



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D. – Superintendent

Sheila Haverkamp – Special Services Director | Alfred Pullo, Jr. – Director of Business Services/Operations

December 20, 2012

Dear Beecher Road Families,

One of the qualities that I love most about BRS is that it is a community school. There are programs, activities, new opportunities for learning, wellness and community gatherings that occur on an almost 24/7 basis. BRS is the embodiment of community. However, the events of the past week have provided a new reality to consider. This past week, I have met with police officials. In addition, the administrative team, the school's safety committee and members of Beecher Road School faculty and staff have engaged in discussions as to how to balance the concept of a welcoming, community focused school with a heightened awareness of security. As a result of these conversations and after consulting directly with the Woodbridge Police Department, we have made the decision to suspend the use of the card swipe system for BRS families. Two of the most compelling reasons for doing so at this time are: (1) the Woodbridge Police Department has strongly advised us to do so; (2) we want to be aware every time someone enters our main entrance. The current system does not allow for that to happen. Therefore, all parents and visitors will need to be identified and buzzed into school by the North Office staff.

Beecher Road School has a history of welcoming parents and friends into our school. That will not change. The process needed to enter the main entrance is simply being refined. As we move forward, an expanded safety committee which includes representation from school administration, faculty, police, school board, PTO and recreation will assess the efficacy of the change as well as the need for any additional actions. The school office staff will be prepared to provide access in an efficient manner as well as a welcome to parents and visitors who have relevant business in the school. We will continue to require that everyone sign-in at the office after entering the building. With everyone's cooperation we believe that this change will provide a higher level of security for our children while not losing our identity as a community school. The new system will go into effect on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. A staff member will be present to provide entrance for extended day and after school programs. As mentioned, we will assess and evaluate these new procedures on an on-going basis.

Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated as we adjust to a new reality. Thank you for the support you have given us in helping to create the safe, caring, and supportive environment that exists at BRS.

As a reminder, the Town of Woodbridge will hold an Inter-Faith prayer vigil on Sunday, December 23rd at 4:00 PM at the Gazebo on the Center Green to honor those lost in the horrific tragedy in Sandy Hook. Please come to join your friends and neighbors to support one another and to honor and remember those whose lives were taken so senselessly, their families, and the first responders.

Best wishes to you and your children for a joyful, safe and relaxing vacation break! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D.
Superintendent

GFS/med

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