



Parent Update - June 17, 2011

From Dr. Stella - Superintendent of Schools

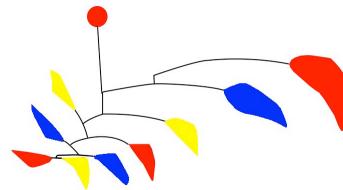
Summer dates for your calendar

- Last Day of School: Tuesday, June 21, 1:10 p.m. dismissal
- Sixth Grade Promotion Ceremony: Monday, June 20, 1 p.m. at Amity High School
- Sixth Grade Party: Monday, June 20, from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- June 22-24: Teachers professional development at BRS
- June 22-23: Teacher Assistants professional development
- SEP – Summer Enrichment programs: Five Weeks, June 27 – July 29, 9 a.m. – 12 noon
- Extended Day Program: Six Weeks, June 27 - August 5, “Early Bird” arrivals 8:00 – 9 a.m. Programs, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Extended Day continues 12 noon – 5:30 p.m.
- Recreation Department programs: Six weeks, June 27 – August 5, 9 a.m. – 12 Noon
- First Day of School: Tuesday, August 30, 1:10 dismissal

Classroom Teacher Assignments 2011-12*

Grade	Teachers	Teachers
Pre-K	DePalma	
Kindergarten	Belisle	Salinardi
	Coleman	Wyman-Anctil
	Dempsey	
Grade 1	Chick	Regan
	Piascyk	Sanders
Grade 2	Buzzard	Hamm
	Halsey	Shepard
	Navudu	
Multi-Age	Ahern	Golden
	Burness	Hart-Rooney
Grade 3	Concilio	Lavigne
	Don	Vincitorio
	Hutchinson	
Grade 4	Echeverry	Reizfeld
	Krawec	Waldron
Grade 5	Blinstrubas	Rourke
	McCollom	(new teacher)
	Mulligan	
Grade 6	Chase	Katzen
	Eleck	Smerekanicz
	Holowienko	White

*Teacher assignments are subject to change based on the needs of the school.



ARTS WEEK 4

An unqualified smash hit!

Congratulations to the dozens of staff, parents and volunteers who made our fourth annual *ARTS WEEK* an extraordinary educational experience for all. This year's focus celebrated internationally acclaimed artist, Alexander Calder. Calder settled in Roxbury, Connecticut to work and raise a family starting in 1933. The week-long celebration, May 31 - June 3, culminated with *ARTSNIGHT* on June 2 where parents, friends and students experienced interactive events such as silk-screening T-shirts, painting faces, creating wire sculptures, and making musical instruments. The entire school and campus were adorned with magnificent artwork created by students. In addition, there was a poetry jam.



Abigail gets help with a silk screen T-shirt at ARTSNIGHT 4

Thank you to our BRS Safety Patrol



The ubiquitous school safety patrols seen at nearly every elementary school in the nation can sometimes be taken for granted. But the children who tirelessly serve on the *Safety Patrol* know their mission is serious business. At BRS, on June 15, fifteen students were recognized at a luncheon in their honor. They are distinguished for their service, being on their posts through every type of weather throughout the year. Advisors Jill Colomonico and Kathleen Holowienko joined me as we congratulated: Robert Anastasio and Lauren Bollier, co-captains; and *Safety Patrol* members Kaitlyn Butler, Owen Dodd, Omri Elinav, Shira Elinav, Jack Eyrich, Meaghan Francis, Sara Jadbabaie, Mae Lanese, Ayaan Malik, Rachel Marks, Harrison Paek, John Rueda and Kevin Yanagisawa.

An Amazing Journey

The school wide launch of Readers' Workshop this year is helping to develop a generation of lifetime readers and learners. As I walk through the halls and step into classrooms, it is evident that teachers have worked with great effort and zeal to implement the structures, methods and expectations of rigorous workshop teaching. From our youngest readers in Kindergarten to our most mature students, what's most thrilling to see is the engagement of students during independent reading, and the love of books and reading our children are developing.

Just a sample: children bask in a "Sea of Literacy"

- Readers and Writers Workshop model, K-6
- As an affiliate site of the Columbia University's Reading and Writing Project, BRS benefits from on-going support
- On-going celebrations of student work in reading/writing
- Student book clubs
- Extensive multi-genre/multi-level book collections in every classroom
- Large, state-of-the-art library/media center with extensive collection of print and digital resources
- Integration of core subjects through a balanced literacy approach
- Literacy-based Integrated Technology Projects on every grade level, beginning with Kindergarten, culminating with digital story-telling in grade 6.

Congratulations!

Sixth Grade Superintendent's Awards

Each year sixth graders are selected to receive the CAPSS [Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents] Student Recognition Award. This award recognizes students who contribute to their school, peers and/or community; achieve relative to their ability, and/or display leadership and/or qualities of citizenship.



Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents

This year's CAPSS Award recipients will be recognized at the June 20 Board of Education meeting. Congratulations to Katherine Alvarado, Lauren Bollier, Charlotte Gorham, Sergey Saveliev and Michael Zhu for earning this distinction.

Saying goodbye to BRS friends

As with each year's end, we say goodbye to some friends who have worked to make BRS the wonderful place it is. After serving on our Board of Education for several years, Thomas Handler and Mark Livesay are leaving the Board. Visna Ngov, grade five teacher, is leaving to pursue a career in medicine. Jacques François, after serving as a data entry assistant for four years, is also leaving. Retiring from BRS, Special Services Teacher Miriam Edberg and Teacher Assistants Barbara

Burns and Gloria Distante look forward to writing the next chapter in their lives.

Dr. Len Tomasello came to BRS last October to serve as the interim principal for grades 3-6 as a result of Mrs. Torre leaving the district for another position. Dr. Tomasello has captured the hearts and minds of the staff, students and school. We thank him for bringing new traditions to BRS such as our participation in the *National Geography Bee* and the *Veterans Day Wall of Remembrance*. Our gratitude for dedicated service and our best wishes for the future go with all these BRS friends.

Summer Enrichment Charges the Mind and Senses

The BRS Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) has become an exciting educational experience for hundreds of children as they explore new opportunities and interests and strengthen their skills in areas they have already discovered. This summer, the program will run for five weeks, June 27 – July 29. After many years developing and serving as director of the program, William Letsch has decided to spend his



summer days pursuing other interests. We thank him for working with his team to create a viable summer experience for children. We welcome Catherine Salinardi as the new director of SEP and extend our best wishes.



Check out SEP at the district website: woodbridge.k12.ct.us



Teachers go to summer school

Learning to teach your children by the best-proven practices takes constant training and development. This summer BRS teachers and administrators will be engaged in several activities that bolster skills in delivering curriculum in better ways. Here is a sample of what the BRS staff is working on:

- 100% implementation of Readers/Writers Workshop
- Enhancing relationship as an "affiliate" school with Columbia University's Readers/Writers Project
- Continuing to hone skills in the unique process of focusing on individual literacy pathways of students
- Seven teachers have volunteered to attend a week-long summer institute at Columbia University to enhance their craft. I will also attend.
- Professional development activities are planned in the areas of *Responsive Classroom*, and developing units of study in several curriculum areas
- Data from the World Language "exit" assessment will be reviewed to adjust, enhance, and strengthen the program
- And much more

Thank you to all the students, parents, staff, community and officials who make this school district so extraordinary. My sincerest best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

Gretchen F. Stelle