



MR. GILBERT'S PARENT UPDATE



Superintendent of Schools Woodbridge School District

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.

woodbridge.k12.ct.us

November 20, 2018

Dear Beecher Road School Families,

I'd like to extend warm wishes to all members of our Beecher family and community for a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for here at BRS and Woodbridge.

As mentioned in my letter last week, our school community continues to be vigilant, proactive and responsive as a result of the recent anti-Semitic events in the Amity school district. Our thoughts are with those students and families, some of whom have siblings here at Beecher. Clearly there is no place for hate, intolerance and other serious behaviors at Beecher Road School or anywhere.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience with the repairs to our BRS pool. The Town and BRS have been collaborating for weeks on this process and there have been unfortunate and unexpected delays that have been out of our control. Despite an enormous amount of time and attention devoted to this process, it has taken much longer than anyone expected. However, our dehumidification/circulation system is up and running. Our thorough process moving forward includes some time to run the unit (to ensure reliability), cleaning and final inspection. If all goes well, we anticipate the pool will be back in use by the end of next week.



Veterans, seated under the thank you banner, were honored and celebrated at BRS.

On **Veterans Day**, BRS students and staff recognized, honored and celebrated family and friends who have served or are serving in the military. Music provided by the BRS band and chorus, speakers detailing the importance of Veterans Day and a special reception for vets and their families followed the formal program.



Hey, Buddy. Wanna be friends?

Thomas Livesay, a former BRS student, chose to construct a *buddy bench* to support the school's caring environment philosophy. As part of Tom's Eagle Scout badge project, the buddy bench was recently built and placed on the BRS playground.

Part of his project included talking to all grade level groups about the purpose of the bench, promoting friendship and caring, and why it's important. Tom did a great job speaking to all ages of students at their appropriate level.

We thank Tom for thinking of BRS when considering his Eagle Scout project options.

Beyond the Curriculum

BRS fifth and sixth graders have a new option to enrich their school experience. For those who choose to broaden their understanding of Spanish and Spanish-speaking cultures, world language teachers Stephanie Goldberg and Emily Jacober established *El Club de Español*. The purpose of this club is to promote enthusiasm for various aspects of the Spanish-speaking culture, and to gain more exposure to the Spanish language outside of the regular world language classroom.



calaveras de azúcar

The students' first cultural activity centered on the Mexican holiday *El Día de Los Muertos*. An *ofrenda* (altar) was created to remember and honor the memory of ancestors. Students made *papel picado* (tissue paper designs), *calaveras de azúcar* (sugar skulls), and flowers for the altar. This is one of many enrichment experiences our Spanish club students will have.



La Ofrenda y El Club de Español

CALENDAR DATES

Nov 20 - WBOE Meeting 7:00P
 Nov 21 - 23 **No School**
 Nov 30 - **Spirit Day**
 Dec 10 - WBOE Finance Committee 6:30P
 Dec 12 - WBOE Facilities Committee 7:30A
 Dec 13 - WBOE Curriculum Committee meeting 4:30P
 Dec 17 - WBOE Regular Meeting 7:00P
 Dec 21 - 1:10 **Early Dismissal**
 Dec 24 - January 1 **Holiday Break**

Right: James Crawford, BRS tech staff, provides Internet safety information as part of program for parents.

Staying Safe Online

Last month, a program on Internet safety was the focus of the *Superintendent's/PTO Parent Academy*. The well-attended event gave parents tips and things to watch for when keeping children safe online. Presentations were made by BRS tech and health staff. Guest speaker Patrick Griffin, State's Attorney for the New Haven district, provided an overview of issues from the state perspective.



Above: Flanked by Mrs. Pricso and Mr. Gilbert, Dottie McCrum is honored for her 42 years of service as a BRS school bus driver.

Left: Annual School Bus Drivers Breakfast for the men and women who drive and keep your children's safety ever utmost in their minds. Above right: Behind the wheel.



CREATE

3rd grade Enrichment Clusters in action – an integral part of our school wide enrichment model



Fundraiser Hall

food sales and silent auction set a PTO fundraising record. Left: BRS Band kicks off the festivities for a fabulous family day for all.

Congratulations to BOE Member Dr. Steven Fleischman on being elected to the position of Board Vice Chair, and welcome to our newest member, Joyce Shavers. Ms. Shavers replaced Nancy Maasbach, who recently relocated. Ms. Shavers holds undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University. She has one child currently attending BRS and another who will attend next year. Ms. Shavers will serve on the Curriculum and Finance Committees.



Right: Andrew Boulton, former BRS student, has earned his Eagle Scout badge for his project to clean up and refurbish the school's Kucinkas Loop. Revealing the commemorative bricks and deep cleaning the granite benches, Andrew's work enhances the campus of his former elementary school.



Thank you, Andrew Boulton