

# Boston College Neighborhood Center

BOSTON COLLEGE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
CENTER STAFF



- **Director:**  
**Maria DiChiappari**
- **Assistant Director:**  
**Moe Maloney**
- **Office Manager & Tutor Coordinator:**  
**Catherine Sullivan**
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program Coordinator:**  
**Chris Montecillo, GLSOE '09**
- **Read Boston Program Coordinator:**  
**Sheila Jafarzadeh, GA&S '09**
- **Strong Women, Strong Girls, BC Chapter Co-Directors:**  
**Mari Knuth-Bouracee, LSOE '09**  
**Christa Campanella, A&S '10**
- **Tutoring Program Co-Coordinator & Office Assistant:**  
**Lauren Ziskie, WCAS '10**

## FREE SAT PREP PROGRAM!

BOSTON COLLEGE IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
LET'S GET READY IS OFFERING...

- **FREE SAT PREP**
- **COLLEGE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE**
- **FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW**

Taught by Boston College Students

Where: Brighton High School  
When: February 9–April 29  
Mon & Wed, 5–8 PM

For more info and to register:  
Email: [letsgetready@gmail.com](mailto:letsgetready@gmail.com)  
Visit: <http://www.letsgetready.org/Programs/BostonCollege>

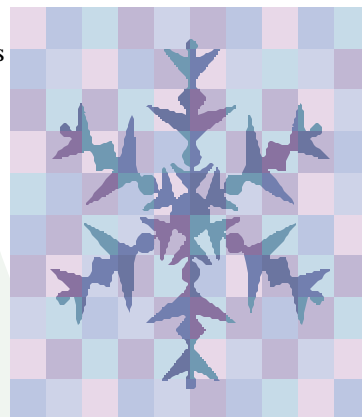
## STRONG WOMEN, STRONG GIRLS PROGRAM EXPANDS!

Fifty Allston Brighton elementary age girls are on their way to becoming strong women! The Boston College chapter of **Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG)** currently has six mentoring groups at the following sites: the *Hamilton, Winship, Garfield and St. Columbkille Schools and at the West End Boys & Girls Club*. Eighteen BC undergraduate women meet weekly with third, fourth and fifth graders in curriculum and activity based small groups. Strong Women, Strong Girls, a national organization, seeks to empower young women and girls through “an innovative after school model that uses the study of contemporary and historic female role models, mentoring relationships and skill building activities to help at-risk girls in grades 3-5 build positive self-esteem and skills for life-long success.”

This past fall, the Boston College chapter hosted a field trip on the BC campus for girls participating in the program. They spent a Saturday touring the campus, meeting women from the BC soccer team, doing arts and crafts and having fun!

The Boston College Chapter of SWSG furthers the Neighborhood Center's mission in the Allston-Brighton neighborhoods by engaging Boston College undergraduate students in a creative way with its surrounding community.

To find out more about Strong Women, Strong Girls, the national organization, visit their website at [www.swsg.org](http://www.swsg.org). To find out more about the BC chapter, please visit [www.bc.edu/neighborhood](http://www.bc.edu/neighborhood).



## FREE ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ALLSTON BRIGHTON RESIDENTS!

The Winter 2009 schedule of free English classes is here!

### **BCNC English Class Schedule**

#### **Winter 2009**

**Monday 3:30-5:00pm**

**Monday, 6:30-8:00pm**

**Tuesday, 6:30-8:00**

**Wednesday, 6:30-8:30**

**Thursday, 6:30-8:00**

**Register online or in person  
at the Neighborhood Center.**

Classes are taught by Boston College volunteers, are conversational and are for advanced beginner/immediate level speakers. The classes will begin the week of February 23rd. Participants may register for two (2) classes.

The Neighborhood Center also hosts English conversation groups at *Covenant House, Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center, Commonwealth*

*Housing Development and Jackson Mann Community Center*. If you live and/or are associated with the above groups contact the site directly for class schedules.

**New!!** This semester we are beginning a partnership with *Trinity Catholic High School* where several of our BC volunteers will be working in small groups on site with international students.



## BC NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER PROGRAM UPDATES!!

**READ BOSTON PROGRAM**

The Boston College Neighborhood Center's **Read Boston program**, a federally funded work-study children's literacy program, has added a fourth site partners! Thirty BC students work in the classroom one on one or with small groups of children at four schools in the Allston Brighton community. We have worked for several years in the **Hamilton and Winship Schools** but last January added the **Jackson Mann Elementary School** and this past fall added **St. Columbkille's School**. We are thrilled to have expanded our partnership!

**ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING PROGRAM**

Over **50 families and 80 children** are enrolled in the BC Neighborhood Center's **free Tutoring Program**. Children are matched one on one with a Boston College volunteer for a once a week session. The tutoring/mentoring occurs on the Boston College campus. Many parents have reported back positive results on their children's report cards/study habits and confidence levels as a result of the time spent with their BC tutor. We're thrilled to receive the great feedback that the program has a strong impact.

**SERVICE DAYS**

Each semester, **hundreds of BC students volunteer in the Allston Brighton community**. On Saturdays this past fall, **BC's Appalachia Volunteers** worked with the following organizations: **Brighton Main Streets, Charlesview Apartments, Covenant House, Commonwealth Housing Development, Boston Public Library—Faneuil Branch, Oak Square YMCA, St. Columbkille Church, and Veronica B. Smith Multi-Service Senior Center**. Both the sites and volunteers had a great experience!

Thanks to all!

Boston College Neighborhood Center  
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Brighton, MA 02135

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Fax: 617.552.0448  
Email: [bcnc@bc.edu](mailto:bcnc@bc.edu)  
[www.bc.edu/neighborhood](http://www.bc.edu/neighborhood)

## BC DONATIONS!

Because of the generosity of **Boston College's Recreation Complex**, the BC Neighborhood Center has the opportunity on a monthly basis to donate unclaimed clothes/equipment that to local organizations in the Allston Brighton neighborhood. In January three large bags of clothing (washed, dried and folded) and one bag of sneakers were donated to the **Faneuil Gardens Housing Development**. Also, several tennis racquets, tennis balls, yoga mats and basketballs were donated to the **YMCA** and over one hundred tennis balls donated to the **Franciscan Children's Hospital**. Many thanks to Rec Plex!



## FREE TAX ASSISTANCE!

If you qualify for free tax assistance, the **Allston Brighton Resource Center** at 367 Western Ave., Brighton is offering **free tax help on Tuesdays from 12noon-7:00pm**. You must call 617-562-5734 or email:

[Catherine.snedeker.jcs@cityofboston.gov](mailto:Catherine.snedeker.jcs@cityofboston.gov) for an appointment. To check whether you qualify or for additional sites information, please visit <http://www.bostontaxhelp.org/>



## BC ATHLETES

Each semester Boston College student athletes show their community spirit by participate in several programs through the BC Neighborhood Center. Through the **Help Educate through Athletic Responsibility (H.E.A.R.) Mentoring Program** athletes visit a different elementary school each month. **All Allston & Brighton public elementary**

**schools** as well as **St. Columbkille School** participate. This year, we've been thrilled to include the **Winthrop and Russell Schools** in Dorchester in the H.E.A.R. program. The Winthrop and Russell Schools are Boston College's partnering schools through the **Step UP Urban Outreach Initiative**.

Also on a monthly basis student athletes help bag and deliver food for hundreds of residents at **Commonwealth Housing Development** through our **Food for Families Program** as well the athletes as visit children at the **Franciscan Children's Hospital**.