



CREC John J. Allison Jr.  
**POLARIS CENTER**  
 Guiding students to learn and grow

**AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2024  
 NEWS & NOTES**

*Polaris Art Teacher  
 Valerie Bruzzi honored with  
 CREC's 2024 Demand Equity Award*



This award is given annually to a CREC employee who “accepts everyone, behaves selflessly, is willing to fight for equity & is a consummate role model”

Ms. Bruzzi’s commitment to equity is exemplified thru our annual student art show. This past spring, “Peace 24/7 365” brought together students, families & community members for an afternoon of culture, diversity & inclusion thru various art forms & media.

*Congratulations, Ms. Bruzzi!*

**WELCOME BACK!**

It is hard to believe summer break has ended! Our first week has been full of smiles as our staff and students were able to reconnect. I've been so impressed by our students & their commitment to their own growth.

Many students participated in our summer programming that included maintaining academic skills as well as social and emotional development. Students had many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by going to the splash pad, the pool, scenic hikes & the beach. Now we look ahead to a school year that provides our students with more opportunities to learn and grow.

Parents and caregivers are invited to *Back to School Night* on Wednesday, September 18 from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. Please come visit our school and meet your child’s teachers!

I look forward to our continued partnership and thank you for allowing us to educate your child. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

**Kelly S. Maio  
 Principal**

**2024-2025  
 POLARIS CENTER  
 HOURS**

**Monday, Tuesday,  
 Thursday & Friday  
 8am—2pm**

**Wednesday  
 8am—12:30pm**

**NO SCHOOL  
 Monday, Sept. 2**

**OPEN HOUSE  
 Sept. 18 5:30pm-7pm**

**NEW STAFF 2024-2025**

- Brittany Davis, Teacher Residency Program Candidate**
- Shyanne Palmer, Associate Instructor**
- Nikolette Papadopoulos, Associate Instructor**
- Alexia Reyes, Special Education Teacher**
- Rodrigo Robles, Associate Instructor**
- Heriberto Rodriguez, Associate Instructor**
- Christopher Rose, Associate Instructor**
- Betsy Ruiz, Associate Instructor**
- Shamar Schand, Associate Instructor**
- Alisha Singh, Behavior Intervention Specialist**

**HOW CAN WE HELP?**

**Kelly S. Maio  
 Principal  
 kmaio@crec.org**

**Kenterra R. Carrion, LMSW  
 Clinical Coordinator  
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