



October 23, 2017
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Words from Winn Brook

Principal's Newsletter

Janet Carey, Principal

Results from MCAS 2.0

While just under fifty percent of 3rd and 4th grade students across the state met or exceeded expectations on the new version of MCAS, our results were impressive, reflecting our teachers' consistent focus on teaching the standards, not "teaching to a test." Individual student's results will be mailed to parents in November. Students' performance will be rated as: *Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, or Not Meeting Expectations*. It is important for all of us to remember that this is a new test and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been clear that **the cut off for meeting expectations is more rigorous** than it has been in the past. This means that students who met expectations last year, may partially meet expectations on this test. MCAS 2.0 provides a new baseline and should not be compared to previous year's scores.

Also new this year, is the state's reporting of our school's achievement levels. These figures (see below) compare our school's average scaled score on each test to the average scaled scores of all public schools, at the same grade levels, across the state.

MCAS 2.0 Results Spring 2017			
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	Winn Brook	Belmont	State
	3 rd Grade ELA	71%	69%
3 rd Grade Math	88%	79%	49%
4 th Grade ELA	85%	75%	48%
4 th Grade Math	80%	73%	49%

Winn Brook Achievement Level Percentiles	
3rd Grade ELA (English Language Arts)	94th percentile
3rd Grade Math	99th percentile
4th Grade ELA	96th percentile
4th Grade Math	96th percentile

Helping Hands

We are so proud of our 4th graders! They led a highly successful fundraising drive to support those impacted by recent hurricanes. With a little guidance from the teachers, the students came up with a plan to create and sell decorated hands. Those who purchased hands, added their names and the hands have been placed along the first floor hallway to remind us that working together, "hand in hand," we can have a big impact. By selling hands for \$1 each, the children raised \$1,620! This money has been donated to Direct Relief where approximately 99% of the charity's total expenses are spent on the programs and services it delivers.

We are grateful to all of the 4th grade parents who came in to school to help supervise the sales!



Upcoming Events

- ⇒ 10/23 Sibling photos—3pm by appointment only
- ⇒ 10/25 **Early Release Day**, 11:50 dismissal
- ⇒ 10/26 4th Grade Halloween Party, evening event*
- ⇒ 10/30 Plimoth Plantation field trip, grade 3 *
- ⇒ 11/1 **Early Release Day**, 11:50 am dismissal
- ⇒ 11/4 FBE's Annual Spelling Bee at **Chenery**
- ⇒ 11/8 **Early Release Day**, 11:50 am dismissal
- ⇒ 11/22 **Early Release Day**, 11:50 am dismissal, **no afternoon childcare**
- ⇒ 11/23&24 No School, Thanksgiving
- ⇒ 11/27-12/1 PTA Book Fair *

* PTA sponsored events

PACK Week

The Winn Brook School again participated in PACK Week (**P**ack **A**ssorted **C**olors for **K**ids). This fun and educational program encouraged children (and staff) to eat more fruits and vegetables every day for better health. Each day of PACK Week was assigned a different color and students and staff were asked to eat a fruit or vegetable based on the color of the day. Ms. Shaughnessy's visits to the cafeteria in her fruit and vegetable costumes were a highlight of the week! We thank her for spearheading this effort.



Restroom Issues

We have had an unusual number of issues with restrooms this year, particularly in the lower grades where children are transitioning from individual restrooms attached to kindergarten classrooms, to the larger multi-stall restrooms that are used in grades 1-4. Students seem to think that it is a funny "prank" to lock stalls and crawl out under the doors so that the next child who comes along cannot get into a stall. Additionally, there have been toilet paper "tornadoes" made by swirling wads of toilet paper in the bowl and attempts to clog toilets by flushing wads of paper towels. Some students also think that it is humorous to step on the toilet or toilet paper holder in order to peek over the top of one stall into another one.

Needless to say, this behavior is disrespectful, potentially dangerous and unsanitary. We review restroom rules with all students and immediately address these problems when they occur. We will continue to be vigilant but ask for parental support. Please talk to your child about your expectations for his/her restroom behavior.

BHS Ski Team's Ski & Sports Sale

Saturday November 11th 10am-2pm at the Belmont High School Cafeteria

New ski equipment by Rogers Ski & Sport, used ski and sports equipment, as well as some ski and sports equipment and clothing that are sold on a consignment basis. For consignment sales, drop-off sale items between 8-10am and we will sell them for you and split profits to support the team. Come to gear-up and get ready for the upcoming winter season! For more info visit www.belmontskiteam.com.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent conferences will run during the Wednesday early release days on Oct. 25th, Nov. 1st and Nov. 8th. Students will be dismissed at 11:50 and the cafeteria staff will not be serving lunch on these days.



Conferences provide a wonderful opportunity for both parents and teachers to share information. Collaboration and communication is key to creating an optimal situation for student learning and growth. Children benefit when they perceive that there is a partnership between teachers and parents.

After the conference, you may want to share some aspects of the discussion with your child. You could highlight areas of strength and discuss goals for further improvement. It is important to stress that making mistakes and working hard to improve are a part of learning for all of us. Persistence is a habit that is critical to success.

Teachers have spent a great deal of time preparing for conferences and want to spend the full amount of scheduled time focused on your child; therefore, please be sure to be punctual. We appreciate your understanding of the time constraints for ending the conference on schedule so that teachers may begin the next conference promptly.

Homework Guidelines

Expected Total Time Including Assigned Reading

- K: no homework
- Grade 1: 15-20 minutes
- Grade 2: 20-30 minutes
- Grade 3: 25-35 minutes
- Grade 4: 35-45 minutes

Volunteer at the FBE Spelling Bee

The FBE Spelling Bee is right around the corner. It takes many many volunteers to run an event of this scale. **Please join us! Volunteer!** Many roles and shifts are available throughout the day. Click here to sign up!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548a9a72ca64-volunteers>

We can't do it without you!

Thank you for your support of the FBE!
Laurie Bufano and Barbara Bulfoni
Co-Chairs, 2017 FBE Spelling Bee

PTA Page

News and information from the Winn Brook PTA

Thank you to all the wonderful parent volunteers who helped Make A Gift run smoothly this week. We had a great turn out and it was neat to see the creative ways our children draw. If your children are creating art for Make A Gift at home, please be sure to turn those in to the PTA bins or in your child's backpack by Friday, October 27th.

The Fall Box Top Collection is underway! Please turn in your Box Tops in a baggie or envelope with your child's teacher and grade on it. The grade with the most gets an extra recess!



During our PTA meeting last Thursday, our new slate of officers was elected:

Presidents: Amanda Lubarsky and Jennifer Baldwin

Secretary: Susan Cox

Treasurer: Nitin Sonawane

We are profoundly grateful to Lilian Hawkinson, our outgoing President! She has graciously and tirelessly led the PTA for two years and continues to provide guidance and support.

Thank you to those who joined us for this meeting. It was good to get the new officers elected and to hear from Superintendent Phelan about the Belmont High School Building Project.

Did you know...?

Did you know that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) could potentially contribute 36 to 39% of the project cost, to the tune of many millions of dollars.

Did you know Belmont schools have had a *net increase of 101 new students per year for the last 6 years*? There is so much potential now to address many of Belmont's current challenge of increasing enrollment as well as exciting opportunities to thoughtfully craft buildings that will serve many generations. This is an incredible investment in Belmont's future and our kids may be some of the first to benefit.

See www.belmonthighschoolproject.org for much more information and upcoming presentations. The next Engagement Meeting will be on Saturday, October 28th, at 10am, beginning with tours of the existing high school and concluding with a presentation and new details from the architect.

Thank you to...

Julie Brady and the volunteers who ran picture day on Thursday for individual students and class pictures. The weather was absolutely beautiful for it! The volunteers gave generously of their time in order to coordinate hundreds of photos.

Amazon Smile

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