



# PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 23, 2015

[woodbridge.k12.ct.us](http://woodbridge.k12.ct.us) Woodbridge School District  
40 Beecher Road (south) - Woodbridge, CT 06525 - 203-387-6631

Dear Beecher Road School Families:

What a pleasure it was to welcome back our children, staff and parents after the holiday recess earlier this month. As we embark on 2015 there are many things to look forward to including continued work on the building upgrade and the implementation of a new student reporting system.

We truly believe every child at BRS is a unique, beautiful human being. The human mind and spirit is a complex organism. When it comes to assessing student progress, the task has become more and more complex. To address this reality, we are about to put into practice a new system of reporting student progress to parents. In fact, it is a new report card. In this Parent Update, please read the section below about the new reporting system.

May the new year bring all Beecher families joy, peace, good health and fulfillment in all their endeavors.

*Gaetano F. Stella*



## Next Year's Calendar Adopted

It is important, for a variety of reasons that the BOWA districts work collaboratively in developing a common calendar for the 2015-16 school year. One of the most important reasons is that of complying with BOWA's cooperative transportation agreement. On January 20, the School Board approved the district calendar for the 2015-16 school year based on the recommendations of the four BOWA Superintendents.

For planning family time, among the most important dates for the 2015-16 school year are:

- Monday, August 31: First day of school
- Wednesday, November 25 – Sunday, November 29: Thanksgiving recess
- Thursday, December 24 – Sunday, January 3: Holiday recess
- Saturday, February 13 – Tuesday, February 16: Winter recess
- Saturday, April 16 – Sunday, April 24: Spring recess
- Tuesday, June 14: Last day of school\*

\* The last day of school is subject to change, based on the number, if any, of storm days that have to be made up. Make up days are added to the end of the school year: June 15 – June 30.

To view the complete calendar, go to the district web site: >district information >district calendar >"please click to download the 2015-2016 school calendar."



During this school year the Woodbridge School District will implement standards based report cards in grades one through six. A committee of teachers, curriculum leaders, administrators and members of the district technology department worked diligently to create this new system of reporting student progress to parents. The new report card will assist parents and educators to identify both strengths and areas needing further development.

The new report will contain priority standards, identified by BRS staff, that reflect expectations embedded in the district's curriculum and assessments. The tool is designed to reflect your child's current level of performance measured against a common standard. This will allow parents to better understand how their child is performing relative to grade-level expectations.

Next Thursday, Jan. 29, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center, we will present the new report card to parents at a special meeting of the Superintendent's Parent Academy in collaboration with the PTO.

The presentation will include:

- The rationale for developing a standards based reporting system.
- The process for developing the new reporting system.
- An orientation to the new report card.
- Small group conversations facilitated by Report Card Committee members seeking feedback on such questions as:

- \* Is the language of the report card parent friendly?
- \* How can the new report card help parents better understand student progress?
- \* Other questions

Parents who have questions ahead of time may email them to my administrative assistant, Marsha DeGennaro, at:

[mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org)

In the subject line, specify "Superintendent's Parent Academy."

**SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ACADEMY**  
Topic: INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARDS  
Date: THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015  
Place: BRS LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER  
Time: 6 PM – 7:30 PM



Mrs. Prisco, Dr. Stella and Fire Marshall Cappucci congratulate Zachary Kleinstein, in Ms. Reizfeld's fourth grade class. Zachary won a local first place distinction in the statewide 2014 Fire Prevention Poster Contest. His entry will be forwarded to Hartford for the state review.

## Construction Update

## 1 – 2 – 3

We extend thanks to Project Manager Matthew Ward and the subcontractors for accomplishing the following work during the holiday recess in December.

### Air Conditioning Is Coming

The *chiller* (A/C unit) and *micro turbine* (electricity generator) were lifted to their permanent locations on the roof. (See photos to right.) Penetrations for the pipes and electrical cables were made in the roof to accommodate these new pieces of equipment. The piping to the chiller was roughed in, and final hookups were made. We anticipate having air-conditioning throughout the building by the start of the 2015 – 2016 school year.

### Emergency Power Backup

The micro turbine will provide emergency back up in case of a power outage. The micro turbine came in five separate pieces. Assembly of the micro turbine will take place over the next month.

### Boiler Room Work

Substantial work was done in the boiler room. Major repiping was performed in accordance with the updated engineered drawings. The new layout will support anticipated functioning of the new chiller and micro turbine as well as maximize the performance of the heating and dual temperature systems.

### Lighting

- Pool light installation was completed.
- Occupancy sensors were installed in the classrooms.
- New classroom light fixtures will continue to be installed in the A, B and C wings.

### Controls

- Mechanical equipment was installed to more effectively regulate the re-configured hot water and dual temperature loops and pumps.
- Work has been started on interfacing the lighting occupancy sensors in order to setback temperatures when rooms are unoccupied.

### Roofing work

- The final edge detail on A-wing has begun. Additional work is still required, but will continue at times that will not have a major impact on the school.
- In addition to the edge detail, much work was performed on the expansion joints on the roof – pieces that most people do not notice, but are required to help the roof last for a long time.



1: Crane gets into position to grab the multi-ton chiller (A/C unit).



2: Crane lifts the chiller on the roof.



3: Safely on the roof, the chiller is inspected and fastened down. Facilities Director Greg Kula (L) and Project Manager Matthew Ward oversee the work.

## Budget for 2015 – 2016 goes to the Town for review

On December 15, the Board of Education approved the district budget for the 2015-2016 school year. I will present that budget to the Town at the *Boards of Selectmen and Finance* meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 6 PM at Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public. If you would like to view the proposed budget go to the district web site.



The BRS Drama Club invites you to “follow the yellow brick road” to the *Land of Oz*.

On April 9 and 10 the Drama Club will perform *The Wizard of Oz*. Information has been sent home about the play. We are looking for actors to perform and artists to produce the sets and scenery. Contact Catherine Salinardi, Director of the Extended Day Program. Email: [csalinardi@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:csalinardi@woodbridgeps.org)

## Security upgrades continue on track

As we have talked about in past *Parent Updates*, security upgrades are part of the plan to enhance the Beecher Road School facility. These upgrades to security are the result of assessments conducted by the Connecticut State Police and Woodbridge Police Departments.

One of the security upgrades is the installation of a sally port at the north entrance of the school. This specialized entrance is meant to make entering the school more controlled and, therefore, more secure. The sally port, discussed in the December 22 *Parent Update*, is now expected to be installed during the spring recess in April. As installation gets closer, we will provide you with information to make the transition to the new system easy to understand and implement.

Additional exterior and interior surveillance cameras are also being installed in key locations.