



PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 8, 2014

www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us

Woodbridge School District

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

Dear Beecher Road School Families:

I am pleased to report on the progress of our major construction undertaking at BRS. After trying to get building upgrades for many years, we are especially grateful to the taxpayers of Woodbridge who approved the multi-million dollar project with the necessary two-thirds majority on the first vote in the Town referendum last February. Once the vote was in, work on details and contracts of the \$13.3 million package could be executed.

Contracts were signed in May, and work started when school closed at the end of June. For six weeks, crews have been at work, and I personally keep in daily contact with construction supervisors. Although surprises often happen with projects of this size, we are currently on schedule to have all the work completed by December of 2015.

Here's what I can report as of this writing:

Jason F. Stella



Dr. Stella gets daily updates.

The A-Wing Classrooms and Hallway

- The contractors have removed the univents and casework. They also removed the classroom sinks and bubblers (water fountains).
- Cabinets and sink units have arrived, and will be installed before staff arrival on August 25th. Each new sink will include a bubbler.
- Painting will take place before the start of the new school year.
- Curtain wall, case work and new ventilator installation will begin in early September. It is anticipated that there will be minimum disruption to classrooms.
- Asbestos removal (abatement) from panels below the windows in the A-wing is taking place, and will be completed before staff and children return. A third party testing agency is overseeing the work.
- The highest priority has been that of replacing roofing on the A-wing.

The schedule calls for all of the A-wing roofing work to be completed prior to Labor Day. However, all roofing work is weather dependent. We hope



for the best, and will plan for any contingencies.

- The Town hired independent third party contractors to assess and address any environmental issues before school starts. Regional Health Inspector John Laudano will continue to be involved in the process.
- The A-wing classrooms will have the advantage of being the first with new roofing, new casements, new paint, new ventilators and all the advantages that the upgrade will bring. In order to gain all of that, there may be a very temporary relocation of some classrooms.

Other Areas of the School

- Acceleration of building plans will allow the company to replace window walls and ventilators in the C-wing, and install new case work as well. The plan will require minimum disruption, and will benefit the C-wing classrooms as early as this winter.
- Lighting and plumbing materials are due to arrive this week. A second shift, 4 PM – 11 PM, will be started with plumbers and electricians working on designated projects.
- Well over 1,000 feet of piping and accompanying controls have been installed. Piping has been prepped as well for work in Summer '15.
- The piping loop has been extended into the pool area.

- Fan coil units (heating and cooling) are now being installed in S-wing. According to the present schedule, air conditioning throughout the building will be fully operable in the 2015 – 2016 school year.
- The Town Building Official and Fire Marshall have completed inspection of open ceilings. The process of closing ceiling areas will begin now.
- D-wing classrooms have been painted as well as the hallway.
- Old rusty bathroom stall partitions (student and adult) in the S-wing have been replaced with new plastic, life time stall partitions.
- Old carpet has been removed from the special education motor room; new tile has been installed.
- Our intent is to manage all building project transitions in a way that will create the least impact on teachers and students. We continue to appreciate the investment the Town is making in our building.



2014 – 2015 Regular Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Multi Age Group
A. Coleman	C. Domschine	J. DePalma	A. Buzzard	D. Don	S. Blinstrubas	D. Chase	K. Hart-Rooney MAG 1
J. Dempsey	C. Fanelli	P. Halsey	K. Concilio	E. Lavigne	C. Guerra	C. Echeverry	R. Burness - MAG 2
L. Farnen	A. Janicki	A. Hamm	J. Hutchinson	N. Reizfeld	K. McCollom	J. Holowienko	B. Ahern - MAG 3
T. Ramia	M. Rock	N. Rizzo	J. Scalia	M. Waldron	L. Mulligan	K. McHugh	L. Golden - MAG 4
C. Salinardi	S. Sanders	M. Shepard	M. Vincitorio		T. Rourke	V. Ngov	
S. Wyman					E. Szondy	N. Smerekanicz	

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

Newly Hired Staff

- Amanda Janicki – joins the Grade 1 team
- Michale Thalberg – music substitute for Mrs. Maraquin, while she is on maternity leave
- Kevin McHugh – joins the Grade 6 team
- Lanna Moore - Speech/Language Pathologist
- Nicole Rizzo – joins the Grade 2 team
- Megan Rock – joins the Grade 1 team
- Jacqueline Scalia – joins the Grade 3 team
- Tanya Ayotte TA - Special Services

Changes in Assignment

- Joseph DePalma - from Grade 1 to Grade 2
- Arianne Buzzard - from Grade 2 to Grade 3
- Carson Echeverry - from Grade 4 to Grade 6
- Peter Halsey - from Grade 3 to Grade 2
- Maureen Krawec - from Grade 4 to Math Specialist Int. Grades
- Elena Lavigne - from Grade 3 to Grade 4
- Teresa Ramia - from Grade 2 to Kindergarten
- Mary Vincitorio – Intervention Specialist to Grade 3
- Laura Sexton (TA) – Special Education to Kindergarten TA

Class size remains within guidelines

Unlike most towns, enrollment in Woodbridge is increasing, not decreasing. For this reason, we have added three additional classrooms. Because of the support of the Board of Education and the Town, at this time we have been able to stay within the Board’s adopted class size guidelines.



THE BRIDGE

The eighth annual education report of the Woodbridge School District, **The Bridge**, is set to be delivered to Woodbridge homes during the week of

August 18. Look for your copy that provides a glimpse into the many wonderful educational opportunities and events that make Beecher Road School a *School of Distinction*.

OPEN HOUSE

Come To School and Meet The Teachers

- September 4 - Grades 5/6
- September 9 - Grades 3/4/MAG
- September 16 - Grades K/1/2

Why we strongly recommend that BRS families send their children to school by bus:

- One of the most important security steps that we can take is to reduce the amount of time it takes to get into and out of the building. With the high number of car drop-offs and pick-ups, the process is seriously delayed.
- The large number of cars entering and leaving the campus during morning ingress and afternoon egress causes traffic problems and, at times, interferes with bus drop-offs and pick-ups.
- Taking the bus is socially and emotionally beneficial to your children. Your child will gain more independence, self-confidence and learn the skills of interacting with others.
- The buses are owned and operated by drivers who have been doing this for years. They know the roads, the children and the families. They take pride in being part of our school community.



**September 8 – 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
School grounds**

PTO puts finishing touch on playground

Thanks to \$16,810 from the PTO, this summer poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing was applied to the main area of the primary playground. A poured-in-place rubber safety surface is completely smooth with no uneven rises or falls. The finished product becomes one large surface which cannot be kicked out from under foot providing a safer play environment.

