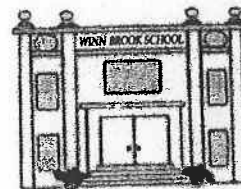


Words from Winn Brook



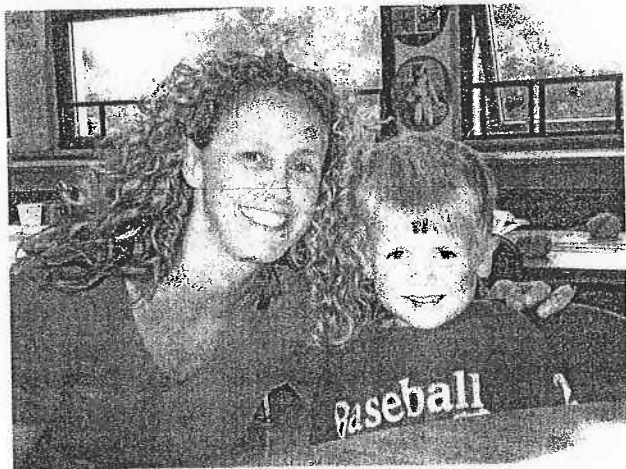
Principal's Newsletter

September 10, 2009
www.belmont.k12.ma.us/



New Friends

We are pleased to welcome 14 new staff members! In grades 1-4, we have 27 new students joining us from other districts, states and countries including: Florida, California, Minnesota, France, Korea, and the U.K. One new family is also joining us from Boston in conjunction with our METCO program. The diversity brought by these new children serves to enrich our entire school community. We welcome our new families and look forward to learning more about the countries and communities from which they come. We are fortunate to have a wonderful Host Family Program in place which has connected new students with other students at the same grade level, and often in the same class. We'd like to thank all of the families who have agreed to act as hosts, as well as Sarah Bazydola, Mary Carbeck and Rebecca Leeb, Host Family Committee Chairs. This terrific program promotes a sense of community and eases the transition for children who are new to our school.



"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Einstein

New Faces at Winn Brook

✓ Ms. Overocker	Preschool Classroom Assistant
✓ Ms. Ripley	Preschool Classroom Assistant
✓ Ms. Skelly	Preschool Teacher
✓ Ms. Deena	Kindergarten Classroom Assistant
✓ Ms. Alexik	Grade 1 Teacher
✓ Ms. Eckel	Grade 1 Professional Aide
✓ Ms. Knutson	Grade 4 Teacher
✓ Ms. Ross	Grade 4 Teacher
✓ Ms. Finke	Grade 4 Aide & Lunch Aide
✓ Ms. Crusco	Art Teacher
✓ Scott White	School Psychologist Intern
✓ Ms. Pisano	Speech Therapist
✓ Ms. Kretschmar	Librarian

You May Have Noticed

You may have noticed wires dangling from the ceilings in our first floor corridor. The wiring is being done in preparation for a new security system. Card readers, cameras, and computer controlled locks will be installed so that we are better able to monitor access to the building. In order to enter the building, visitors will need to ring the front bell and identify themselves before the door is electronically unlocked and they sign in at the office. Interior cameras will only be mounted in the front entry way, so that we may see visitors and be sure that they report to the office. The system should be up and running later in the fall. More information will follow.



Respect

Community

High Expectations



Bus Monitors



We'd like to extend our most sincere thanks to those parents who volunteered to ride the buses while the drivers and children were becoming accustomed to the routes and routines. Our volunteers helped to ensure that bus service ran smoothly and students felt comfortable. A special thanks to Denise Kelly who coordinated the following volunteers.

Christine Connolly	Barbara Darling
Erica Shapazian	Beth Barmakian
Sonia Cox	Alicia Yamin
Karen Costenbader	Maeve Giangregorio
Vicky Skolnick	Wendy Delorey
Cindy Jones	Stephanie Leydon
Maria Jones	Kelly Higgins
Pam Banks	Janice Christo
Sandy Mulkern	Lynn Delise
Jillyn Colman	Denise Kelly
Katherine Poulsen	David Hurley

School Advisory Council

The SAC ensures that parents and community members are involved, in a meaningful way, in school-based decision making. The council meets regularly with the principal of the school in order to assist in the identification of the educational needs of students, review the annual school budget, and create a school improvement plan. The council has openings this year for parent representatives. The SAC meets after school, approximately once a month. In accordance with the Education Reform Act, parent members are to be elected by the parent body. Should more than two parents volunteer, a PTA run election will take place on Curriculum Night. If you are interested in becoming a member of the School Advisory Council, please contact Rebecca Haight: rebecca-haight@yahoo.com.

Important Reminders:

- ⇒ There is no staff coverage in the schoolyard until 8:35 am. Please do not allow students to arrive prior to this time.
- ⇒ We must have a note if there is a change in your child's usual dismissal routine.
- ⇒ It is important to return blue health emergency forms and white contact information sheets to school a.s.a.p.

*As of September 10th,
the Winn Brook School
has an enrollment of
527 students.*



Upcoming Events

- ⇒ 9/14 Instrumental Music Info. Night, CMS at 7pm for parents of interested 3rd & 4th graders
- ⇒ 9/15 PTA meeting, 7:30 in the café. Please join us!
- ⇒ 9/17 Instrument Rental Night, BHS café 3-7 pm
- ⇒ 9/23 Curriculum Night for grades K-4, 7:00-8:30 pm, see attached schedule for specific times for each grade.
- ⇒ 9/30 Preschool Curriculum Night, 6-8 pm
- ⇒ 10/1 School picture day
- ⇒ 10/1 PTA Ice Cream Social, 6:00-7:30 pm
- ⇒ 10/9 NO SCHOOL for students, Curriculum Day for staff
- ⇒ 10/12 NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- ⇒ 10/15 Sibling pictures, 3:00 pm
- ⇒ 10/14 Pumpkin decorating, 2:50, PTA special activity
- ⇒ 10/15 Pumpkin decorating, 2:50, PTA special activity
- ⇒ 10/16 Pumpkin decorating, 2:50, PTA special activity
- ⇒ 10/26 Saturday Morning Music School begins, CMS
- ⇒ 10/27 Community Dialog, 4 pm, BHS Field House
- ⇒ 10/28 Early release day for parent conferences

H1N1 Preparations

As noted by our Superintendent, Dr. Entwistle, in his recent letter, we have resumed our campaign to educate students and staff about best practices to avoid getting the flu. We will be following all established cleaning protocols and carefully monitor student absences. Educational materials, tissues, and hand sanitizer are being distributed to classrooms. Vaccination information from the Belmont Health Department, as well as other important information related to the flu, may be found on our website (www.belmont.k12.ma.us). Parents are encouraged to direct specific questions or concerns to their health care providers. Our H1N1 Oversight Advisory Team is working closely with the Health Dept. and coordinating their efforts with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health and the CDC.

Guidelines for Email Use

Email communication is common practice for many people. School personnel all have email accounts and do their best to check messages once a day. Their primary focus however, is not their computer; it is their students. They have very little time during the day to access and respond to email messages. Although this form of communication is convenient, quick, and easy, it needs to be used carefully since the tone and intent can be misunderstood due to the lack of facial or voice cues. Parents are asked to keep the following guidelines in mind as they write email messages to school staff:

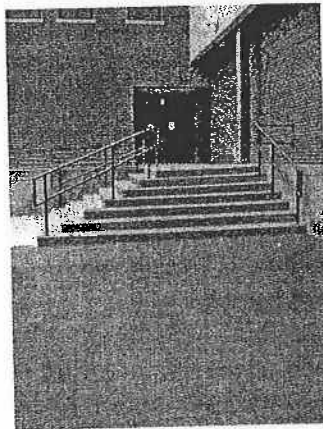
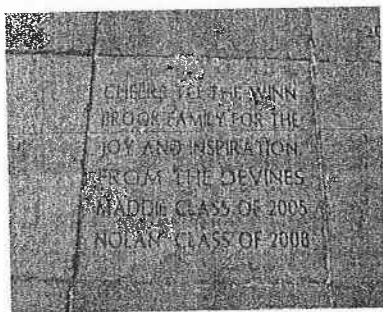


- ⇒ Email sent through a public account is not considered private communication between parties and as such, nothing of a sensitive nature should be disclosed in email messages.
- ⇒ Email communications should be brief, concise, and if warranted, should be a request for a personal contact (phone call or note) if feedback is necessary.
- ⇒ Email is not a substitute for a conference, nor should it be a problem-solving tool, especially when children and their learning issues are the topic.
- ⇒ Time sensitive information should not be included in email messages as teachers may not be able to read or pass along, within the expected timeframe, information that has an impact on a child's daily routine.
- ⇒ Email communication should be used as needed. It should not be a daily messaging tool used as a convenience.

At times, teachers and teaching teams may establish email protocols with families that are mutually agreeable and which support students. It is important that we manage technology so that it remains a tool and not a replacement for individual conversations about students and their issues.

Brick Project

If you have not seen the fantastic brick patio which was installed outside the Cross Street entrance, please stop by and take a look. It is a pleasure to see so many of our friends, families and staff members remembered with an inscribed brick. The entire entrance area is vastly improved as a result of this project. We are grateful to the PTA Ways and Means Committee, headed by Janet Goldberg, who spearheaded this fundraising and beautification project. Janet has worked tirelessly to see the project to fruition.

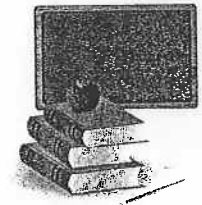


Possible Change in School Hours

The administration is considering changing our start time to 8:35 am and our dismissal time to 2:35 pm beginning in January, after the winter break. The intent is to give Wellington School the later start time so that when they move to BHS in January (while the new school under construction), the Wellington students will not be arriving and being dismissed with the high school students.

Curriculum Night

The schedule for Curriculum Night on **Wednesday, September 23rd** is as follows:



7:00 – 7:40 **Classroom visits for parents of students in grades K-2**

7:30 – 7:45 **Meet our specialists - for parents of students in grades 3 & 4**

Mr. Franey (physical education) will meet parents in the gym.

Ms. Servilio (music) will be on the second floor in room 208.

Ms. Pisano (speech and language) will be in the conference room (near the fish tank).

Ms. Groff, Ms. Kretchmar (library), & Ms. Joseffer (lang. arts) will be in the library.

Ms. Brandt (school psychologist) will be in her office outside of the library (2nd floor).

7:45 – 8:05

7:45 – 8:05 **Principal's meeting in the gym, meet our staff and hear from our new librarian**

8:05 - 8:30 **Meet our specialists - for parents of students in grades K-2**

Mr. Franey (physical education) will meet parents in the gym.

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Ms. Brandt (school psychologist) will be in her office outside of the library (2nd floor).

8:05 – 8:45 **Classroom visits for parents of students in grades 3 & 4**

Important notes:

- ⇒ Please do not enter the classrooms until the scheduled times.
- ⇒ Curriculum night is only for adults. Students should not attend.
- ⇒ This is an opportunity for you to meet with staff and get an overview of the year ahead. While general questions are welcome during classroom visits, this is not a time for conferences about individual children.

We look forward to this opportunity to share important information pertaining to your children's educational program for the year.