

Newsletter

Monthly News Letter
Issue No. 8 (March 2026)



March Highlight: Congratulating Our Board President!



We are bursting with pride to share some incredible news: Our very own Board President, Mr. Oswaldo Mestre Jr., has been officially recognized as an honoree for the 2026 Impact Awards, presented by Buffalo Business First!

This prestigious award isn't just a trophy for the mantle, it's a testament to the culture of belonging that Mr. Mestre has built within our community. Selected by a panel of newsroom experts, this honor is reserved for the "community connectors" who do more than just talk about inclusion; they weave it into the very fabric of how they lead.

Mr. Mestre's dedication to fostering an environment where diverse voices thrive has made us stronger, more creative, and more deeply rooted in the Buffalo community we serve.

We are honored to have a "champion of inclusion" at our helm. Please join us in celebrating this well-deserved recognition!

RESOURCES AND UPDATES

Pantry Open

Mar 6, 13, 20, and 27

Must Bring ID and ID for everyone in your household



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Scan to apply!

- Youth Counselors
- Lifeguards



SAVE THE DATE: TIME CAPSULE OPENING & RECEPTION

We are thrilled to invite you to a very special event as we officially kick off our 50th Anniversary with the opening of our time capsule and a reception to follow. We can't wait to see you there!



Thursday, March 19, 2026
The Belle Center - 5:30 PM
104 Maryland Street Buffalo, NY 14201

Newsletter

Program Updates



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DAY CARE

🍀 March Magic: Luck, Leaves, and Little Learners!

Spring is just around the corner, and we can already feel the "lucky" energy buzzing through our hallways! This March, we're trading in our snow boots for rain boots as we dive into a month of vibrant green experiments, outdoor discoveries, and a whole lot of growth. Here is a look at what we have planned for our little explorers this month.

March Activities

Read Across America Week (March 2 - 6th)

We are kicking off the month with a whimsical celebration of literacy! From March 2nd to March 6th, we'll be diving into the colorful world of Dr. Seuss and celebrating the joy of reading.

- **Monday, March 2:** Cat in the Hat Day – Wear your favorite silly hat to school!
- **Tuesday, March 3:** Fox in Socks Day – Show off your wildest, most colorful mismatched socks.
- **Wednesday, March 4:** Wacky Wednesday – Let's get silly! Wear your clothes inside out or backwards.
- **Thursday, March 5:** Green Eggs and Ham – Wear the color green as we read the classic book!
- **Friday, March 6:** Cozy Up with a Book – Wear your pajamas for a "Read-In".

🍀 St. Patrick's Day Shenanigans (March 17th)

- Our St. Paddy's week is packed with sensory play and "leprechaun-approved" STEM activities.
- **Note to Parents:** Please remember to dress your child in green on Tuesday, March 17th.

🦋 Hello, Spring! (March 20th)

- As the season shifts, our curriculum moves toward the wonders of nature and new beginnings.

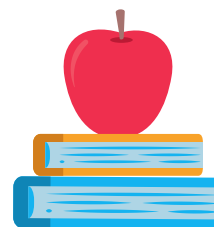


Big Congratulations to Mrs. Sally! 🎉

We have some incredible news to share with our community! Please join us in a massive round of applause for our very own Mrs. Sally, who has officially earned her second Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

While one CDA is a significant professional achievement, earning two is a testament to Mrs. Sally's unwavering dedication to the field of early childhood education. It's not just about the certificate; it's about her commitment to staying at the forefront of best practices to ensure our little learners get the very best start in life.

Next time you see Mrs. Sally please take a moment to congratulate her on this huge milestone. We are so lucky to have her as part of our team.



Newsletter



The Belle Center
Life in a positive light.

Program Updates

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM

🌸 March at the Belle Center Afterschool Program

March is blooming with hands-on learning, creativity, and exciting science experiences for our youth!

This month, students will explore the magic of the season through interactive STEM experiments, nature-based projects, and responsibility-building activities designed to keep young minds engaged after school. We look forward to seeing their excitement, creativity, and teamwork blossom as they explore, create, and learn together each day.

March Activities

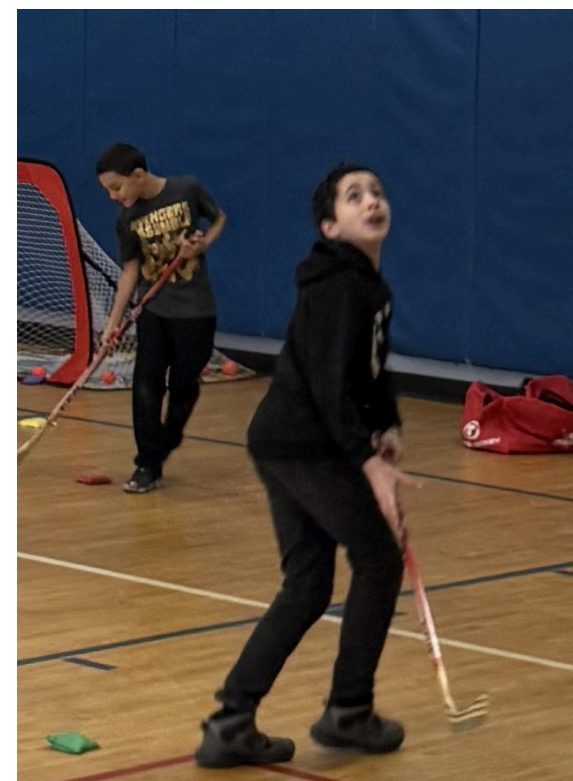
🌿 St. Patrick's Day: Magic Leprechaun Science Lab:

Get ready for a week of festive, curiosity-filled experiments! Our youth will step into a "Leprechaun Science Lab" where science meets imagination. Students will create a colorful Rainbow Walking Water experiment to explore how water travels, mix up fizzy green slime while learning about chemical reactions, and design their own Leprechaun Bracelets as a fun take-home craft. These activities blend science, creativity, and holiday fun in an engaging, hands-on way.

🌱 Mini Garden Engineers Project:

This month, our students will become young gardeners and engineers as they launch their Mini Garden Engineers Project — no outdoor space needed! Youth will grow grass heads, plant herbs, and decorate their own plant pots to take ownership of their creations. Along the way, they will track plant growth, learn about responsibility, and practice patience while caring for their mini gardens. This calming, structured activity is a perfect way to wind down after the school day while building life skills and environmental awareness.

🦋 Caterpillar Adoption & Butterfly Life Cycle Journey: One of the most exciting highlights of March will be our Caterpillar Adoption Project! The Belle Center youth will be adopting 10 live caterpillars and observing them daily as they grow, form chrysalises, and transform into butterflies. Students will keep observation journals, learn about life cycles, and discuss the importance of nature, patience, and care. Watching this real-life transformation up close encourages curiosity, responsibility, and a deeper appreciation for science and the natural world. Once the butterflies emerge, the group will celebrate their journey and release them, marking a memorable and meaningful learning experience. With a balance of science, creativity, and nature-based discovery.



March

Newsletter



The Belle Center
Life in a positive light.

Program Updates



SENIORS

Honoring Our Wisdom & Joy: The Belle Center Seniors Program

At The Belle Center, our hallways are consistently brightened by the incredible energy of our seniors. Our program for participants aged 58 and up is more than just a daily schedule, it is a thriving community where friendships blossom and spirits are lifted in a safe, engaging, and friendly environment.

A Day in the Life

Every moment is an opportunity for connection! Our seniors dive into a variety of activities designed to keep minds sharp and hearts happy, including social gatherings, recreation, arts and crafts, field trips, and everyone's favorite Bingo!

The day doesn't end with just activities. Before heading home, our group enjoys a delicious and nutritious lunch together. This shared meal is a cornerstone of our program, ensuring everyone leaves feeling nourished, valued, and connected.

Why Our Seniors Inspire Us

We are deeply proud to provide a space where our elders can continue to learn, laugh, and live life in a positive light. The wisdom, energy, and resilience they bring to the center every single day serve as a constant inspiration to our staff and the younger generations alike.



DONATE TO THE BELLE CENTER

Our mission is to offer innovative, educational, social and community building services for children, youth, senior citizens and families living in Western New York.

In order to meet our mission and provide services to our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we would not be able to serve our community each year.

Remember every donation makes a difference, regardless of size. We thank you in advance for your kind considerations.

Investing in a Positive Light for Buffalo!

Donate Today!

