

WEEKLY PAPER

# THE EARLYBARD

02 June, 2025



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BHSEC BRONX

01

**Pride Month  
begins for  
LGBTQIA+**

06

**Friday:  
Eid al-  
Adha**

**BHSEC  
Bronx  
Earth Day**

**National Gun  
Violence  
Awareness Day**

Happy Monday, BHSEC Bronx! The school year is ending, and June has arrived with sunshine, stress, and Regents. This week, students have already received their Regents invite and are preparing to finish last-minute studying before their Regents, but no need to fret! We have fun events like Earth Day and religious holidays like Eid coming up! Let's get into what's happening around BHSEC Bronx this week!

## What's Happening This Week?

**Eid al-Adha(June 6th):** Eid al-Adha, also known as the "Festival of Sacrifice," is one of the two major Islamic holidays celebrated by Muslims around the world. Eid al-Adha lasts 3 days. It is to honor the story of Prophet Ibrahim(Abraham), who was willing to sacrifice his son Ismael to honor God's command. Before he could do so, God replaced Ismael with a lamb to sacrifice instead. Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, which is the final month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and this year it will begin on June 06, 2025. On Eid, many Muslims attend a special prayer, Eid Salah, and sacrifice an animal (called Qurbani), and distribute the meat among family, relatives, friends, and those in need. People would eat traditional food with their families to celebrate.

**Earth Day(June 6th):** Field Day may have been off, but the fun keeps rolling! BHSEC Bard is going to have an Earth Day celebration on June 6th with the Wayfinders and the Health Science Fair hosted by Mentoring in Medicine at Einstein College of Medicine. We have science, sustainability, and community building, so don't miss out!

**Pride Month: A Mini-History Lesson:** Every June first, like clockwork, rainbow flags start popping everywhere— but Pride Month isn't just about parades and fierce outfits. It began as a protest. The first Pride was a riot, quite literally. In June 1969, after yet another police raid at the Stonewall inn (a gay bar in Greenwich), queer and trans people especially, Black and Brown trans women like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera fought back. That uprising kicked off the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement. Since then, Pride has grown into a global celebration of love, identity, and resistance! But it's also a reminder that Pride isn't just about rainbows and RuPaul. It's about fighting to be seen, safe, and respected.

LGBTQIA+ Icons you should know:

- Marsha P. Johnson- A trans activist and drag queen who helped lead the Stonewall riot.
- Harvey Milk- One of the first openly gay politicians.
- Audre Lorde- A Black lesbian poet. Her book, *Sister Outside*, is a must-read!
- RuPaul- Brought drag to mainstream media. If you've heard "Call me mother," you can thank her!

So, whether you're out and proud or an ally, Pride Month is time to celebrate identity and honor LGBTQIA+ history!



## Talent Show Winners: Velvet Daydream Takes the Stage

Last week's talent show was full of amazing performances by students, but Velvet Daydream's standing ovation made it clear they'd left a lasting impression on the audience. Velvet Daydream, a student band, stole the spotlight with their cover of "Dark Red" by Steve Lacy. The four-member group started last school year, with skilled players, calming vocals, sharp instrumentals, and a serious stage presence. The band includes Zariah Suares on the bass, Janel Lopez on drums, Brycen Foster on lead guitar, and Julien Spencer on Vocals and guitar. The name was chosen by Janel. "Red Velvet is the color of both relaxation but also blood, symbolizing, like the wide range of music, and the daydream solidifies it as well as wanting our listeners to feel good when listening, which is what they do," Janel said, explaining how she chose the name. With talent like this, their next gig might be outside the school auditorium!

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## Together for a Safer Community

Recently, a tragic event happened just steps from our school when a young person, a teen, was shot at Crotona Park near East 173rd Street. The shooting happened around 12:45 p.m. on the playground and caused kids to run for safety. This devastating loss has shaken our community and reminded us of the importance of coming together to protect our neighborhoods. The investigation is still ongoing, but students and teachers need to be aware of the challenges we face in the community, including violence affecting the well-being of the youth. Many BHSEC Bronx students use Crotona Park as a space to play sports, hang out with friends, skateboard, run laps for PE class, and participate in activities like Earth Day outside. We should push for a community where we can speak up against injustice, look out for one another, and create a safe space near our school where youth can truly thrive. This is our park, our community, our future—protect it.

This tragedy points to a much bigger issue: gun violence is an issue not just in the Bronx but that affects thousands of lives every day across the United States. Young people are tired of losing friends, of fearing places that should feel safe. National Gun Violence Awareness Day takes place in June, and there is a Wear Orange campaign to raise awareness. Wearing orange is to symbolize hope and a commitment to ending gun violence. From June 6th to 8th, we encourage the community to participate in Wear Orange, speak up about positive changes, and stand with the youth who deserve better. We can build a future where everyone feels safe and supported. Wear Orange and post it to raise awareness!

## Tips to Defeat Finals Week

Finals week is tough; all the pressure to end the school year off well can be overwhelming, so here are a couple of tips to survive (and hopefully pass) your finals!

Don't cram (too much)

- Cramming isn't ideal, but let's be real, most of us have done it before.
- Focus on important documents like past quizzes and recent notes. Don't waste your time re-reading your whole notebook or textbook.
- Start studying at least a week beforehand, rather than trying to memorize everything the night before.

Email your teachers

- Don't be afraid to ask questions, they can help clarify things you misunderstood or just straight up missed.
- Start with "Hope you're doing well" and end with "thank you so much 😊" (they'll feel bad and maybe help you more)
- Ask if they offer one-on-one tutoring sessions, and don't be afraid to go to office hours!

Study your way

- Flash cards, YouTube videos, or talking to your pet— whatever gets it into your brain.
- Studying in groups can be great... until it turns into a group therapy session. Limit side quests.

Fuel your brain

- Hot Cheetos are not a good food. Sorry.
- Eat breakfast or a light snack like a protein bar in the morning!
- Brain = Just mush if you don't eat something with actual vitamins.

Sleep > Notes

- Pulling an all-nighter for a test you'll sleep through anyway? Be serious.
- Your brain processes what you studied while you sleep; let it do its thing.

## A Final Note

As we dive into June, we're wrapping up this year with reflection, celebration, and what the Bronx community is best known for: resilience. We are honoring Eid al-Adha, celebrating Earth Day to remembering the roots of Pride Month, and standing up against gun violence. This week at BHSEC Bronx tells us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Finals may be stressful, but remember to take care of your mind, body, and community. You've made it this far, so don't stop, keep going strong! And as always, if you want to get involved or have any questions, email us at [theearlybardbhsec@gmail.com](mailto:theearlybardbhsec@gmail.com). Keep Bardin' on!

The Early Bard Team