



MR. GILBERT'S PARENT UPDATE



MISSION

Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.

Superintendent of Schools Woodbridge School District

woodbridge.k12.ct.us

December 4, 2017

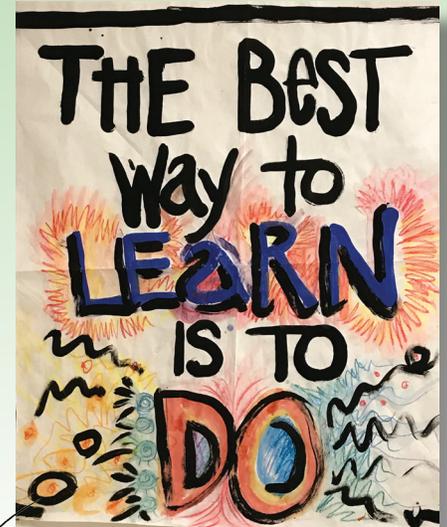
Dear Beecher Road School Families,

My recent walks through the classrooms, halls and gathering spaces of BRS provided another reminder of the highly successful school we have. From engaging academics to high levels of student achievement, to the love of the arts, to community service and more, BRS is amazing. While most Connecticut districts are experiencing declining enrollment, BRS's enrollment is growing even faster than expected. With recent Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day events fresh in mind, one can feel the warmth and sense of community that is a special aspect of this school.

In this Update, look at the tremendous outreach of our student council and our heartfelt recognition of veterans, among other information items. And, please note at our November Board of Education meeting, members of the BRS administration, staff and student body presented an update on the exciting progress taking place with our strategic plan initiatives. I invite you to view this on our website at this web address: woodbridge.k12.ct.us/uploaded/Superintendent/FINALStratPlan_Update.Nov._21.17BOE.pdf.

The 2018-19 budget proposal I will make to the Board on Dec. 18 continues to support the ongoing successes of BRS, addressing growing enrollment and increased student needs. I hope to see you at the meeting.

My best to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.



BRS Belief Statement
[Poster by Ms. Acheson]



BRS students are reminded each year of the meaning of Veterans Day through

a school wide assembly at which several veteran guests are honored. With a welcome from Student Council escorts and rousing fanfare from the school's band and chorus, local vets who have served in the US Military were recognized.



Robot Engineers In the Making



Robotic technology continues to expand in the 21st century. At BRS we have robotics teams in our after school Extended Day program. Taught by parent volunteers who are in that field, students in grades 4-6 are deepening their understanding of robotics. By gaining a basic understanding, the student teams compete with others on weekends.

Take Note – Significant Dates

- Dec 8 - Report card distribution
- Dec 12 - Winter Concert, 6:30, South gym
- Dec 18 - Superintendent's 2018-19 Budget Proposal, BOE meeting, 7:00, Library
- Dec 22 - Early dismissal, 1:10, begin Holiday Recess
- Dec 25 - Jan 1 – No school. Holiday Recess
- Jan 15 - Martin Luther King Day, no school

New Board member on board



Claire Coleman is the newest member of the Woodbridge Board of Education. She was appointed in October to fill a vacancy. Ms. Coleman is a climate & energy attorney for the *Connecticut Fund for the Environment*. She previously worked at Wiggins & Dana LLP in New Haven, and as counsel for the Oversight & Government Reform Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a law degree from Northwestern University School of Law. Claire, who also attended BRS, has two daughters in our school. She will serve on the Policy Committee.

SETTING HIGH STANDARDS OF CHARACTER AT BRS



The **BRS Student Council** stands on four pillars: *community, service, vision and spirit*. Not common in elementary schools, the BRS Student Council was established in the 2013 – 14

Upcoming –

- **Holiday Bear Project:** Student council is sponsoring 3 children for Christmas. We are buying items that will be donated to the child's family so the child might have a better Christmas.

school year and has grown in its focus and outreach.

Already during this school year the group has organized the following activities:

- **First day of school escorts:** Helped escort students to their classrooms on the first day of school.
- **Ice Cream Social:** Helped clean up the grounds after the PTO event.
- **Bake Sale during conference week:** Raised over \$800 donated to food banks in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico to help with hurricane relief.
- **Hurricane Relief Items Drive:** Filled 30 boxes with donations. Partnered with Woodbridge Police Department, who were also doing a drive, and have a connection with shipping through the National Guard
- **Halloween Hoot:** Helped with set-up on Friday and ran a craft room during the hoot on Saturday.
- **Woodbridge Holiday Fair:** Students volunteered and helped run booths at the craft fair.
- **Cup Stacking:** Hosted a cup-stacking event for World Cup Stacking Day. 147 students participated.
- **Veterans Day Escorts:** Escorted visitors to the assembly.
- **Fun Fact Fridays (On-going on Spirit Fridays):** Members interview a staff member and share the information over the intercom on Spirit Friday.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets:** Help PTO put together the Thanksgiving baskets for families.
- **Family Night at the Book Fair:** Sell pizza and baked goods during family night at the book fair as a fundraiser for the council to support our yearly donations to Woodbridge Fuel and Food Fund, K9 First Responders and Heffer International.



- **Fall Movie Night:** Showing a free movie to students after school while selling snacks as a fundraiser for the council. BRS appreciates the time and effort from our four student council advisors: Beth Greene, Liz Heagney, Teresa Nakouzi and Kayla Widmeyer.

Photo above: During Parent Conference Week, a Student Council bake sale brought in over \$800 for food banks aiding victims of hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Spirited Staff

Examples of school spirit shown by the faculty, second grade teachers (below) Nicole Rizzo, Allie Grabowski and Sharon Blinstrubas dressed as "word walls" (a teaching device for beginning writers) to celebrate the Halloween season.

And (left) art teacher Linda Acheson dressed as the school's mission statement.



Meanwhile, the teachers and staff have organized the **Social Action Committee**



that does the unexpected: They raise money and collect items to satisfy two goals:

1. To provide a service that directly meets specific needs of students and families in the BRS community Examples: providing activity fees for extra curricular activities; providing needed clothing; donating food certificates and other family support.
2. To involve the SAC each year in at least one outreach program that benefits people in the greater Woodbridge area.

Responding to the intent of these goals, the BRS faculty and staff donated \$200 in gift cards to families and 60 bags of groceries to support the *Thanksgiving Food Drive*. With more holidays just ahead, two families have been selected who will be provided gift cards and other donations. The families were selected with the cooperation of Woodbridge Human Services that will distribute the generous donations made by the BRS Social Action Committee.

OUR VISION: TO PROVIDE A DYNAMIC EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT THAT CHALLENGES AND EMPOWERS STUDENTS TO PERSEVERE AS INNOVATORS AND COLLABORATORS IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR ROLES AS RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZENS.