



PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 14, 2012

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Pop art, an art movement that emerged in the late 1950's in the United States, was the visual arts emphasis in ArtsWeek5, the annual BRS week-long arts festival. Pop Art uses imagery from popular culture such as advertising, comic books and mundane cultural objects. With that mind set, BRS students set out to create their own

versions of iconic images like those originated by Pop Art luminaries Andy Worhol, Claes Oldenburg, Roy Lichtenstein and others.

In true Pop Art style, the school walls were plastered with paintings and the grounds were animated with eye-popping displays. An impressive 11'x 45' wall of Worhol inspired self- portraits of BRS students and staff is prominent in the exhibition.

Music was front and center in two concerts. Grammy Award winner Les Julian entertained with his original music featuring ethnic songs and rhythms from around the world with a theme of bullying. The *Acoustic Garage Band* also performed featuring a BRS dad, Andy Bucci. A music adjudication, where regional judges came to hear our various music groups perform, was also held. Afterwards, the judges provided direct feedback to the students and rated them according to established standards. Here is how BRS music groups performed: (a) the *chorus* received platinum for a perfect performance; (b) the *recorder* group received the gold; (c) the *strings* group received the platinum; (d) the *advanced band* received the gold; (e) the *jazz ensemble* received the gold as well.

An evening reception, attended by hundreds of adults and children, was a part of the festival. We extend thanks to our art teachers, music teachers, PTO and children for supporting this event. We thank our organizing committee consisting of: Linda Acheson, Marci Slepian, Michael Cooper, Vicky Burford, Sandy Simowitz, Margaret Hamilton, Kristina Kuester-Witt, Diane Dolan, Deb Taubner, and BJ Ahern.



Passing the torch

With Dr. Bequary's retirement I asked her to reflect on two questions.

(1) What stands out in your mind about education at BRS? (2) What message do



Nancy White and Carol Bequary

you want to leave to the families and staff? This is what she told me:

"What stands out in my mind about education at BRS is the dedication and commitment to children. For two decades I have had the honor of working side by side with some of the greatest teachers in the world - really! Every meeting starts with 'what is in the best interest of this child?' It just does not get any better than that."

"My wish for BRS is to continue the focus on children. I have faith in the new administration taking the reins at BRS. They are lucky, blessed really, as I have been for the last 20 years. Thank you

for such a wonderful, transformational chapter in my life. I will hold BRS in my heart and my prayers forever."

Mrs. White is the new assistant principal. I asked her what she was looking forward to: She said, *"This is an exciting time for the Beecher Road School community as we come together under a new model of leadership. I look forward to carrying on the fine work of our past administrators, and I am eager to work collaboratively with our new principal to serve the district as a team that helps all members of our school community- children and adults alike- to realize their talents, passions, hopes and dreams."*

Classroom Teacher Assignments 2012-13*

Grade	Teachers	Teachers
Pre-K	DePalma	
Kindergarten	Belisle	Salinardi
	Coleman	Wyman-Anctil
	Dempsey	
Grade 1	Fanelli	Regan
	Piascyk	Sanders
Grade 2	Buzzard	Hamm
	Navudu	Shepard
Multi-Age	Ahern	Golden
	Burness	Hart-Rooney
Grade 3	Concilio	Lavigne
	Halsey	Vincitorio
	Hutchinson	
Grade 4	Don	Krawec
	Echeverry	Reizfeld
	Waldron	
Grade 5	Blinstrubas	Mulligan
	Guerra	Rourke
	McCollow	
Grade 6	Chase	Katzen
	Eleck	Smerekanicz
	Holowienko	TBA

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

Board of Education Budget gets support of the Town

The Woodbridge Boards of Selectmen and Finance recently set the budgets for all Town departments, including the Board of Education. Our thanks to those Boards and the citizens of Woodbridge for their ongoing support of our educational mission to continually improve the quality of education for Woodbridge children.

BRS iPad Project gets recognized at the Capitol

Last month, four sixth grade and four second grade students traveled to Hartford with their teachers to present projects they had created on the iPad at the 18th Annual *Connecticut Educators Computer Association Technology Expo* held in the Legislative Office Building at the Capitol. (The project was previously shared with the Town Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance.)

The sixth grade students shared their *study of the master poets* and the digital stories they created to express poems they selected. The second graders shared eBooks about *town government* that they created using their iPads in the classroom.



Before making their presentations, the group toured the Capitol. After completing their presentations, the students met Senator Joseph Crisco (above) and Representative Themis Klarides. They shared their projects with each of the legislators. Senator Crisco and Representative Klarides presented each student with a personal citation from the *Joint Legislature* recognizing their exemplary projects using technology.

Saying Goodbye and Thank You

- **John Brennan** joined BRS in 1975 as a custodian. His familiar face has graced our halls for 37 years. He is a dedicated hard worker whose quiet demeanor will be missed as he retires at year's end.
- **Carolyn Leary** joined BRS in 1997 as a TA. Ms. Leary served for 15 years in this capacity in SpEd, MAG, and in the intermediate grades. Friends, colleagues and parents wish Carolyn all the best in retirement.
- A recently-retired *Connecticut Principal of the Year*, **Donna Pagé** served as Interim Principal of the BRS Intermediate House for this past school year. Her commitment during this time has been more than we could have hoped for, and we are grateful. I asked Mrs. Pagé what message she'd like to leave us with. She said this: "It's been an honor and privilege to serve as Interim Principal of Beecher Intermediate School. I can think of no better way to spend my 20th year as principal than among such dedicated educators, supportive families, and wonderful students. Thank you for your support as our paths crossed along your children's educational journey."

To the Families of Beecher Road School,

This has been a wonderful year filled with many accomplishments and many blessings. My wish for you is that you have a safe and enjoyable summer with lots of time for family and friends.

My best wishes to all,

Gaston F. Stella

MAG marks 20 years

"Ancestor" Stephen Pfund shares stories



On June 8, the 20th anniversary of the *Multi Age Program* (MAG) was celebrated as over three hundred students, parents, staff and past MAG participants gathered at BRS and took over the campus. *Ancestors*, as they

are referred to in MAG, including former staff, students and parents, came to affirm their involvement and support by sharing memories and stories. Documentary videos, activities and entertainment - and of course great food - created another treasured memory on this noteworthy anniversary.



CALENDAR: End of Year and Summer Dates

June 20: **6th grade graduation**, Amity High School auditorium, 1 pm
 June 20: **6th grade pool party**, Woodbridge Pool Club, late afternoon
 June 21: **Last day of school**, early dismissal
 June 25 - July 27: **Summer Enrichment Program**, 9 am - noon
 June 25 - August 3: **Extended Day Program**, 8am - 5:30 pm
 June 25 - August 3: **Recreation Department Programs**, 9 am - noon
 August 27: **First Day of School**