limited and no tickets will be sold or reserved in advanced, so all tickets must be purchased at the door beginning 1 hour before each show. Tickets are \$10 for students/seniors and \$12 for adults. On Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6, performances begin at 7:00 p.m., with a 2:00 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday, April 7. The Secret Garden is appropriate for all ages and is presented with permission from Samuel French, Inc.

New Bedford High School JROTC holds battalion formation

New Bedford High School's main gymnasium was packed with business and community leaders for Mayor Jon Mitchell's annual State of the City Address on March 28. The huge assembly rose in unison as the school's JROTC Color Guard entered for a traditional Presentation of Colors ceremony to officially start the municipal function. The Color Guard's flawless execution according to precise military protocol is not surprising to those who know about their years of service, training and discipline.

Each school year, the New Bedford High School JROTC hosts two battalion formations – one in the winter and one in the spring. On March 27, the day before the State of the City, the JROTC conducted its second battalion formation of the year to recognize and promote student cadets.

The formation began with each of the five companies – Bravo, Charlie, Alpha, Delta, and Echo – taking turns to pronounce their company motto's loud and proud. Following battalion formation, recognition and promotion exercises of cadets from each company were conducted.

Among those cadets recognized, Sergeant Edgar Feliciano was awarded the Professionalism Award. Sergeant Feliciano showed exceptional leadership skills when he assisted another student in the hallway – that every other student seemed to be ignoring. Sergeant Feliciano alerted school administration to get the other student the help that they needed.

The winner of the Honor Company Competition was also announced. Throughout the year, each company competes with one

another to earn this prestigious title. With a score of 88 out of 100 points, the Delta Company prevailed by fractions of a point. To celebrate their much earned win, the Delta Company simultaneously and proudly shouted their motto.

Colonel (retired) Stephen Bethoney has been a Senior Army Instructor at New Bedford High since 2014. He and his other colleagues, Master Sergeant (retired) Raymond Como and Sergeant First Class (retired) Gerald Bedard, supervise the JROTC program.

The mission and purpose the JROTC program at New Bedford High school is to motivate young people and students to become better citizens and to teach citizen and leadership skills, while instilling self-esteem, teamwork, and discipline. The NBHS JROTC program has been the longest continually running program in the history of JROTC and has been in place since 1881.

Colonel Bethoney said that having these battalion formations, allows for the cadets to practice their command and leadership skills. The students led the formation with Bethoney, Como, and Bedard standing to the side supervising.

As the closing of the battalion formation commenced, Colonel Bethoney gave the cadets a spirited message to motivate them through to the end of the school year. He encouraged them to, "finish strong and continue the hard work."