

COMMUNIQUE

the Bangor

Schools Working for Academic Excellence

Bangor School Department • 30 School Street • Bangor, Maine 04401 • 207-992-4152 • www.bangorschools.net

Winter 2017



Dr. Betsy Webb
Superintendent



Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members:

We are pleased to share this newest edition of the online *Communiqué*. Inside you will find numerous examples of students, alumni, and faculty upholding Bangor’s long-standing tradition and culture of excellence. The formula for this ongoing success is: the consistent and visionary leadership of the School Committee and administration, the dedication and expertise of talented faculty and staff, the support and trust of parents and community, and most importantly, the hard work and ambition of our students.

When people ask, “why Bangor?” I am constantly reminded that the achievement and success accomplished within the Bangor School Department is not by accident. The formula, although it may sound simplistic, is one that is truly unique. When Peter Senge in his book, *The Fifth Discipline*, talks about organizations needing all arrows [efforts] pointing at the mission, this is what separates

Bangor from many.

Academic Excellence for All, Bangor’s ten year strategic plan, outlines these four overarching goals [arrows] pointing at our mission: academic excellence, professional excellence, quality instructional program, and environment for success. All goals are essential to progression towards the mission. Without professional excellence, quality programs, and environment for success, we could not achieve academic excellence.

The Bangor School Department faculty, staff, and administration consider it a privilege and an honor to work with Bangor families and students. We are committed to working one student at a time, day in and day out, to find his or her individual path to excellence.

Sincerely,

Betsy Webb, Ed.D.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

The Bangor School Department Pre-Kindergarten program is a half-day 4-year-old program. Children eligible for this program must be Bangor residents and four years old on or before October 15, 2017. Every effort will be made to accommodate all children wishing to participate in this program. The Pre-K program will be strongly oriented toward building literacy skills and promoting positive social interaction in a classroom setting.

The full-day Kindergarten is for children who will be 5 years old on or before October 15. Please bring the child’s original birth certificate and immunization record with you to the school the child will attend, which is determined by the physical address. The Bangor School Department K-8 Attendance Area Directory is available online at www.bangorschools.net or contact any school for assistance.

Pre-K - Grade 3 Schools

Abraham Lincoln School.....	45 Forest Avenue.....	941-6280
Vine Street School.....	66 Vine Street.....	941-6300
Downeast School.....	100 Moosehead Blvd.....	941-6240
Fourteenth Street School.....	224 Fourteenth Street.....	941-6350
Fruit Street School.....	175 Fruit Street.....	941-6270

Bangor School Committee

- Warren Caruso, Chairman
- Susan Hawes, Vice Chairperson
- Jennifer DeGroff
- Brian Doore
- Susan Sorg
- Marlene Susi
- Carin Sychterz

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Betsy Webb

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Robert MacDonald

Director of Pupil Services

Patti Rapaport

Director of Business Services

Alan Kochis

School Committee Meetings 2017-2018

Meetings are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month except during school vacations and special meetings may be called as needed. All meetings will be held at Bangor City Hall, Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. A complete list of school committee meeting dates is available at www.bangorschools.net.

BHS Science Teacher Cary James Wins Presidential Award

The Bangor School Department is pleased to announce that Mr. Cary James, Bangor High School science teacher and Science Department Chair, was awarded the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process at the state level.

“This award goes out to all of the students and people who have done so much for me to even be considered for this great honor,” states Mr. James. “It validates the work that my students and I have done together to understand the important environmental issues that face our country and world. It also speaks to the work that my colleagues and I have done to improve STEM education for underrepresented groups.”

Mr. James has been teaching for the Bangor School Department since 1999, has been Science Department Chair since 2006, and has been the STEM Research Coordinator since 2014. He coached the BHS Science Bowl team to two consecutive Maine Regional Science Bowl victories over the last two years.

“The Bangor School Department is fortunate to have Mr. James among our high-caliber teaching staff,” states Dr. Betsy Webb, Superintendent of Schools.



Mr. James is featured in the Winter 2017 edition of *Maine Seniors* magazine.

4 Walking School Bus Coming to Vine Street and Abraham Lincoln Schools

Through a grant funded by the MaineDOT, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, and Maine Safe Routes to School, Downeast School began a Walking School Bus program in April 2016. Vine Street and Abraham Lincoln Schools were awarded grants this year, and will begin their programs in April, 2017.

Volunteers are needed as adult chaperones to help walk students to school. Please contact Vine Street School at 941-6300 or Abraham Lincoln School at 941-6280 to find out more.

A yellow rectangular banner with a black silhouette of a person walking to the left of the text "WALK WITH US!".

WALK WITH US!

A yellow rectangular banner with the word "VOLUNTEER" in large, bold, black capital letters.

VOLUNTEER

BHS Art Students Study the Art of the Nobel Prize with Swedish Artist Susanne Jardeback

BHS students of Advanced Studio Art, Art III, and Honors Art III participated in a multi-day study of The Nobel Prizes and the artists that create original works for the prize diplomas. Inspiration for the study came from an NPR Public Radio story on the artists heard in late September, “Prize By Design: How The Nobels Put Artists On Deadline.”

Students were introduced to Susanne Jardeback, an artist from Sweden who was commissioned by the Nobel Committee to create original designs for prizes in Economy (2011), Chemistry (2012) and Physics (2013). Susanne agreed to Skype with BHS art students in the Lecture Hall and spent time describing her work as a commissioned artist working with

the prize recipients, calligraphers, and diploma binders. Students were also able to hear of her work as a professional artist, and to ask questions about her art, training, and inspiration. “Interacting with a real-world professional artist through Skype offers students not only the opportunity to see her studio but also to ask questions and see her work up close,” says Nancy Watson, BHS Librarian and co-organizer of this project with Susan Bryand, Art Teacher.

Since this interaction, art students continued their study by researching various Nobel Prize recipients in the library and online, and then made selections of who they would like to study. In small groups based on the work of the recipient, they created original works of art in their chosen medium in the art room. The art you see displayed here are examples of their research, study, and art creation.



Marie Curie, Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1911, by Sherwin Yuen '17



Elie Wiesel, 1986 Peace Prize by Grace Peithman '17

BHS Senior Earns 2017 Science Talent Search National Recognition

Sydney McDonald, a member of the Class of 2017, earned one of 300 national Scholar designations in the 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search, the most prestigious science research competition nationally. Sydney is the second consecutive BHS student to earn this honor.

Sydney's research project *The Future of Prosthesis: The Design and Analysis of Artificial Muscle Comprised of Ionic-Polymer Metal Composites*, has been the focus of her ongoing

STEM Academy internship research. Sydney has designed, developed, and analyzed artificial muscles for suitability as neural prosthesis based on their ability to receive and respond to electrical impulses.

As an STS Scholar, Sydney receives a \$2,000 award and opportunity to be further

considered as one of 40 National Finalists, who compete in Washington, DC in March. In addition, Bangor High School receives a \$2,000 award to support further science research excellence at the school. As part



of the Regeneron STS process, Sydney identified Mr. Cary James, Science Department Head and STEM Academy Director, as most influential in her research.

Sydney was a member of last year's winning team at the 8th Annual Maine

Wind Blade Challenge. Visit our YouTube channel to watch an interview with Sydney, Emma Payne '17, and Morgan James '17 and learn about their winning design.

The daughter of Camille Morrison of Bangor, Sydney has been accepted early decision and will attend Harvard University in the fall.

Early College and Dual Enrollment

Bangor High School students have multiple options for early college or dual enrollment. "We encourage all students to seek college credits while at BHS, and those opportunities have truly expanded in recent years through partnerships with regional colleges and universities," says Principal Paul Butler.

UMaine's Academ-E Program

- Free Tuition (pay only for fees and textbooks)
- Select courses offered online
- BHS students must be in good academic standing with a B average or better

UMaine's Aspirations Program

- Free Tuition (pay only for fees and textbooks)
- Select courses offered online or on-campus
- BHS students must be in good academic standing with a B average or better

Husson University's Early College Access Program

- \$100 per course (plus textbooks)
- Husson courses offered on campus and online
- BHS students must be in good academic standing with a C average or better

Rural U: UMaine-Fort Kent Dual-Enrollment Program

- \$28 per credit hour (\$84-\$112 per course)
- Dual-Enrollment Courses offered at BHS or online
- BHS students must be in good academic standing

AP4All: ME Dept. of Education Online AP Courses

- Free to all public school students in Maine
- High School AP Course offered online
- BHS students must be in good academic standing

BridgeYear Program: UTC, UMaine, UMaine-Augusta

- Dual-Enrollment Program offered at BHS
- Students must take a course at UTC
- BHS students must be in good academic standing
- Cost is about \$40-45 per credit hour (up to 10 credits per year)

Early College for ME

- Early College Program offered at Eastern Maine Community College
- BHS students must be in good academic standing
- Courses are free (just pay for textbooks)

Call Principal Paul Butler at 992-5500 for more information.

BANGOR RAMS ALUMNI

Join our Alumni Network at alumni.bangorschools.net.

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Why Bangor?

Lauren O'Reilly
School Counselor
James F. Doughty School
4 years with BSD

"Our school department is truly a family. We look after each other and we work as a team to support our students, our families, and our fellow staff members. That is why I love working for the Bangor School Department."



CLASS OF 1972 45th REUNION

Saturday, July 15, 2017
Bangor Elks Club

Contact Mrs. Gail Thibault
at gailthibault@aol.com

CLASS OF 1997 20th REUNION

Saturday, August 5, 2017
Spectacular Event Center

Contact Kristi (Titcomb) Sanfasin
at kikilt517@yahoo.com

Honoring America's Veterans at Downeast School

Students at Downeast School spent Veterans Day having lunch with local veterans.

As the veterans entered the building escorted by Bangor High School's JROTC cadets, all third graders lined the hallways with signs of welcome and thanks. Leo P. Coro (Army Veteran Vietnam War), James T. Clark (Army Veteran Korean War), Michael Thomas (Navy Veteran Vietnam War), Omar Whalen (Navy Veteran Vietnam War), Patricia A. Johnson (Marine Veteran), and William J. Adams, Sr. (Navy Veteran WWII), were treated to a lunch that included a special cake baked and decorated by the Downeast food service staff. Students entered the cafeteria and filed past the veterans, shaking hands, and saying thank you. Kindergarten students had saved some of their Halloween candy to give to the special guests of honor.



Five Selected to Attend Olympia Snowe's Women's Leadership Conference



The Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute gives 10th - 12th grade girls the opportunity to expand their views of their potential and the possibilities that exist for their futures. Attending the fall conference were BHS sophomores (left to right) Olivia Baldacci, Mad-

eline Huerth, Elinor Hunt, Charlie Robinson, and Caroline Fernald, with their Leader Advisors Carol Kim, Ph.D., Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Maine and Mary Jude, Ph.D. Coordinator of Graduate Nursing Programs at Husson University. "I really enjoyed the conference," says Olivia Baldacci. "My favorite part was meeting female executives and hearing their stories of how they excelled in business. It was inspiring."

"My hope is that the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute helps more young women find their voice and a path to reach their full potential. With guidance and encouragement from successful women leaders, I know we can help unlock the doors to the amazing futures that await them." - Olympia Snowe

BSD Receives Grants for Music and Science

Thanks to a competitive grant from The Onion Foundation, fourth graders at Mary Snow School and Fairmount School will have in-class instrumental instruction on recorders. "The goals of this program are to improve students' music literacy and to improve their preparation for joining the fifth grade band program," says music teacher Kelly Ellis. The grant funded the purchase of recorders for all fourth grade students that they will use during the year and return at the end of school so that the program can continue in future years.

Fourth and fifth graders at Mary Snow School and Fairmount School are learning about aquaponics in their after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) club. "We are grateful for a grant from the Perloff Family Foundation," says BHS Science Teacher Dr. Barbara Stewart, "that has enabled us to purchase aquaponics equipment for the two schools. Hands-on learning really engages students, and aquaponics is a fun, non-intimidating introduction to STEM." The after-school STEM club is led and coordinated by Bangor High School students.

Giving Back on Bangor Day

In keeping with its goal to develop respectful, responsible citizens, the Bangor School Department continued its annual Bangor Day tradition. During December, students and staff collected 2,628 pounds of food (which equates to 2190 meals) for the Good Shepherd Food Bank, and \$3,938 (sustaining backpacks for 18 students) for the Food BackPack Program, which provides a backpack full of food for students in need to take home every weekend.



“Good Shepherd Food Bank is so grateful to the administration, students and families of the Bangor School Department for keeping food insecurity as a focus on Bangor Day,” says Melissa Huston, Director of Philanthropy at Good Shepherd Food Bank. “Proper nutrition and education go hand in hand. Students and future employees simply cannot achieve their full potential when they are hungry. Thank you all for your generous support and for recognizing this opportunity to make a difference in our community.”

Why Bangor?

Lynn Silk
Principal
Vine Street School
6 years with BSD

“Bangor is special. Everyone here is working for a clearly defined mission of Academic Excellence for All. Every decision and endeavor is based on a well-articulated strategic plan. Bangor is a team of smart, motivated individuals with a wide variety of personalities, styles, and strengths who work together for that common goal. We are committed to offering the very best education possible to every child in this district.”



Lions Club Helps Bangor¹¹ Students with Eye Exams

School eye exams just got a lot easier and faster, thanks to the Bangor Lions Club. The Lions Club purchased and loaned a Spot™ Vision Screener to the Bangor School Department to assist school nurses with vision screenings.

The State of Maine requires vision screenings in public schools for Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 3, Grade 5, Grade 7, and Grade 9 students. In the Bangor School Department, that's a total of 1,519 students. Next year, a new state requirement will also include Pre-K students for required screenings.

“A traditional vision screening can take up to 20 minutes for one child,” says Erika Wing, elementary school nurse at Abraham Lincoln School. “With the Spot™ Vision Screener, the exam takes less than ten seconds, and the device is light and portable so it's easy to transport between Bangor's schools.”

The Welch Allyn Spot™ Vision Screener is a handheld, portable device that screens both eyes at once from a distance of three feet. It has a touch-screen display and allows for one-touch activation. The device accurately detects common vision problems, including myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), astigmatism (blurred vision), anisometropia (unequal refractive power), strabismus (eye misalignment), and anisocoria (unequal pupil size). The screening provides easy-to-understand results that can be saved electronically and printed out so that parents can have a record.



Erika Wing (second from right), School Nurse at Abraham Lincoln School, holds the Spot Vision Screener surrounded by Lions Club members (l-r) Justin Jamison, Treasurer; J. Normand Martin; Michael Perry; Patricia Martin, Secretary; John Vickery, President; and Jack Keenan.

Alumni Spotlights: Dr. Jake Jentzer '99

Jake Jentzer, M.D., Class of 1999, graduated summa cum laude in 2004 from the University of Maine, Orono, with a B.A. in Psychology and a B.S. in Biochemistry. He received his Doctorate of Medicine in 2008 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and completed his residency in 2011 at Duke University Medical Center. In 2014 he completed the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Training Program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Jentzer currently works at the Mayo Clinic as Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Department of Cardiology, and he works in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

“While at Bangor High School, swimming was really influential in my life. It helped a great deal with time management and balancing different demands, which are critical to college, medical school, and my career.

High school can be a challenging time for anyone. The most important advice I can give current students is that whatever challenges they face, finding something important to them can help them through a lot. Swimming gave me something to focus on, along with my goal of becoming a doctor. Seek out people who can help and support you.

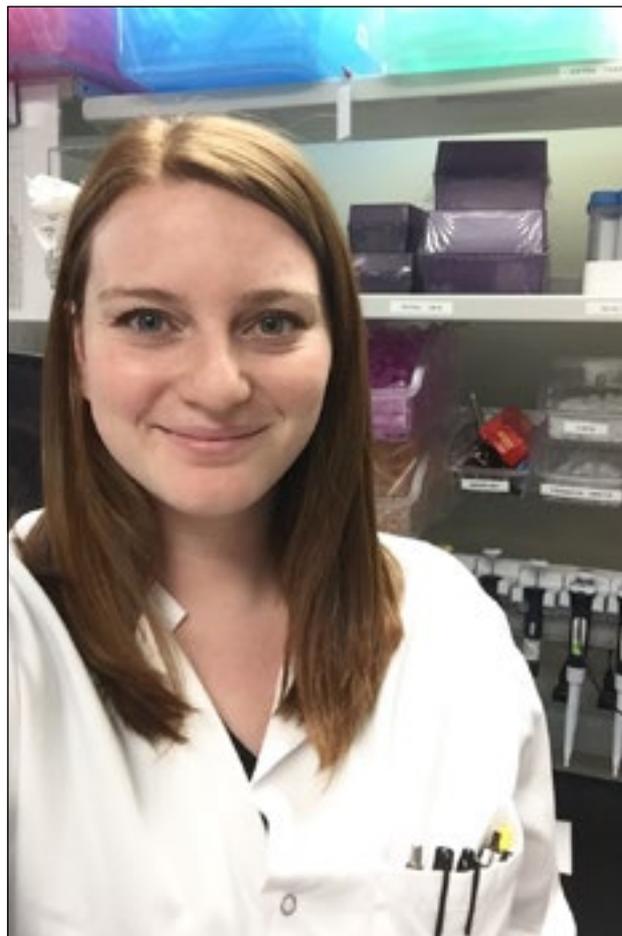
My specific advice for high school students who are considering becoming a doctor is that you don't have to focus exclusively on science. More and more, medical schools are looking for well-rounded, interesting people who have different perspectives. So if you have another interest, feel free to pursue that interest instead of just focusing on science.”



Jennifer Dickson '11

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Jennifer Dickson, Class of 2011, graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2015 with a B.S. in Biomedical Science and a Concentration in Laboratory Science. She currently works at the Mayo Clinic as a medical laboratory technologist in the human cellular therapy lab. She is working toward her board certification as a Certified Laboratory Scientist with the American Society of Clinical Pathology.



“My interest in science started at Bangor High School when I took Chemistry and AP Chemistry. I had amazing science teachers at BHS and I attribute my passion for science to them.

“I loved science but I knew I didn’t want to go to medical school, so when I saw the Laboratory Science major at UNH I knew it was something I’d really like. During my junior year I applied for internships, and was accepted for a 10 week internship at the Mayo Clinic in the antibody immunology lab, and networking there opened the door to a position in the human cellular therapy lab after graduation.

“BHS really prepared me well for college. All the AP classes that I took at BHS put me a semester ahead when I entered college. The extracurriculars that I participated in at BHS, including soccer, track, swim, class council, and Key Club, helped me feel more well-rounded and better able to manage my time.

“Hearing about the new STEM Academy at BHS, I have to say I’m jealous. It sounds amazing that these students are working in university labs, an opportunity I didn’t have until my junior year of college. My best advice for current BHS STEM students is to network with people during your research experiences; you never know who will be hiring in the future or what you can learn from others.”

14 Building Aspirations



High School orchestra, band, and chorus students, along with middle school orchestra students, had the opportunity to listen to and learn from **world-class solo violinist Rachel Barton-Pine**. She received raving applause from students after playing classical, Scottish folk, and heavy metal pieces. Sonia, a 7th grade violinist at William S. Cohen School said, “Having the opportunity to see her play makes me want to go home and practice more!” The visit was arranged by the Bangor Symphony Orchestra as part of their educational outreach program.



Students at Fruit Street School were treated to a visit by **children’s book author Cynthia Lord** (right, with Fruit Street School librarian Barbara Quinn), who spoke with students about her journey to becoming a published author.



US Navy Petty Officers 2nd Class Thomas, 1st Class Fulcher, and 2nd Class McCall spoke with students at Mary Snow School about the benefits of being drug free and about making a positive difference in the world. They also answered questions about serving in the Navy.

Why Bangor?

Ashleigh Vincent
Kindergarten Teacher
Downeast School
2 years with BSD

“I wanted to work at a place where I could become the best teacher that I can be. I knew I could do that in Bangor because of the high standards not only for students but for the teachers and administrators as well. BSD understands that students deserve teachers who are ambitious, enthusiastic, and dedicated to helping students.”



Boys Soccer Wins State Championship

The Rams Boys Soccer team clinched the state Class A title after a 1-1 draw through regulation and two overtimes led to a tiebreaker. The Rams bested Gorham for the championship, ending the season with a 15-1-1 record under the coaching of Garth Berenyi.



The 2016 Varsity Soccer Team: Front Row (L-R): Jacob Berenyi, Garth Berenyi, Colin Waterman, George Payne, Kevin Fish, Sam Putnam, Alex Jansujwicz; Middle Row (L-R): Kyle Jeffrey, Henry Nagle, Cameron Richmond, David Miller, Connor O'Brien, Will Hadden, Josh Sherwood; Back Row (L-R): Asst. Coach Don Erb, Jack Bourassa, Tom Gause, Ian Nagle, Carson Atherly, Tom Szewczyk, Coach Garth Berenyi

Why Bangor?

Elaine Grant
Math Teacher
Bangor High School
39 years with BSD

“The Bangor School Department is the Harvard of public schools! Bangor High School offers a wide variety of courses at varying levels which allows students to successfully pursue their passion.”



BHS Debate Repeats as State Champs

The BHS Debate Team traveled to Brunswick on Saturday, January 28 and came home with the 2017 State Championship plaque, their second consecutive title. The team also claimed two of three Sportsmanship Awards in the categories of Debate and Congressional Debate.

On the national level, BHS Debate has earned
(continued on p. 16)



(L-R): Coach Joe Pelletier, Ijeoma Obi '20, Sydney McDonald '17 (Debate Team Captain), Alex Saros '20, Sarah Marcotte '18, David Rubin '18 (Lincoln Douglas Captain) and Noah

Teen Trendsetters Help Improve Reading

Beginning this fall, the Bangor School Department was invited to participate in the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's Teen Trendsetters™ program. Teen Trendsetters is a youth-driven reading mentoring initiative that pairs teen volunteers with elementary-aged students who are, on average, six months behind in reading. The program also provides a tremendous sense of purpose and leadership for teen mentors. Students from James F. Doughty School are reading mentors at Vine Street School, and students from William S. Cohen School are mentoring at Abraham Lincoln School.



“The Teen Trendsetters program is a great opportunity for our youngest learners to interact with and be motivated by our older students,” says Vine Street School Principal Lynn Silk. “It’s also nice to see JFDS students, some of whom went to Vine Street School, giving back and paying it forward.”

BHS Debate Repeats as State Champs (cont. from p. 15)

two consecutive five-year commendations for a high school chapter from the National Forensics Association, the overarching body for speech and debate competition.

NCLB Report Card

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act mandates that all states and school units provide an annual report card that shares the achievement of students as well as information on the “highly qualified” status of teachers in the school unit. The data gleaned from the report card serves to inform school and district improvement initiatives. In addition, the data can assist parents and community members in working effectively and productively with educators to support student achievement.

The 2015-16 report card also includes 2012-13 statewide results from the grade four and eight National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics assessments as well as NAEP participation rates for students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. Administration of the NAEP is through random selection and schools do not receive results other than state and national data.

Actually, the achievement data contained in the 2015-16 report card is 2014-15 MEA data compiled from the spring administration of the state accountability tests. The 2015-16 report card serves only for informational purposes. It has no impact on the individual school accountability status. Beginning in 2016-17, a new accountability system for schools and school units will be implemented.

The Bangor School Department NCLB Report Card can be viewed online at <http://www.bangorschools.net/why-bangor/nclb-report-card/>.

Bangor School Department
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