

Bianca Radu

Without *Apis Mellifera*, the common honey bee, the pollination of many plants and flowers would be difficult and the production of blooms and fruit would be dramatically impacted.

It's a good thing that Hugh Beaton Public School has Bee-anca Radu.

Did you know that the average bee visits between 50 and 100 flowers each day extracting the precious pollen, which will be transformed into a sweet nectar.

Each and every day, and not just when the sun is shining, Bee-anca is hovering around the school's Kiss and Ride, welcoming the arrivals and keeping everything organized.

Bee-anca is somewhat of a hybrid though...part queen, part worker, part drone.

The queen bee is the mother to all the bees in the hive. In a figurative sense this is true with Bee-anca. She is at all the Hugh Beaton activities, chaperones field trips and volunteers at bingo and every other fundraiser and community event the school hosts. She is also an executive member of the Home and School Association, which allows her to assert an even greater maternal role with all the little ones in the Hugh Beaton colony.

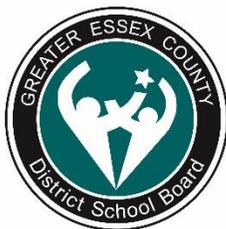
Bees are a uniquely social insect and Bee-anca is, fittingly, the chair of the school's social committee. She helps organize the free skating, Spring Fling and Fun Fair, as well as the school dances. It's interesting that bees communicate with one another through a series of movements often referred to as the "waggle dance".

Apis Mellifera subsists on the nectar they produce from the pollen they collect. In Bee-anca's case that's coffee, which she always brings with her to share with all the workers at Hugh Beaton.

And if Bee-anca can't leave her hive for any reason on any particular day she has her drone do the work for her...I believe Craig is his name.

And if there was any doubt about this metaphor....Bee-anca calls everybody "Honey".

We call Bianca Radu, a Champion for Education.



*Greater Essex County District School Board
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