



PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 9, 2014

www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us Woodbridge School District
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You know the old adage: *a picture is worth a thousand words*. Well, this picture says it all. I will use just 15 words: disciplined, talented, accomplished, multigenerational, thrilling, inspiring, proud, family, friends, educating, parenting, teaming, community, esteem-building, gratitude. What would you add?
Yastin F. Stella



On a beautiful evening last week, hundreds gathered to hear music. Led by music teachers William Letsch and Nadia Marroquin, BRS music groups entertained their audience in the outdoor concert presented as part of ArtsWeek7, the annual week-long celebration of the exceptional and award-winning arts education programs at Beecher.

Last Day of School: June 20 early dismissal

- **PTO Family picnic:** June 12 - north playground - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- **Sixth Grade Transition Events**
- “Graduation” ceremony: June 18, 1:00 p.m. Amity High School
- Sixth grade PTO-sponsored party: June 18, after “graduation” ceremony - later afternoon - at the Woodbridge Club
- Sixth Grade Trip: June 19, Science Museum in Hartford
- Sixth grade *Giving Back Ceremony* and yearbook signing: June 20

**First Day of School – next year
Sept. 2 – early dismissal**

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 to the children who tirelessly serve on the *Safety Patrol*, they know their mission is serious business. Recently, at a luncheon in their honor, 33 students were recognized for their service, on their posts, in every type of weather throughout the year. Advisors Jill Colomonico, Kit Dunbar, Kathleen Holowienko, BRS Resource Officer Vincent Lynch, and Principal Gina Prisco joined in the ceremony.



One of 33 Safety Patrol members who received a Service Certificate from Dr. Stella as Officer Lynch and Kathleen Holowienko join in.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

During the month of June, we will survey the parents and guardians of students within the district. Your feedback will help to ensure that we continue to provide high quality, rigorous learning experiences that meet the needs of the children of BRS. We want to know what you think. All individual survey responses are confidential, not identified to school officials, compiled by an independent survey company. You will be receiving a letter in the mail that includes an access code unique to your household. This code may be used only once for you to provide feedback. We encourage you to be an active participant in your child’s education by completing the survey as soon as possible. Your feedback will provide valuable information for us as we make decisions for the future.

Attention Families: Learn a new language

The *Woodbridge Public Library* and the *Woodbridge School District* have entered into a partnership to promote study of world languages and cultures. We have contracted with *Transparent Language Online* to provide digital access for BRS families and citizens of Woodbridge to over 60 world languages, including classical languages such as Hebrew, Greek and Latin as well as access to more than 25 English as a Second Language programs. All that is necessary to access the programs is a Woodbridge library card. We are encouraging every BRS student to obtain a library card and encourage all BRS families to use their library cards to make use of this language learning opportunity starting the summer. Expect a letter soon with complete details.

Classroom Teacher Assignments 2014 – 2015

Grade	Teachers	Teachers
Pre-K	DePalma, Maria	
Kindergarten	Coleman, Adrienne	Ramia, Teresa
	Dempsey, Jeanne	Salinardi, Cathy
	Farnen, Lisa	Wyman-Anctil, Shannon
Grade 1	Domschine, Christine	Rock, Megan*
	Fanelli, Carrie	Sanders, Shannon
	Janicki, Amanda*	Vincitorio, Mary
Grade 2	DePalma, Joseph	Rizzo, Nicole*
	Halsey, Peter	Shepard, Michele
	Hamm, Allie	
Multi-Age	Ahern, B.J.	Golden, Louise
	Burness, Rich	Hart-Rooney, Kris
Grade 3	Buzzard, Arianne	Hutchinson, John
	Concilio, Kristen	Scalia, Jacqueline*
Grade 4	Don, Dee	Reizfeld, Naomi
	Lavigne, Elena	Waldron, Michele
Grade 5	Blinstrubas, Sharon	Mulligan, Leigh
	Guerra, Cheri	Rourke, Tim
	McCollom, Katie	Szondy, Liz
Grade 6	Chase, Dan	Holowienko, Joe
	Echeverry, Carson	TBA
	Ngov, Visna	Smerekanicz, Nancy

* Pending Board of Education approval

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

How we choose your child's teacher

This time of year is an exciting one as you and your child end one year and look forward to a new one – after a bit of summer fun, of course. Parents sometimes ask us how we decide where students will be assigned for the following year. A comprehensive process helps guide those decisions.

Your child's classroom teacher and teaching team members consider many factors in placing your child. Some of these factors include: special needs of children, academic achievement, social and emotional needs, peer relationships, class balance by sex, teacher/pupil styles, teacher-parent-relationships and maintaining a sense of security for children.

The placement process is time consuming and requires the involvement of the faculty and administration. It is very comprehensive and made in the best interest of all children and the whole school. Final placement decisions are made by the school staff and administration.



Hiring for the new school year

An interviewing committee, consisting of teachers and members of the administrative team, has been busy over the past several weeks identifying and interviewing top finalists for teacher openings. Vacancies that needed to be filled included two first grades, one second grade, one third grade, one sixth grade as well as an opening for a speech and language clinician. Only the sixth grade and speech clinician positions are still in progress. The others are ready for approval at the June Board of Education meeting.

The interview process is rigorous. The good news is that there are many outstanding professionals who want to work at BRS. Our goal is to have a full staff in place as we enter the 2014 – 2015 school year.

When will families know who their teachers are?

Class assignments will be mailed to BRS families at the beginning of August.

ArtsWeek7



Kindergarten Pride



Children entertain parents at Kindergarten Step-up Day. A family picnic on the BRS campus followed.

The Earth without art is just, eh. With that profound statement, ArtsWeek7 took its theme: Nature, the beauty of it, the art in it. Students celebrated the week with each other and their parents: from flags depicting nature, to building sculptures with materials found in nature. They created a mural with nature's creatures and learned about the basic natural sound of Japanese drumming. The photo essay (left) helps give you a feel for it all.