



May-June 2023

# Hitting a high note

## 60's music highlights Spring concert

### Staff Report

Banyan's students went back in time – the 1960's, to be exact – and performed beautifully in front of a packed O'Connor Hall.

Students performed such songs as

Stand By Me, I'm a Believer, Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Blackbird (with Mr. Western on guitar) and What the World Needs Now is Love.



# A dog-gone good time!

Annual Pet Day a big hit once again



## Staff Report

It is one of the highlights of the school year and it never fails to disappoint: Pet Day!

Families brought in their pets – mostly dogs, with one cat and even an iguana – and the Banyan students couldn't get enough of meeting and greeting them.



# Traveling back in history

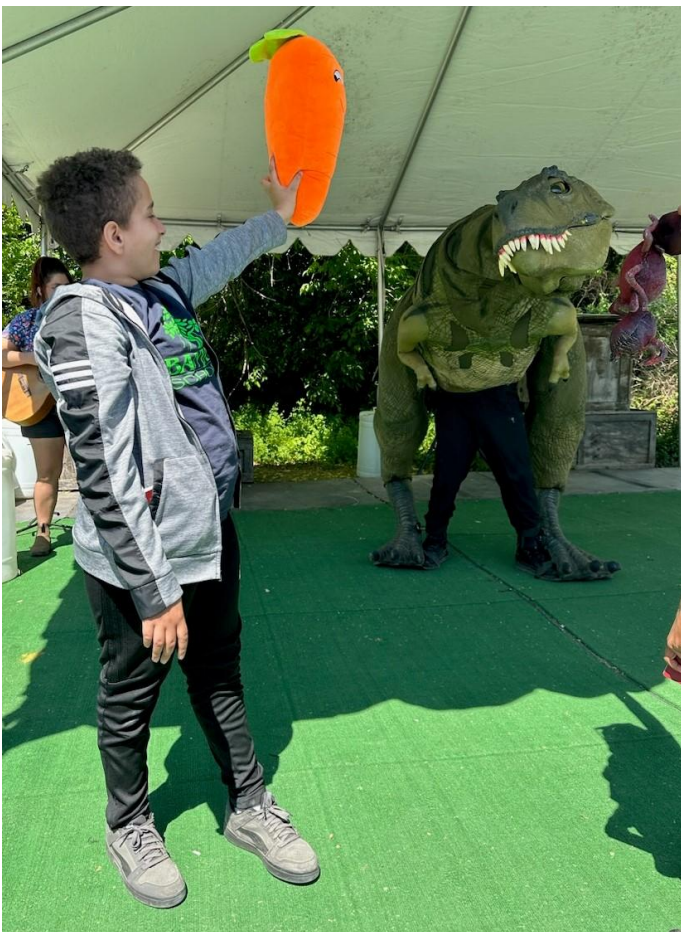
Banyan students visit prehistoric dinosaur museum

## Staff Report

Banyan students and staff had the time of their lives at a recent visit to Field Station Dinosaur in Leonia.

Students walked around the grounds among the many lifelike-sized dinosaurs who walked the earth thousands of years ago.

They also purchased gifts and trinkets at the gift shop. A wonderful time was had by all!



# Learning about life

Students learn little things  
in Life Skills

## Staff Report

Banyan Life Skills students took a recent trip to the West Essex Diner and learned the art of ordering food and paying for it. Oh yes, they also had a great time hanging out with friends and teachers!



# Rocking on the weekend

## Students flourish at Saturday School

### Staff Report

Sometimes, students cannot get enough of Banyan and come to Saturday School. This past week, the children built sand art and ate to their heart's content! And of course, they shared a lot of laughs with their Banyan friends!



# A vacation well spent

Samay, family, make the long trek to India

## By Samay

During Spring Break, Mom, Dad, and I went to India to see our family. It was my 10th visit to India.

I spent 10 days in New Delhi where I saw my grandparents, aunt, uncle and my cousin. I also met my great grandmother.

We also went to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is a world famous building. It was built by the King Shah Jahan, for his Queen Mumtaz. The most interesting thing was seeing their tombs inside.

Another fun thing we did was a walking tour of Old Delhi. Old Delhi is a walled city that was built by Shah Jahan. We learned about the history and saw one of the famous gates. Our guide also took us to eat some of the famous food. The food was very yummy!

I loved my visit to India and can't wait to go back next year!

Samay and his family tasted some of the street food in Old Delhi and visited the Ajmeri Gate, which leads to Old Delhi



# Two new puppies equals loads of fun

Gavin welcomes adorable new family members

## Staff Report

Gavin now has 2 new puppies as of Easter Weekend.

They are 10 week old Boxer puppies. They are sisters from the same litter. The Fawn colored female Boxer is named Rocky and the smaller Brindle female is named Creed!

It is the first time ever that the family owns two dogs. It is a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. They both play and entertain each other. The family signed up for Puppy Kindergarten. The dogs already know how to go out to the bathroom when they need to go.



# Cycling our way to good health

Bikes, new adult tricycle a big hit at Banyan

## Staff Report

Banyan unveiled a brand new adult tricycle recently and a host of Banyan students simply cannot get enough. The rest of the students continue to ride Banyan's many bikes, or are in the process of learning how.

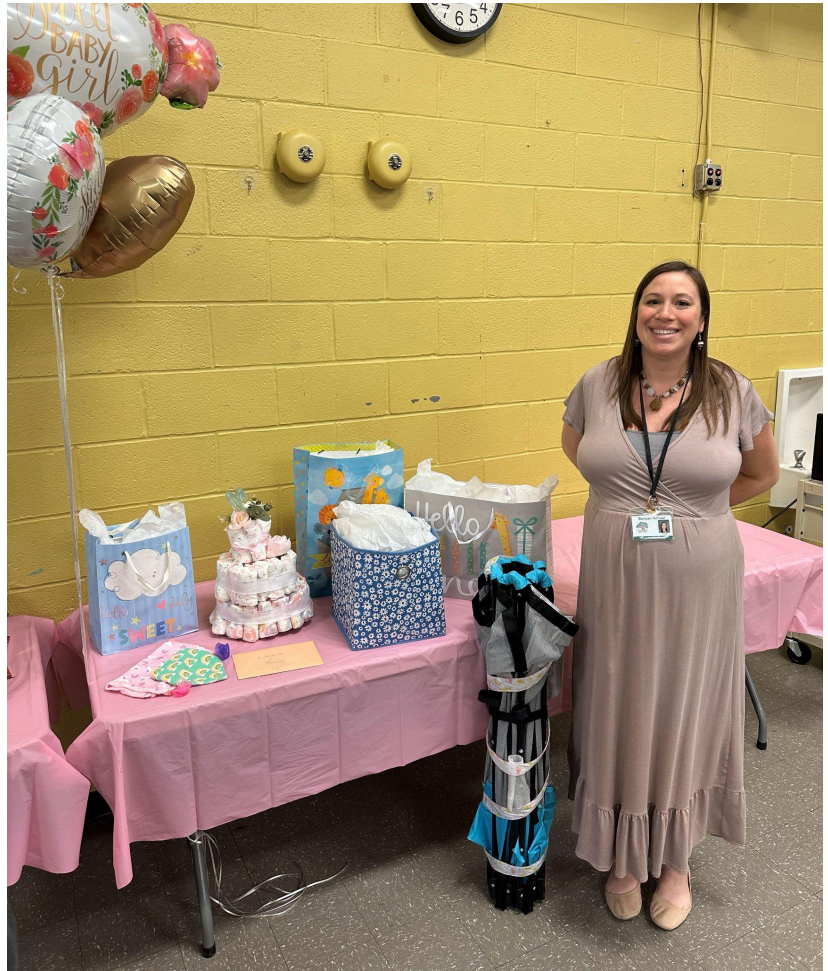


# Best of luck to you, Ms. Swofford!

Banyan teacher expecting a baby very soon

## Staff Report

Ms. Swofford is expecting a baby any day now and recently went on maternity leave. Good luck, Ms. Swofford!



# Emma is golden at Special Olympics

Banyan student wins two gold medals

## Staff Report

Emma brought her track and field skills to the Special Olympics area competition in Hackettstown and wound up being a big winner recently.

She won a gold medal in the javelin and standing long jump. She also competed in the 100 meter race well, but did not place.



# Pulling his way to up fitness

Lonnie perseveres, wins Banyan's pull-up competition



## Staff Report

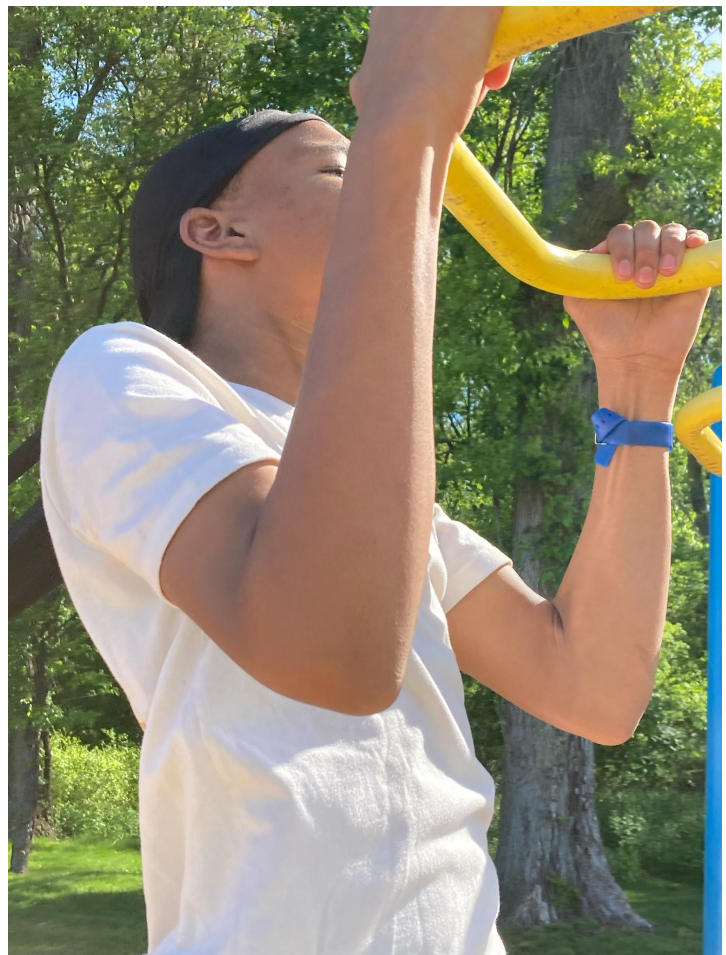
Up-down, up-down, up-down he went. Lonnie pulled himself up to the bar, lowered himself, and then pulled himself up yet again.

Over and over he went. Whew! When would he stop? After he performed a whopping 20 pull-ups, that's when!

Lonnie did the most pull-ups in the entire school and won the annual pull-up competition in gym class.

Originally, he did 12 pullups – but that was before he found out that Evan H. did 17.

The next day, Lonnie asked to go again and racked up an amazing 20. Lonnie was inspired by Evan's total of pullups, set a goal, and surpassed it by surging past Evan's total.



# Quite a busy Saturday!

## Mora on the go at Girl Scout Camp

### Staff Report

Instead of sleeping in and taking it easy on a recent Saturday morning, Mora did a lot of physical activity with Girl Scouts at Camp Hoover. There was so much walking around that her FitBit nearly exploded!

