



December 11, 2017  
www.belmont.k12.ma.us

# Words from Winn Brook

Principal's Newsletter  
Janet Carey, Principal

## November Events



**Game Night Fun**  
Thank you to Amy Kirsch and Jeanne Jacoby for organizing this event.



We want to thank our "Book Fairies," Dawn Rossi & Sheela Agarwal, who spearheaded our **Book Fair**, as well as all of our dedicated volunteers.



This is a student's depiction of our **Thanksgiving luncheon** for English Learners and their families. We thank Belmont Against Racism & the Winn Brook PTA for their support of this event.



Friendly Competition at **Game Night**

## Vacation Planning

Please plan your vacations so that they do not conflict with school. It is disruptive to learning when vacations are extended or when a vacation is taken while school is in session. Current teaching techniques are often multi-sensory and cooperative learning strategies are used which involve children working in small groups. It is virtually impossible for a teacher to reconstruct the learning experiences that were missed due to a vacation. We, therefore, do not create learning "packets" for children to take on vacation.

Not only is your child put at a disadvantage if he/she misses school, but time and attention is taken away from the class as a whole when a child is unprepared to progress with a sequence of activities due to a vacation absence. Please consider whether or not you want to convey a message to your child that leads him/her to believe that skipping school is acceptable.

Massachusetts General Laws hold parents responsible for ensuring that children under their care attend school regularly. Schools are required, by law, to monitor attendance and take action if a problem with truancy or tardiness is evident. We share the goal of working with you to ensure that all of our students reach their potential through regular and timely attendance throughout the school year.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ *Respect*

*Community*

*High Expectations* ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

## Green Corner



Did you know that Americans throw out an extra million tons of trash per week from Thanksgiving through December? Below are suggestions to help you reduce your trash:

### Wrapping paper and gift bags can be reused and recycled.

Please do not use wrapping paper or gift bags made out of glitter or foil. These items look pretty, but cannot be recycled.

### Holiday cards can be reused and recycled.

Just as foil or glittered wrapping paper can't be recycled neither can cards. Holiday cards can be saved and used as gift tags for the following year. Or try sending holiday cards electronically as a paperless option this year.

### Cardboard and catalogues can be recycled.

With online shopping gaining in popularity more households are being inundated with cardboard boxes. According to Earth911.com 90 % of all products are shipped in cardboard. Please recycle by breaking down boxes no larger than 3' x 3' sections and placing under the bin or bundling together (no higher than 9 inches). When in doubt about placing it curbside, consider if the recycling crew can easily grip and fit it in the truck. All catalogues and junk mail can be recycled and if you want to reduce the amount arriving to your home go to the websites [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org) or [dmachoice.org](http://dmachoice.org) for instructions.

### Think about buying a gift that is environmentally friendly.

A reusable coffee mug or water bottle will help cut down on plastic water bottles and disposable coffee cups for commuters. Some coffee shops are offering a 'bottomless mug' program that can be purchased as a gift. Reusable lunch bags and sandwich bags are great gifts for school-age children that will save on money and natural resources. Decorative reusable grocery bags can be used as a gift bag and then later to hold groceries.

### There will be a cardboard recycling event.



For those cardboard boxes that are larger than 3feet please store until the end of December. The DPW will collect cardboard from 9:00am to noon on Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at the Town Yard, 37 C St. All you have to do is **flatten**, no cutting down.

Wishing you a healthy and green holiday!

Any questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Beth Calnan/Belmont Recycling Coordinator at [mcalnan@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:mcalnan@belmont-ma.gov) or 617-993-2689.

## Important Reminder

We are piloting a new format for our winter concert this year:

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**

9:10 - 9:40 am Gr. 3-4 concert with parents

9:40 - 10:10 am Open houses  
(at teachers' discretion)

10:10 -10:40 am K-2 concert with parents

## Defining Bullying Behavior

Arguments and conflict are a normal part of growing up and learning social skills. Bullying, however, is something different. In order for a behavior to be accurately identified as bullying, we use the following criteria:

### **1.Intent**

Bullying is an oppressive or negative act intended to hurt someone else.

### **2.Repetition**

The behavior is repetitive. Bullying generally is carried out repeatedly over time.

### **3.Impact**

The incident involves hurtful acts, words, or other behavior which have an impact on the target.

### **4.Power Imbalance**

There is a real or perceived imbalance of power. A child without power cannot bully. Power can be defined as either physical strength, social status, or intimidating behavior.

For more information, you may go to the BPS website:

<http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Families/BullyingPreventionPlan.aspx>

## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **12/11&14** Gr. 4 Boott Cotton Mills Museum Field Trip\*
- ⇒ **12/18** Tanglewood Marionettes for K \*
- ⇒ **12/21** Winter Concert—see schedule above
- ⇒ **12/25-1/1** Winter vacation—NO SCHOOL
- ⇒ **1/19** PTA Movie Night \*
- ⇒ **1/4** Techsplorations , sound program, gr. 4
- ⇒ **1/12** Force and Motion program for K \*

\* PTA Sponsored Events

# Openings in the Child Care Program

It is not often we can offer after care to new families during the middle of the school year, but we recently had a couple of spots open up at WBCC! There are a couple of openings in Before School and a couple of spaces in After School as well. If you are interested, you can reach out to the Director, Maridel Perdomo, by phone or email. Please feel free to get in touch with us with any questions you may have. We always look forward to welcoming new Winn Brook friends into the program!

Director, Maridel Perdomo  
[mperdomo@winnbrookcc.org](mailto:mperdomo@winnbrookcc.org)

## Parent Workshop

Executive function skills refer to the brain functions we use to manage our attention, our emotions, and our behavior in pursuit of our goals. Young children rely on these skills to follow a sequence of instructions for daily tasks while older children need these skills to “break a task down” into a sequence of steps and organize a timeline as the demands for independent learning increase. Learn how to promote these skills by weaving them naturally into everyday. Practical strategies are offered to teach young learners to think in an organized way, to control their impulses/manage emotions and readily initiate tasks, to manage their belongings and space, and begin feel and internalize a sense of the passage of time.

**When:** Tuesday, January 16

**Time:** 7-9PM

**Place:** Wellington School (Cafeteria or Community Room)

## STAR Awards

### ***Looking for a great way to thank a teacher or staff member during the holiday season?***

The FBE's STAR (**S**taff and **T**eacher **A**ward and **R**ecognition) Awards recognize Belmont educators and staff. This program is a great opportunity for parents and children to acknowledge and thank the remarkable professionals who make a difference in their lives. With a **tax-deductible donation of \$20** or more to the STAR program, the FBE will send a certificate to the teacher or staff member you wish to honor. The certificate includes your name and personalized message, without specifying the dollar amount of the gift.

Your STAR Award donation will help the FBE make a difference in the Belmont Public Schools by funding innovative curricula, enrichment, technology, professional development, and other initiatives. For more information about the STAR Award program or to order online, please visit [www.fbe-belmont.org/star](http://www.fbe-belmont.org/star). If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Chris Kochem at [info@fbe-belmont.org](mailto:info@fbe-belmont.org).

## PTA News

### Toy and Gift Drive

Thank you for your generous donations of toys for the Gift Drive. There were so many gifts, it took 13 large, heavy duty trash bags to pack them up for the Department of Children and Families. These will help make the holidays bright for children in need. Thank you so much to our generous community!



### Extracurricular Preview Coming Soon

The winter session of Extracurricular programs will start in January. Be on the lookout for an email this week letting you know when the preview opens! Our hard working Extracurricular Committee is moving to a new online registration and payment system, RecDesk. More details soon!

### Shopping Online

Please start here when shopping on Amazon. Your price doesn't increase but Winn Brook will get a small donation from the Amazon Foundation: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2982429>

