



# PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 30, 2012

[www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us](http://www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us) Woodbridge School District

40 Beecher Road (south) - Woodbridge, CT 06525 - 203-387-6631

Dear Beecher Road School Families,

Welcome to another school year! Greeting children and parents each morning, walking through the school and visiting classrooms, I like what I see. I am impressed at how quickly our students and staff have adjusted to a new school year. And, I have considerable optimism and positive feelings as we start the 2012 – 2013 school year.

Beecher Road School has earned an excellent reputation and is sought after by many. This year there has been an influx of families from many neighboring districts, other states and other countries. We welcome all our new families including those recently relocated to this area from Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington, as well as China, Germany, Guatemala, India and Israel. We are delighted with the diversity and international representation that we have at BRS.

I send you my best wishes for a wonderful school year.

*Dr. Stella*

## Our new leaders are here for you and your children

Gina Prisco (L) and Nancy White



Both our new principal, Gina Prisco, and assistant principal, Nancy White, hit the ground running on July 1. They've been working hard throughout the summer preparing for the new school year. Mrs. Prisco and Mrs. White believe strongly in the importance of collaborating with faculty and staff and fostering sound communication with parents. They will be here to advocate for your children. They will need your support in return.

### Open House Dates

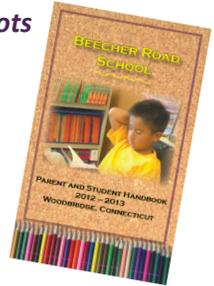
- Sept 11 Grades K, 1 and 2
- Sept 19 Grades 3, 4 and MAG
- Sept 20 Grades 5 & 6

## New names, familiar faces, coming on board and changing places

- Peter Halsey, formerly a second grade teacher, has joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team.
- Dee Don, formerly a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, has joined the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team.
- We welcome back Visna Ngov, former 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, who joins the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team.
- Melissa Caporossi has been hired as a primary resource room teacher to replace Doreen Fontana who has taken a position in another district.
- Susan Simoniello has looped to grade 6 from grade 5 as a special education resource room teacher.
- Caterina Zdrowski has looped to grade 5 from grade 6 as a special education resource room teacher.
- Lisa Rosner, TA, splits her time between Pre-K and primary resource.
- Teresa Pinciaro, TA, serves primary resource.
- Carmel Carriere, resource teacher for grades 3 and 4, will be out until January on maternity leave.
- Christina Domschine - Full-Time Sub
- Ten interns from UNH will join us this year: Lesha Daley, Amanda Foley, Starry Krueger, Whitney Miller, Elizabeth Prates, Nicole Rizzo, Nicholas Roshkind, Kristyn Varotsis, and returning interns Francesca Amato and Kevin Brown.

## BRS Handbook has lots of new information

The new handbook included in your child's packet on the first day of school has been updated for this school year. Refer to it often and be familiar with its contents and policies. Among others, pages for frequent reference include the school calendar (inside front cover), the school map (inside back cover), staff directory (page 3-5), time schedules (page 8), report card and conference dates (page 14) and your personal contact information for your child's teachers (page 44).



## Thanks to School Board, Town and State several improvement projects completed

1. Paved entrance roads to BRS and road leading to the north parking lot, including bus lane.
2. Completed safety/landscaping project in north traffic circle.
3. Lined the north and south parking lots.
4. Painted:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms
  - Kitchen
  - Principal/Assistant Principal offices
  - Touch up painting in hallways of A, B and C wings
  - External painting outside the D wing
5. Replaced six exit doors.
6. Pool locker replacement underway.
7. Construction of a rain garden and bio-filtration swale outside the A wing to reduce storm run-off and building damage will begin shortly.
8. Replacement *South Playground* to be completed shortly.



South playground under construction now.

## Mrs. Dempsey is Woodbridge Teacher of the Year



At the recent PTO-sponsored luncheon to welcome back staff, State Senator Joe Crisco dropped in to present kindergarten teacher Jeanne Dempsey (center) with a State of Connecticut citation for being selected Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Prisco adds her congratulations.

## Curriculum is the heart of education. Our teachers are constantly improving themselves and the curriculum.

Administrators and staff members have worked on several key curriculum and education related projects this summer. Among them are:

- new data warehouse system orientation and implementation
- language arts
- mathematics
- library-media
- science
- web site design and update

The number of staff who assisted with summer curriculum writing/projects is inspiring. The list includes:

- Mathematics: Kristen Concilio, Dee Don, Carson Echeverry, Katie McCollom, Sharon Blinstrubus, Cathy Zdrowski, Nancy Smerakanicz, Visna Ngov, Dan Chase, Lyn Piascyk, Ellen Regan, Michelle Shepard, Jennifer Schnitzer and Nancy White.
- Language Arts: Joanne Giaquinto, Monique MacDonald, Teresa Nakousi, Mary Sell, Maureen Krawec.
- Science: Nancy Smerekanicz, Stephanie Eleck, Kristen Concilio, Elena Lavigne, Mary Vincitorio, Maureen Krawec, Michele Waldron, Sharon Blinstrubus, Leigh Mulligan and Dr. Caron Stebinger.
- Data Systems/Inform/Web Site/Library Media: James Crawford, Lori Patrick, Gina Prisco, Nancy White.

This summer, the following faculty/district members attended a five-day Readers or Writers Institute at Columbia University:

- Carrie Fanelli, Cheri Guerra, Gina Prisco, Elena Lavigne, Nancy White, and Mary Vincetorio.



## THE BRIDGE shines light on exemplary programs and practices

*The Bridge*, our sixth annual education report to the citizens and businesses of Woodbridge, went out earlier this month. Did you get yours? Check it out on the district website. There is much to be proud of.

## Connecticut Mastery Test Results have good news

As you probably saw in *The Bridge* a few weeks ago, CMT results have arrived. Mrs. White has been working feverishly to organize the data. Mrs. Prisco and the administrative team are in the process of analyzing this data.

We are proud of the many indicators of success in our CMT results. There are some areas we need to improve. A new data information system, *Inform*, will be introduced this school year as a means of helping teachers and administrators work more efficiently and easily with data in a way that will benefit our children.

A detailed presentation of the CMT results will be made at the Board of Education meeting on Sept. 18. All are welcome to attend.

## Safety matters

The new secure student drop-off area in the north parking lot has alleviated a long-standing safety concern.



New drop-off area significantly improves safety

The traffic circle, completed this summer, was built to support student safety and effective flow of traffic, as well as to provide a new landscape design. Not just any landscape, this is a new bio-filtration system and rain garden that will control water flow and recycle rain run-off in an environmentally friendly way.

As part of the north lot project, we gained one parking space over the pervious design, and now have 12 visitor parking spots and four handicapped spaces.

Due to enforced traffic regulations, and a limited number of parking spaces available at dismissal time, we recognize we have glitches when children are picked up by private vehicles in the afternoon. We are working on a safe resolution to the problem. However, we always encourage you to send your children on the school bus and avoid the congestion.

We're happy to have Vinny Lynch back as our *Community Police Officer*. He will be with us during morning ingress each day. He will start the DARE program once again in October. Welcome back, Officer Lynch!

Meet other parents and make new friends. Come to the annual ice cream social sponsored by the BRS PTO. September 5, 5:30 - 7:30 on the school grounds. In case of rain — in the cafeteria.

## Bring the kids!



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS

## CIVIL WAR COMMEMORATION

SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE  
&  
THE AMITY AND WOODBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2012  
NOON

PARADE FROM AMITY HIGH SCHOOL TO TOWN GAZEBO  
CONNECTICUT FIFE & DRUM CORPS  
CO. G 14TH REGIMENT CONNECTICUT VALLEY VOLUNTEER INFANTRY  
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS & EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION  
TOWN OFFICIALS AND BRS & AMITY STUDENTS

**SAVE THE DATE: Join the BRS Marching Owls Band, BRS Chorus, and BRS students, staff and parents who will add their talents and support to the upcoming Civil War Commemoration. More information coming.**