



HORIZON TIMES

October 15, 2019 | Issue 2

SAVE THE DATES:

- **October 24, 2019:** PTO Meeting
- **October 25, 2019:** End of 1st Quarter
- **November 2, 2019:** Fall Festival

TEACHER / STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Since graduating magna cum laude (high honors) from Loyola University Chicago in 2012, Mr. Johnson, Belmont's lead science teacher and STEM coordinator, has been on a relentless pursuit to deliver a world-class education to all his students.

He believes that if we are to conquer the problems we see in the 21st Century, we will need to have a keen focus on the 22nd. "It is up to all of us, worldwide, to have a vision for a future that is bright, and then strive unremittingly until that vision becomes true."

Regarding his daily work, Mr. Johnson believes that the key to a successful classroom is something he calls Super Engagement (SE). With this model, he notes that students not only *look forward* to his science classes each day, but also learn a great deal before exiting his



TELEMUNDO VISITS BELMONT

Belmont celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by holding an event on Thursday, September 26, 2019.

At this event we had guest speakers, including the The North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, an organization that provides aid in the area of immigration, domestic violence, and housing.

We also had student performances, traditional spanish dance, food, raffle, and prizes.

All the proceeds from the event were given to The North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic to help further their mission.

doors. "I think they want to see me because I have something great to share with them each and every day," he says.

Among the many little things he does to prepare an SE science lesson including experiment and demonstration setup, Mr. Johnson will also read up on the most cutting edge information per each topic in order to be fully informed respectively. "I believe it's important that our students are able to see what passion and expertise looks like so that they can envision a passionate future for themselves, where lifelong learning is at the core," he says.

Mr. Johnson strives to read at least 100 books each year, or about two books per week, something that he's accomplished for the past several years. "Let alone being a nerd of sorts, I have a ridiculous and insatiable appetite for knowledge and understanding," he says. "Imagine if all our children set goals like this, what kind of future would we have?"

Aside from teaching at Belmont, Mr. Johnson is currently pursuing his Master's degree from Loyola University in Educational Leadership and Supervision.

"I hope to one day head my own district as a superintendent where I can implement some thoughts I have on progressive education in America." He was recently married to his wife, Kristen, who not only helps him find his sense of humor, but who also gets him out the house and travel the world. "We go all over, but we just booked a trip to Spain, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic which I'm super excited for," he says. "I can't wait to show off some of my photography skills on some old European castles!"

Some of his hobbies include reading and writing, flight simulation, model rocket building, and PC gaming.

He is currently reading:

1. Will to Power, The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche
2. Brain Maker, The Power of Gut Microbes
3. Something Deeply Hidden: Quantum Worlds and The Emergence of Space time

He recently finished:

1. How To: Absurd Scientific Advice for Real-World Problems
2. Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About People We Don't Know
3. Every tool is a Hammer: Life Is What You Make of It

One book he think everyone should read:

1. Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy

Telemundo Chicago also documented and helped to celebrate the event.

TELEMUNDO VIDEO

OCTOBER'S HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION

Home & School Connection is a great tool for parents and gives practical tips so parents can show interest in their child's education, improve academic achievement, nurture kindness, respect, and responsibility.

HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION ENGLISH

HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION SPANISH

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

On October 3rd, we held our first parent teacher conferences of the 2019 / 2020 school year. Many of our wonderful parents attended conferences along with the Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS).

We hope that conferences were able to provide parents with valuable insight into their child's progress in school and how they may further support the Illinois Charter School Network.

We look forward to our continued partnership throughout the remainder of the school year with our parents.



On Saturday, October 12th, with the help of coach Reyes and coach Ortiz the 5th & 6th grade girls volleyball team earned their first win against Prieto.



GOOGLE TRIP

On Friday, October 11th, a group of 8th grade students had the opportunity to visit the Google headquarters in Chicago.

The conference at Google was themed "The Imagination Generation", it was a one-day forum that assembled more than 300 students from across Chicago.

Students were able to experience guest speakers and cutting edge activations including Drone Technology, Robotics, AR, VR , AI, and Solar Energy Exhibitions.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday October, 9th the middle school students attended their monthly assemblies put on by Mr. Connell and Ms. Saranic. The assembly is a reserved block of time each month that allows for students to be recognized for academic, behavioral, and personal accomplishments.

The students were also given the opportunity to show off their talents and a little sportsmanship with a friendly basketball game!

PARENT TRIP

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020 we will be taking a group of parents to see the campus at Northern Illinois University.

On a campus tour of NIU, a college student will lead Belmont Parents on a walk through the school, showing different academic, residential and sports facilities, and a sample dorm room.



**Northern Illinois
University**

We have limited space for this trip!

Parents interested in attending the trip please RSVP via email to Ms.Culkowski at Culkowski@hsabelmont.org by December 23, 2019.



FALL FESTIVAL

We will be holding our first annual Fall Festival on Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 1:00PM - 3:00PM at Horizon Science Academy Belmont. The Fall Festival will include face painting, pumpkin painting, music, games, and prizes.

Admission will be \$1.00 per student and \$2.00 per adult. All games and activities will be free after admission fee.

TED TALKS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Parents have been watching TED Talks for over a decade, but there are also amazing TED Talks for kids. TED Talks are recorded at conferences all over the world and are great for opening up the lines of communication between parents and students. Each month we would like to share some thought-provoking TED Talks that you can watch with your students.

TED TALK "How I Teach Kids to Love Science"

Horizon Science Academy
Belmont
[<http://www.hsabelmont.org/>]

