



PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

May 3, 2012

www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us Woodbridge School District
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New Principal Selected to Lead A Restructured BRS

A new administrative structure will transform *Beecher Road School* from two schools, a primary house and an intermediate house, to one Pre-K through Grade 6 school beginning next school year. The restructuring moves us from a dual principal model – one principal in charge of the Primary House and MAG (multi-age group) and one principal in charge of the Intermediate House, grades 3-6 – to a Principal/Assistant Principal model with oversight of one school, Pre-K – 6. Carol Bequary, current Principal of the Primary House, will retire at the end of June. Donna Pagé, interim principal of the Intermediate House, will complete her year of service at the end of June as well.

An independent firm was hired to conduct a search for a new principal to lead the newly restructured BRS, that takes effect on July 1. Jim Connelly, former Interim Superintendent of Woodbridge, served as the lead consultant. The position was advertised on a state, regional and, through *Education Week*, on a national level. Over 30 applicants applied. Mr. Connelly, through a vetting and interview process, sent the Woodbridge interviewing committee six strong candidates.

The district’s 15-member selection committee included teachers, support staff, administrators, district office personnel, parents and school board liaisons. After two comprehensive interview sessions, the committee unanimously agreed to send the name of one candidate to the Superintendent for consideration. That candidate went through a series of additional steps on the district level including an intensive one-on-one interview with the Superintendent and a site visit to the candidate’s present school where she is a principal.

At a special meeting on May 1, the School Board unanimously accepted the Superintendent’s recommendation of Gina Prisco as the new Principal of Beecher Road School. Mrs. Prisco brings a rich background of professional experience to her position here in Woodbridge. She has extensive expertise as an elementary and middle school administrator, and has taught at both the elementary and middle school levels. Mrs. Prisco is an energetic, hands-on instructional leader with a child-centered approach to education. Among other things, she loves working with and coaching teachers, as well as establishing close links with parents and community. Officially starting on July 2, Mrs. Prisco looks forward to serving the Beecher Road School community.

Gina Prisco (center) congratulated by Dr. Stella and Margaret Hamilton, BOE Chair.



Last Day of School - June 21

The last day of school, originally scheduled for Friday, June 15 will now be Thursday, June 21 because of unanticipated school closings due to severe weather conditions last August and October. The adjusted calendar still allows 182 days of school for students, two more than required by state law.

Sixth grade graduation is set

The annual rite of passage for our sixth graders is planned.

Place: Amity High School Auditorium

Date: Wednesday, June 20

Time: 1 PM

The ceremony will be approximately 90 minutes with a reception and refreshments to immediately follow. We extend our thanks to Dr. Brady, Superintendent of the Amity School District, and Dr. Charles Britton, Principal of Amity High School, for allowing us to use the facilities of Amity High School for the BRS graduation.

The sixth grade pool party (for students only) will take place this year at the Woodbridge Pool Club on Wednesday, June 20th in the late afternoon. Details will follow.

Next Year’s Calendar has Changes

Next year’s 2012/13 school calendar, developed in collaboration with the BOWA districts, is set. Highlights of the new calendar include: (1) The first day of school is August 27 (2) The last day of school for students is June 13, 2013; the last day for teachers is June 14, which is a professional learning day. (3) Both Election Day and Veteran’s Day will be student days with a focus on the meaning of both days; (4) March 22 is a PD day and is aligned with the BOWA school districts. Makeup days are available from June 14-20, with any additional days, if necessary, taken from the spring vacation, starting on April 15. The complete 2012-2013 calendar can be found on the district web site.



“Teachers affect eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops.”
Henry Adams

Teachers are the heroes and heroines of American Society and BRS. *Teacher Appreciation Day* is celebrated nationally on Tuesday, May 8. Let’s be sure to thank a teacher on May 8.

On that day, the PTO and school will be recognizing our wonderful educators.

SCHOOL NURSE

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 9. Dating back to 1972, this special day of recognition began with the hopes of providing a

better understanding of the role that school nurses play in the educational setting. At BRS we are fortunate to have a caring, dedicated and highly qualified nursing staff, consisting of Stacey Katz, Nursing Coordinator, Diane Schwartz, and Aisling Fagan.

Do you know that school nurses are the go-to medical professionals on the school site? Strict state and federal laws govern what can be done with regard to medical interventions and who can do it. Here is a sampling of what our nurses do:

- Provide services that increase school attendance
- Prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases
- Administer specialized services to students such as medication and insulin pump management, tube feedings and catheterizations.
- Educate students with chronic health conditions to help them become independent in their own care.
- Identify health concerns that may adversely impact learning such as altered vision and hearing, social-emotional stressors, poor nutrition.
- Provide vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings and follow-up.

And take a look at these statistics:

- In the month of March school was in session for 21 days. 1192 students visited the nurse's office with complaints of injury or illness.
- 60 students went home ill or to be evaluated by their primary care professional.
- 107 students' chronic medical conditions were monitored

BRS Marching Owls Lead the Parade

The **Beecher Road School Marching Owls** led the Opening Day Parade, April 28, to mark the 40th anniversary of the BethWood baseball/softball league. The BRS marching band and color guard, under the direction of Mr. Letsch, marched to the applause of the hundreds of spectators who watched from the sidelines. The parade started at the old fire house and ended at Town Hall.



Join Us This Summer at SEP - Sign Up Early

The **Summer Enrichment Program** will take place from June 25 – July 27, 9 AM – 12 noon. There will be a large number of programs to choose from including old favorites as well as new programs. A complete brochure of programs for Summer Enrichment can be viewed on the district web site.

Additional Summer Programs

- **Extended Day**: June 25 – August 3
 - Morning program: 8 - 9 AM.
 - Afternoon program: 12:00 – 5:30 PM
- **Summer Recreation Department**
 - Dates: June 25 – August 3, 9 AM -12 noon

On the aisle with Dr. Stella

"Queens, Cats, Rabbits and Alices In Wonderland Captivated Their Audience"

I attended the evening performance of the BRS's drama club's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. The audience, consisting of students, parents, family members and staff, was mesmerized by an hour-long presentation of this classic story. The cast included children from 1st through 6th grade. The acting, singing, and choreography were superb. The costumes and set design were exquisite. Without a doubt, Broadway came to BRS. We are proud of our children. We are equally proud of the Director of the Drama Club, Cathy Salinardi as well as, Ashley Wagner who was in charge of set design, and Teaching Assistant Jen Cooper. Many many thanks to all who made this a lifelong memory.



Part of the BRS cast of *Alice In Wonderland* with Director Salinardi and Assistant Cooper basking in the glow of rave reviews.

Prestigious Award Goes to Sixth Graders

At a recent luncheon held at Laurel View Country Club in Hamden, the *South Central Area Superintendents' Association* recognized students from the SCASA districts. Representing the Woodbridge School District, students Jackie DeGennaro and Marco Delsanto were recognized for their high academic achievement, strong extra-curricular involvement and a commitment to community service.



On hand with the students are: Front row from left - Superintendent Guy Stella, Parent Mary DeGennaro, Awards Recipients Jackie DeGennaro and Marco Delsanto, Parents Monica Delsanto and Giovanni Delsanto. Back row from left - Parent Buddy DeGennaro, Intermediate Principal Donna Pagé, 6th grade teachers Nancy Smerekanicz and Nancy White.

My best wishes to all, *Gaston F. Stella*