



PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dr. Stella

June 11, 2013

Artsweek SIX continues to amaze

The sixth annual celebration of the arts was another feast

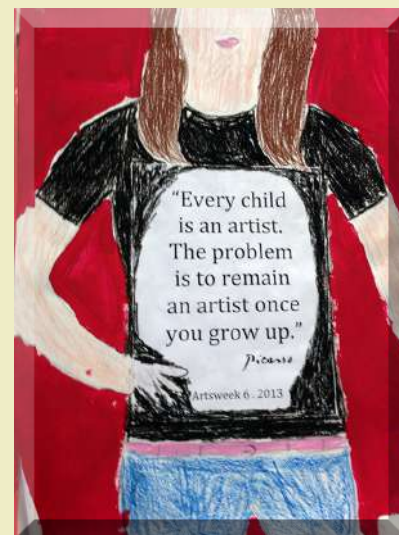
for the eyes and ears. Hundreds of pieces of visual art displayed all over the campus, both inside and out, dazzled the guests who came to admire the efforts of the students and their teachers. On the night of June 6, families were invited to partake in studio activities with their children.

The study of Pablo Picasso was an integral part of preparing for Artsweek 6. Students learned about and created works in the cubist style including a large mural of the artist's famous *First Steps*.



BRS Advanced Band earns platinum award

As for one's ears, BRS music students participated in a prestigious music adjudication event where professional judges came to evaluate the performances of our students. Based on very strict criteria, three of our music groups earned the coveted platinum award: Advanced Band, Choral Ensemble, and Strings Ensemble.



The study of Pablo Picasso was an integral part of Artsweek. Above, the students' stunning reproduction of the cubist's "First Steps". The actual, right. One of many outdoor displays, below.



Harmonies earn Choral Ensemble platinum award

Our Jazz Band distinguished itself by earning a gold award. Having elementary school music students participate in this form of an evaluation process is unprecedented.

In addition to the adjudication proceedings, the spring music concert held outdoors was attended by parents and students. Special thanks go to the many teachers and staff, and the PTO who organized this one-of-a-kind event underscoring the important role the arts play in creating the culture of pride enjoyed at Beecher Road School.



Mask-making: just one of the activities on Arts Night where parents participate with their children



Hundreds attend spring concert held on the grounds of the BRS campus

Plan Ahead: Important Dates

- PTO Family Picnic: June 12, 5:30 PM
- Sixth grade graduation: June 19, Amity High School 1 PM
- Last day of school: June 21 (1:10 dismissal)
- Summer Enrichment Pgm: July 1- Aug 2
- Extended Day & Town Rec: July 1- Aug 9
- First day of school: September 3

Woodbridge team for heart health

The Greater New Haven Heart Walk at Savin Rock on June 1 included a Woodbridge Town Team honoring the memory of former First Selectman Ed Sheehy.



Classroom Teacher Assignments 2013-14*

Grade	Teachers	Teachers
Pre-K	DePalma, M	
Kindergarten	Belisle, E	Salinardi, C
	Coleman, A	Wyman-Anctil, S
	Dempsey, J	
Grade 1	Domschine, C #	Piascyk, L
	Fanelli, C	Sanders, S
Grade 2	Buzzard, A	Ramia, T
	Hamm, A	Shepard, M
	Lavigne, E	
Multi-Age	Ahern, B	Golden, L
	Burness, R	Hart-Rooney, K
Grade 3	Concilio, K	Hutchinson, J
	Halsey, P	Vincitorio, M
Grade 4	Don, D	Reizfeld, N
	Echeverry, C	Waldron, M
	Krawec, M	
Grade 5	Blinstrubas, S	Mulligan, L
	Guerra, C	Rourke, T
	McCullom, K	Szondy, E #
Grade 6	Chase, D	Ngov, V
	Eleck, S	Smerekanicz, N
	Holowienko, J	

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

Pending Board approval.

How we choose your child's teacher

This is an exciting time of year 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 in a heterogeneous learning environment. Some of these factors include: special needs of children, academic achievement, social and emotional needs, peer relationships, class balance by gender, teaching and learning styles, teacher-parent-relationships and maintaining a sense of security for children. Although parent input is also considered, parents cannot choose their child's teacher.

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 school. Final placement decisions are made by the school staff and administration. The Superintendent will not alter student placement decisions once they are made. Any questions about school placement must be addressed directly to the Principal, Mrs. Prisco.

The 4th Annual PTO Book Swap saw 7,500 books come to school for recycling to new readers. The students brought in the books they were finished reading

and were able to pick out "new" used books. After two days of categorizing and organizing the books by PTO volunteers, the students came with their classes to pick out their books. In all, about 5,000 books went back into the hands of the BRS students. The remainder went to organizations that put books into children's hands

Hiring professional staff for next year

An interviewing committee, consisting of teachers and members of the administrative team, has been busy at work helping to identify top finalists for anticipated openings due to retirements and resignations. Vacancies filled include a first and a fifth grade teaching position (see chart to the left), a special education resource room teaching position and a position for an intermediate school psychologist. The interview process is rigorous. The good news is that there are many outstanding professionals who want to work at BRS. It is anticipated that the Superintendent will present final candidates for approval at the June School Board meeting. The goal is to have a full staff in place as we enter the 2013 – 2014 school year.

BRS is unique for its grounds

Forty-three acres, three playgrounds, 1/4-mile exercise loop, and numerous other physical features make Beecher Road School's campus unique. BRS, situated on a 43-acre campus, serves as a place for children to play and provides a beautiful wild life preserve and recreation area available for BRS students, their families and citizens of Woodbridge.

Children have an opportunity to play in three well-equipped playgrounds, one each for kindergarten, primary and intermediate students, walk and run along a 1/4-mile exercise loop, play on the tennis and basketball courts, walk on the nature trails, run and play games in large open grassy areas, take part in sports such as soccer, baseball and football on the open fields, make use of two outdoor classrooms and explore nature.

In partnership with the Town, the school district continues to be good stewards of the land that has been entrusted to us through regularly scheduled maintenance work, e.g. mowing the grass, removing snow from parking lots and sidewalks, pruning trees when necessary, caring for the bio-filtration systems, and working on various projects to enhance the area. One of the projects that will take place this summer, through the support of the Board of Education, the Town and the PTO, will be the paving of the basketball area in front of the primary playground. This area is used by hundreds of children daily and needs repair badly. In addition to Town and Board of Education approved funds, the PTO will support this project through a fund raiser. It is also anticipated that additional play equipment will be purchased for the Kindergarten playground.

Feel free to come as a family and enjoy the grounds of BRS on late afternoons and weekends during the summer months and throughout the year.

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and hundreds more went to Oklahoma for children who lost their homes and schools in recent tornadoes.



With doggie clean-up bags on hand, Dr. and Mrs. Stella enjoy walking the family dogs on the BRS campus.



Picking out "new" books