



An Important Message from Dr. Stella  
**Right Now:**  
**A Special Opportunity For You  
 and Your Family**



October 25, 2012

Dear Beecher Road Families and Staff:

I have exciting news that I want to share with you. BRS has been selected by the *Connecticut Association of Schools* to host a visit by a delegation of 20 principals from the Shandong Province of China. The visiting principals are in Connecticut to study American educational practices by visiting exemplary schools. BRS has been identified as one of those schools. The delegation will arrive at 9 AM on Wednesday, October 31.

You may know that in January 2009 BRS played host to two principals from our Chinese Sister Schools in Shandong Province. You may also know that our staff has made three trips to China in return. One by me, one by Nancy White, and one by Rick Wood and James Crawford. The hospitality extended to us by the administration, staff, children and parents of our sister school communities was phenomenal.

Woodbridge has been asked by the *Connecticut Association of Schools* to host two of the principals from the Chinese delegation during their visit. It has come upon us rather suddenly, but we agreed to host two principals from the visiting delegation. They will be with us from Thursday morning, November 1, through Thursday morning, November 8. They will study the educational program at BRS by visiting and observing classes and by speaking with administrators, teachers, children, parents, School Board members and Town officials.

The purpose of these trips is to provide an opportunity for educators to study each other's education systems first hand.

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

**Can You Help In Any of These Ways?**

- **House one or two of our guests for part of their stay. Housing needed for 7 nights. Nov. 1-7**
- **Provide translation (Mandarin Chinese) during the school day or at some evening functions.**
- **Entertain our guests for an evening dinner at home.**
- **Show our guests some special aspect of Connecticut life on the weekend.**

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 by Monday, Oct. 29. (See details on reverse.) Thank you for your help.

*Stella F. Gaston*

On three previous trips:  
 BRS Staff in China



# YES! We can help.

## Housing Visitors

Our family can provide housing for **both** visitors:

- \_\_\_\_\_ For their entire stay, 7 nights, November 1-7
- \_\_\_\_\_ For the weekend
- \_\_\_\_\_ for 2 or 3 days during the week

Our family can provide housing for **one** visitor:

- \_\_\_\_\_ For his entire stay, 7 nights, November 1-7
- \_\_\_\_\_ For the weekend
- \_\_\_\_\_ for 2 or 3 days during the week

## Translation Services

Someone in my family can provide translation service:

- \_\_\_\_\_ during the school day
- \_\_\_\_\_ on a weekend (1 or 2 days)
- \_\_\_\_\_ for evening events
- \_\_\_\_\_ dates available

## Hosting Dinner in Your Home

Our family would like to invite the two guests and the translator for dinner:

- \_\_\_\_\_ dinner one evening
- \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday night dinner
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday lunch or dinner

## Other activities/ways I can help:

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If you are able to help please print out and return this survey to Dr. Stella's office by or before Monday, Oct 29, 2012, at 4 PM. (Office located at the south entrance of Beecher Road School.) Or, email your responses directly to Dr. Stella at [gstella@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:gstella@woodbridgeps.org).

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Children's name(s) and class(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Questions/comments? Call Dr. Stella at 203-387-6631 or email him at [gstella@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:gstella@woodbridgeps.org)