

Dear Beecher Road School Community,

This is a wonderful time of the year in our district. Messages of gratitude abound with the onset of holidays, honoring our Veterans, and celebrating learning and growth. I wanted to take a brief moment to update our community on a few topics of interest.

Learning with Literacy – at our recent *K-3 Literacy Community Forum*, parents and guardians explored our new literacy resources, learned from our amazing Literacy Team of Teresa Nakouzi, Jennifer Nickel, and Kristina Conroy, talked with our administrators, and even won a few fun raffle prizes! Look for a similar format later this year around the topics of technology, and in the spring around mathematics.

Teacher of the Year – I accompanied Grade 3 teacher Aimee Meacham and her family to the Bushnell for the annual *Connecticut Teacher of the Year* ceremony. Woodbridge is proud to be represented by Aimee for the 2024/25 school year. Aimee is humble, caring, dedicated to her learners, and passionate about education.

STEAM – our STEAM classes are up and running. I visited last week and observed Grade 3 learners experimenting with civil engineering principles through bridge building inquiry sessions. We have strong learners who easily share their thinking with each other.

Project Based Learning – while not a new concept to BRS, this year all grade levels are learning more about project based learning. Our learners are talented thinkers, which is a great match for the independence and inquiry found within project based learning. Over the next few years, teachers will learn and apply these principles to units of study which further our strategic plan goals as well as meet the diverse needs of all learners in our school.

Grounds – Guerrero Construction has returned to continue and finish work designed to remediate our drainage issues. They anticipate completing most of the work prior to the end of this calendar year, although they may need to return in the spring for some planting. Since we have had very little to no rain, it appears our roof and drainage fixes are working just fine.

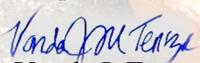
Enrollment – our enrollment at BRS continues to steadily grow, which is a direct tribute to our staff and our school system. It is also a challenge to our school building as the educational needs and style of instruction have changed since many years ago when the enrollment was similarly large. Antinozzi and Associates were contracted by our Town to conduct a study of our learning spaces and their appropriateness, as well as the lifespan of our building systems. This information will be shared with the community in upcoming forums hosted by the town, and Antinozzi will be sharing various building options that might address increasing enrollment. I will work with the town committee to keep you apprised of progress, information, and possible meeting dates as they arise.

Budget – please continue to look for, listen to, and reach out to me during our budget process. We are in the middle of developing our budget for the 2025/26 school year, which will be presented to the Board of Education in December. We do not anticipate significant changes. I do want to remind everyone that our budget will look a bit larger as four para-educators and one first grade teacher were added this year by the Board of Education and were not included in our approved budget last year. These additions were made this fall to address incoming student needs and increasing enrollment.

We have many wonderful things happening at BRS and our tremendous academic success is the result of the hard work of every staff member in this district to build kind and independent life-long learners. My heart is full of gratitude for all that everyone does to help all children grow and succeed at BRS, including the support of our families.

I will close, with a message my father had heard earlier in his life and always shared with us before we sat to eat Thanksgiving dinner--- *“It is not what’s on the table that matters, it’s who is in the chairs.”* May your tables and chairs be full, and your hearts over-flowing.

Respectfully,


Vonda J. Tencza