



Sept. 21, 2017  
www.belmont.k12.ma.us/

# Words from Winn Brook

Principal's Newsletter  
Janet Carey, Principal

## Ready for Learning!

Thank you, parents and guardians, for sending the children back to school ready and eager to learn! During these first couple of weeks of school, our students have learned and practiced many new routines and procedures. This "frontloading" saves valuable learning time because once the procedures are understood, students become independent and directions generally don't need to be reiterated.

These first few weeks are also a time when we screen students, assessing their current skills. Classroom teachers use this information to guide their instruction and group students within the classroom. This information is also used to identify children who could benefit from additional small group instruction outside of the classroom. Occasionally, your child may come home and mention that he/she has worked with a teacher unfamiliar to you. Although the vast majority of instruction is provided by your child's classroom teacher, we have some specific blocks of time when the students across a grade level are organized into groups. Based on assessment data, various educators within the building are assigned groups. Each teaches specific skills for approximately 6-8 weeks, then students' performance is reevaluated. The groups are flexible, meaning that some students may move on to a more complex skill group, while others may need an additional round of intervention with the same skill. Our curriculum specialists, along with special education and reading staff, have created sophisticated data collection systems. They allow us to carefully monitor students' progress through a series of math and language arts skills.

The process of providing differentiated, small group instruction for children who need additional assistance is referred to as *Response to Intervention* (Rtl). There was a time when special education staff could not provide support unless a child went through a battery of tests, was diagnosed with a learning disability, was not

making adequate progress and was placed on an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Now, all professional staff members are permitted to support children who are identified through routinely administered assessments. A child's performance does not have to be **substantially** below that of his/her peers. Rtl is a proactive approach which enables us to quickly respond to students' needs.

**Important Reminders:**

- All student absences must be reported by calling our attendance line: 617-993-5702.** If your child is not in school and has not been reported absent, you will receive a call from our office staff.
- If your child is expected to be tardy due to an **appointment**, please call the attendance line to let us know. This phone line should not be used to report early dismissals.
- There is no staff supervision in the schoolyard until 8:35 am. Please do not allow students to arrive prior to this time.
- For safety reasons, we must have a note if there is a change in your child's usual dismissal routine.

**Curriculum Night  
Thursday, Oct. 5  
See page 4 for details.**

# Welcome New Families

The Winn Brook School currently has 489 students enrolled. We have been delighted to welcome new families from across the country and world! Diversity enriches students' school experience and helps them develop a respect for, and acceptance of, human differences. Thank you to all of the Host Families that helped our new families feel a part of the Winn Brook community!



## Helping Hands

We are constantly striving to develop a school culture which reinforces our core values of respect, community and high expectations. With this in mind, 4th graders are organizing and leading a fundraising campaign in response to the devastation in Texas and Florida. Teachers shared some general information about the hurricanes and their impact. Students generated ideas for raising funds and voted for an option that required them to give of themselves. They will be creating and decorating "helping hands" which will be sold before/after school, during lunch, and at the Ice Cream Social on Sept. 28th. Those who make a purchase will add their names; the hands will then be displayed in our hallways as a reminder of our efforts to help others in need. Please watch for more information.



## 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 and create a school improvement plan. The council has an opening this year for a parent representative. The SAC meets after school (3:15 pm), approximately once a month. Should more than one parent volunteer, the PTA will run an election. If you are interested in becoming a member of the School Advisory Council, please contact Ms. Oteri at [moteri@belmont.k12.ma.us](mailto:moteri@belmont.k12.ma.us) or call 617-993-5700.

We are most grateful to the parents who volunteered to ride the buses as we started the school year and established routines.



## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **9/28** PTA Ice Cream Social 6pm-7:30pm \*
  - ⇒ **10/1** Dan Scharfman Memorial Run, 9:30 am
  - ⇒ **10/4** Early Release Day, 11:50 dismissal, no lunch
  - ⇒ **10/5** Curriculum Night, See p. 4 for details.
  - ⇒ **10/9** **No School**, Columbus Day
  - ⇒ **10/17-19** Make-a-Gift, after school activity \*
  - ⇒ **10/19** School pictures taken \*
  - ⇒ **10/19** PTA meeting, 9am in the cafeteria Come hear Superintendent Phelan discuss the High School Building Project \*
  - ⇒ **10/25** Early release day, 11:50 dismissal, no lunch
  - ⇒ **10/26** 4th Grade Halloween party (evening event)\*
- \* PTA sponsored events

## All Town Chorus

We've had just one rehearsal, so there is still time to sign up for Belmont's All Town Chorus. This is an opportunity to sing with musicians from the Belmont district in grades 2-6 on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Burbank music room. Signups are available at <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/fpa/Registration>. More information is available at <http://hayashimusic.weebly.com/all-town-chorus.html> or <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/fpa/Music/Elementary-Music-K-4/All-Town-Chorus>. Registration is open through Sept. 26th.

Musically yours,  
Kate Hayashi  
K-4 Music Teacher & ATC Director

## Dogs at School

For a variety of reasons, we are asking that you keep dogs off of school property during busy times of the day. Some people are uncomfortable with dogs and find their presence during arrival and dismissal times to be anxiety provoking. Additionally, outstretched leashes can create safety hazards increasing the likelihood that someone will trip and fall. The crowds, noise, and confusion may also make your pet uneasy. Please be respectful of the diversity within our school community and help to ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable.



## A Note from our PTA Presidents

On behalf of the Winn Brook Parent Teacher Association (PTA), we would like to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year! Our Winn Brook PTA is an all-volunteer organization comprised of parents, teachers and Winn Brook's school principal, Janet Carey, all working together to enhance our children's educational, social and emotional development at Winn Brook. We work to build a strong community and enriching learning environment by supporting staff, funding enrichment programs and field trips for students during the school day, organizing evening programs, and addressing school needs through volunteering and funding.

The PTA hosts a wide range of activities throughout the school year that are designed to be educational, enjoyable and opportunities for parents and families to come together at Winn Brook, so please try to attend these and PTA meetings as you can.

The good works of the Winn Brook PTA are funded primarily through donations made by Winn Brook families. We suggest **\$100 per family**, but of course welcome any amount, large or small. We need **every family** to donate at the level they can. Please make your family donation today! This helps us plan for the year. There are two ways to donate:

1. **DONATE ONLINE VIA PAYPAL:** visit the Winn Brook PTA website and click on the tab "Donations" or go to [www.belmont.k12.ma.us/winnbrook/pta/index.asp?pageID=4](http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/winnbrook/pta/index.asp?pageID=4)
2. **DONATE BY CHECK:** Make a check out to Winn Brook PTA with your name and email on it and return it to school with your child, deliver it to the PTA bin in the front lobby, or mail to Winn Brook Donations, 97 Waterhouse Road, Belmont, MA 02478.

We encourage all families to contribute and get involved in this team effort as together we create a strong Winn Brook School community.



**Our New PTA Presidents:  
Amanda Lubarsky and Jenn Baldwin**

## Green Corner

For families new to Belmont – we are a dual stream community, which means we separate paper and cardboard from the containers (plastic, glass, aluminum, and milk/juice cartons). Here is a link to the Town webpage on recycling:



<http://www.belmont-ma.gov/dpw-highway-division/pages/recycling-trash-information>

Mark your calendars with the following dates for trash and recycling information:

### September 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen Meeting

The Department of Public Works will present information regarding trash collection methods. The RFP for Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection will be issued in October. Please come to learn more. On the DPW website -Trash and Recycling Information (bottom of page on the above link), there are informational links about the options in an earlier PowerPoint presentation and recommendations from DSM, a national firm that specializes in trash characterization audits.

### October 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Are you getting rid of summer clothing and items around your home in anticipation of the fall? Please don't throw these items in the trash, instead bring them to the October DPW Recycle Day. Residents will have the chance to recycle textiles, bulky rigid plastics, electronics, bicycles and paper shredding at the Town Yard, 37 C Street. **Please note that residents should check the website and the local newspaper for upcoming information of what exactly will be collected.**

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

## A Note from Our Nurse

Wearing proper footwear is necessary for ease of movement and protection from injury. Dress your child in shoes that are large enough, soft, and have a fairly flexible sole. The sole should also be flat. Proper footwear is most important during a sport so avoid flip flops or dress shoes on the days that your child has physical education; sneakers are best.



# Schedule for Curriculum Night

## Winn Brook School

### October 5, 2017



**6:45-7:20**      **Classroom visits for parents of students in grades K-2**

**7:00 -7:20**      **Meet our specialists - for parents of students in grades 3-4**

Mr. Franey (physical education) will meet parents in the gym.  
Ms. Bettinelli (music) will be on in room 113 (off the cafeteria)  
Ms. Crusco (art) will be in the art room (106).  
Ms. Murray (lang. arts & special ed.) will be in her office (217) at the top of the stairs near the gym.  
Ms. Donahue (speech & language) will be in her office (213) at the end of the hall on the 2nd floor.  
Ms. Stephan (special education) will be in her office (212) at the end of the hall on the 2nd floor.  
Ms. Miller (school psychologist) will be in her office (211) at the end of the hall on the 2nd floor.  
Ms. Colton (guidance) will be in her office (214) outside of the library (2nd floor).  
Ms. Marincic & Ms. Ward (English language teachers) will be in the library (2nd floor).  
Ms. Mawn (inclusion specialist) will be in her office (117) on the 1st floor near the kindergartens.  
Ms. Agha (special education) will be in her office (215) on the 2nd floor near the library.  
Ms. Shaughnessy (nurse) will be in her office, inside the main office.

**7:20-7:40**      **Meet our specialists - for parents of students in grades K-2**

Mr. Franey (physical education) will meet parents in the gym.  
Ms. Bettinelli (music) will be on in room 113 (off the cafeteria).  
Ms. Crusco (art) will be in the art room (106).  
Ms. Joseffer (lang. arts) will be in her office (218) off of the 2nd floor lobby.  
Ms. Murray (lang. arts & special education) will be in her office at the top of the stairs near the gym.  
Ms. Donahue (speech & language) will be in her office at the end of the hall on the 2nd floor.  
Ms. Stephan (special education) will be in her office at the end of the hall on the 2nd floor.  
Ms. Miller (school psychologist) will be in her office at the end of the hall on the 2nd floor.  
Ms. Colton (guidance) will be in her office, outside of the library (2nd floor).  
Ms. Marincic & Ms. Ward (English language teachers) will be in the library (2nd floor).  
Ms. Mawn (inclusion specialist) will be in her office (117) on the 1st floor near the kindergartens.  
Ms. Agha (special education) will be in her office (215) on the 2nd floor near the library.  
Ms. Shaughnessy (nurse) will be in her office, inside the main office.

**7:25-8:00**      **Classroom visits for parents of students in grades 3-4**

### **Important notes:**

- ⇒ Please wait until the scheduled time before entering the classrooms.
- ⇒ Curriculum night is only for **adults**.
- ⇒ This is an opportunity for parents to meet with staff and get an overview of the year ahead. **While general questions are welcome during classroom visits, we will not have 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.