

## An important message for parents from Dr. Stella, Superintendent.

# A Special Opportunity For You and Your Family.

*Chinese visitors are coming soon. Help us put our best foot forward.*

December 15, 2008

Dear Beecher Families and Staff:

I have exciting news that I want to share with you. We recently received word from the Connecticut State Department of Education that a delegation of 30 educators from the Shandong Province in China will be visiting Connecticut from January 6 – 16, 2009.

The purpose of the trip is to provide an opportunity for these educators to study American Education first hand. Woodbridge has been asked to host two of these educators during their ten-day visit. One is principal of our *Sister School*, Heze Municipal Experimental Elementary School. The other is a principal of another elementary school in the same city, Heze.



Dr. Stella with the principal of our sister school in China.

As you may recall, two representatives from BRS were hosted in China on two separate occasions by our sister school. I went for a ten-day stay in October 2007 and Nancy White, BRS sixth grade teacher, represented us during the spring recess earlier this year. The hospitality extended to us by the administration, staff, children and parents of our sister school community was phenomenal.

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome our educational colleagues from China and reciprocate with American hospitality. I am reaching out to members of the

### Can you help in any of these ways?

- **House our guests for part of their stay**
- **Provide translation (Mandarin Chinese) for our guests during the school day, or at some evening functions or on the weekend**
- **Entertain our guests for lunch one afternoon or invite them for a dinner one evening**
- **Show our guests a special aspect of life here in Connecticut**

Beecher Road School community for volunteers to help us host our visitors.

I am looking for ideas and help in making our guests welcome, and creating wonderful memories and relationships for them to bring back to China.

In addition to showing hospitality to our guests, I would like to use their visit to do the following: (1) provide our students with a chance to interact directly with school leaders from another land, another culture; (2) create momentum in promoting intercultural communication as a core value of our school and school community; (3) strengthen the sister school relationship; and (4) develop our capacity as a school community to promote intercultural exchanges of staff and, possibly students, between BRS and schools in international settings. It is a dream, but dreams come true.

If you are in a position to support this historic visit to BRS please fill out the volunteer sheet on the back of this letter and return it to me at the District Office, 40 Beecher Road South by Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Or, e-mail your response to me at [gstella@woodbridge.k12.ct.us](mailto:gstella@woodbridge.k12.ct.us).

The BRS PTO has offered to support the upcoming visit in any way it can. You will be hearing from the PTO soon.

Let me take this opportunity to wish each one of you and your family a holiday filled with joy and laughter, and a new year filled with happiness and good health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gaeton F. Stella".

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**See Other Side**