



PARENT UPDATE FROM DR. STELLA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 16, 2015

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

Construction Upgrades Continue This Summer: Call before you come

Dear Beecher Families,

Another school year has come to an end. So much growth, so much excitement, and it happened so fast. As the summer greets us, so will the continued extensive construction project at BRS. Because of the scope of the work, encompassing all parts of the building, please be aware of the adjustments required to come to the school for essential business. Note well:

- As of June 24, BRS is an "official construction site." Canopies are being constructed over the north and south entrances. During those construction times alternate entries to the building will be in effect. Both the district office and the school office are open. For essential BRS business you need to call the regular school number, 203-389-2195, and set appointments before coming. School administrators can be reached by phone or email as listed in the BRS handbook.
- We anticipate opening the school on Aug. 25 for essential business, with a full opening on the first day of school, Monday, Aug. 31.

I'd like to extend my best wishes to you all for a safe and happy summer. I look forward to greeting you again in August.

Stella F. Stella

Beecher Road School Will Be Much "Greener" and More Comfortable

This summer's work calls for the installation of security enhancements to the building, canopies at the building's north and south entries, the removal of window air conditioning units throughout the building and installation of a new HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) system to provide central air conditioning and heating. There will also be an array of hundreds of solar panels installed on the roof to provide significant electric savings for the school.

Highlights

- Virtually every area of the building will undergo HVAC replacements.
- Inefficient electric hot water heaters will be replaced.
- Dehumidifying system will be replaced in the pool area.
- A microturbine being installed uses natural gas to generate electricity on site. The waste heat from the combustion is delivered to the heating loop. That loop is used to heat the domestic hot water and the pool. The turbine also serves as an emergency backup generator.
- B-wing will be outfitted with new casework, new window walls and fresh paint, as has already been done in A and C wings.
- The main entrances at the north and

south ends of the building will have canopies over them providing protection from the elements.

- New doors will be added to the north entrance and vestibule.
- Significant security enhancements are intended to keep our children, parents and personnel safe. Great care was taken in selecting the items for installation as we want to keep this school as a community center.



Rooftop microturbines (left) and solar panels reduce the carbon footprint significantly.



Clare Kennedy Named New Director of Special Services

With the retirement of Director of Special Services Sheila Haverkamp, that position will be filled by Clare Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy comes to us with a comprehensive background and experience in special education both in the classroom and in administration.



During her 25 years in West Hartford, Ms. Kennedy's positions included teaching children with special needs including autism, intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbances and learning disabilities, as well as co-teaching from Preschool to grade 5. After 12 years of teaching, Ms. Kennedy began the role of a Department Supervisor for Pupil Services as well as the Pre-K to Grade 8 Summer School Principal. During the past three years, Ms. Kennedy has been the Executive Director of Special Education for the Hartford Public Schools. In 1997 she was named the Connecticut Learning Disabilities Association Teacher of the Year and in 2001 was a National Shaklee Award Finalist*. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Kennedy to Woodbridge.

* Award given to special education teachers.



Michelle Shepard, 2nd grade team leader at BRS, is the Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. Innovative, creative, reflective and a "consummate professional," best describe this teacher. Congratulations.



New Cafeteria Enhancements Started With a Guest Chef



This month, as part of new cafeteria enhancements, guest chef Suzanne Beck (left) came to talk to students about new food choices and work with the cafeteria staff. Students tasted a new item, sizzlin' zucchini, (above center), and after trying it, voted on whether they wanted to have it on the menu. Sizzlin' zucchini got the thumbs up.

Classroom Teacher Assignments 2015 – 2016

Grade	Teachers	Teachers
Pre-K	DePalma, Maria	
Kindergarten	Calabrese, Lori	Farnen, Lisa
	Coleman, Adrienne	Ramia, Teresa
	Dempsey, Jeanne	Wyman-Anctil, Shannon
Grade 1	Domschine, Christine	McClain, Morgan
	Fanelli, Carrie	Rock, Megan
	Janicki, Amanda	
Grade 2	DePalma, Joseph	Hamm, Allie
	Blinstrubas, Sharon	Rizzo, Nicole
	Halsey, Peter	
Multi-Age	Ahern, B.J.	Golden, Louise
	Burness, Rich	Hart-Rooney, Kris
Grade 3	Buzzard, Arianne	Scalia, Jacqueline
	Concilio-Horvath, Kristen	Vincitorio, Mary
Grade 4	Hutchinson, John	
	Don, Dee	Shepard, Michelle
	Lavigne, Elena	Waldron, Michele
Grade 5	Reizfeld, Naomi	
	Guerra, Cheri	Rourke, Tim
	McCullom, Katie	Szondy, Liz
Grade 6	Mulligan, Leigh	
	Chase, Dan	McHugh, Kevin
	Echeverry, Carson	Ngov, Visna
	Holowienko, Joe	Smerekanicz, Nancy

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

Class assignments will be mailed to BRS families at the beginning of August.



BRS Student Council fund raising efforts have resulted in sizeable donations to two charities: 1] The Search Dog Foundation and 2] The Jeremy Saxe Foundation for Education and Development – for Nepal earthquake relief. Service to others is a core value in our mission.



Learn a New Language

The Woodbridge Town Library and the Woodbridge School District are continuing their partnership to promote the study of world languages and cultures. All residents of Woodbridge will have access to the Transparent Language Online service, which provides a fun, effective and engaging experience for learners of all levels looking to build their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in a foreign language. With over 95 languages to choose from, including English for speakers of 26 languages, there is something for every learner. To access Transparent Language go to the Library website:

woodbridge.lioninc.org > (left side column tab) Transparent Language