



Words from Winn Brook

Principal's Newsletter

Janet Carey, Principal

May 4, 2018

www.belmont.k12.ma.us/

A Fond Farewell

After many years of dedicated service, four key members of the Winn Brook community will be leaving. All four women are making this change in order to have more time with their loved ones. While we are very sad to see them leave, we are happy about the opportunities that lie ahead for Ms. Ross, Ms Richardson, Ms. Elgert, and Ms. Ward.

After having taught in Virginia, Ms. Ross joined the Winn Brook staff in 2009. A visit to her classroom quickly reveals her well-honed instructional skills and ability to engage her students in rigorous academics. Additionally, she builds an amazing classroom climate where students exhibit an extraordinary sense of community. Having recently moved, she is looking for a teaching position much closer to home.

Ms. Richardson was hired immediately after completing her master's degree at Boston College. She has been a strong, contributing member of our terrific 4th grade team for nine years. Her background in mathematics and special education has been quite advantageous, allowing her to effectively support learners with a wide range of needs. Like Ms. Ross, Ms. Richardson has a very long commute. Having recently had her second child, she is also looking for a position closer to her home.

In 2012, Ms. Elgert joined the 4th grade team and was immediately embraced as a kindred spirit. She is collaborative, dedicated and able to challenge students with rigorous academic thinking. She is also highly skilled at unscrambling confusion and breaking down difficult concepts so they can be mastered. Ms. Elgert will be taking a leave of absence next year as she relocates to the Midwest.

Ms. Ward has taught our English language learners for the past three years. While we originally "shared" her with other schools, this year, she became full-time at Winn Brook. She has provided tremendous support to students who are learning English as a second (or third, etc) language. Not only has she done a wonderful job supporting her students, she has been a terrific resource to classroom teachers and parents. Ms. Ward has submitted her resignation because she is moving back to upstate New York to be closer to her family.

We thank Ms. Ross, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Elgert and Ms. Ward for their many contributions. They have touched our lives and made this a better place in which to learn and grow.



4th Grade Teachers: Ms. Ross, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Elgert



English Language Teacher: Ms. Ward



Respect

Community

High Expectations



Survey & Final Con-



Thank you to those who responded to our recent survey. Our School Advisory Council was pleased to have **191 surveys** completed. We received a good deal of very encouraging and validating data, as well as some ideas for our next School Improvement Plan. Regarding the question about our new concert format, 85% of you agreed or strongly agreed that you liked it. We have, therefore, scheduled two smaller concerts as we did in December. All students will be presenting music that they have learned over the course of the year, and they are excited to share their work with you!

Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Where: Winn Brook gym

Time: 9:10—9:40 Concert for grades 3 & 4
10:10—10:40 Concert for grades K-2

Classroom visits will be scheduled at teachers' discretion.

A Simple Act of Kindness...

Our English language teachers, Ms. Marincic and Ms. Ward, wanted to find a way to welcome our international families who often arrive in Belmont without the support of friends or extended family. This desire gave birth to the International Family Mentor Program. Last fall, we invited Winn Brook families to serve as hosts or mentors and the Maida family was just one of the many volunteers. They embraced the Yashiro family, introducing them to Thanksgiving dinner, Super Bowl fun, and a St. Patrick's Day celebration with green milk, green mashed potatoes and green cake. This generosity was reciprocated when the Yashiros shared Japanese food during a Doll Festival Lunch. The mentor program had a strong and lasting impact on the lives of these two families. Please consider volunteering next year.!



We welcomed our new custodian, Mr. Bruno Antunes, who has made a very smooth transition to our school community.



Staff Appreciation Week

Once again, our parent community went "above and beyond" in showing appreciation for our staff! On May 2nd, in under an hour, PTA members completely transformed our cafeteria into a beautiful, festive dining area complete with tablecloths and centerpieces. The luncheon was a fun and festive array of Mexican food including tacos and all of the fixings. Thanks to your kind and generous donations, we also had an amazing array of desserts. Although we couldn't imagine more, treats appeared in our staff room over the course of the week. Today, the children arrived with beautiful hand-made flowers and heart-felt notes for staff members. We want to convey our deep appreciation to all families who participated!

More on Staffing

Due to the changes in staffing described on page one, we are able to retain two of our newest staff members. Ms. Sarah McInnis has served as our fifth 4th grade teacher. Next year, we will be going back to just four 4th grades, but due to the resignations at that grade level, we were able to invite Ms. McInnis to remain at Winn Brook. The unexpected openings also have allowed us to retain Ms. Cady Kolanski who has been covering a maternity leave in kindergarten. Ms. Hiltz will be returning to her kindergarten classroom next year and Ms. Kolanski will transition to another grade level. We are delighted to have our two new teachers remain at Winn Brook.

Child Care Program

There has been a lot of discussion around town about child care programs. This has led to new questions and concerns cropping up at Winn Brook. I would, therefore, like to make my position clear. I believe that we have a very high quality program at Winn Brook. The Program Administrator, Maridel Perdomo, and I work closely and collaboratively together. I value the program and try to provide the space that is needed to accommodate as many of our families as possible. Next year promises to be a little less challenging because we will have one less 4th grade. (We are going from five back to four.) This will open up more space for the child care program.

I appreciate the philosophy which guides the WBCC. While there is time devoted to homework, it is not over-emphasized and the children have plenty of time to practice social skills, exercise and be creative.

Green Corner

Do you visit Joey's Park or Town Field? A Carry In Carry Out program is being implemented in these locations. Trash barrels will no longer be in these parks and any trash generated must be carried out and disposed of at home. This action is being taken to break the cycle of overflowing trash barrels and littering that have attracted rodents and led to the closing of Joey's Park twice to treat the problem. This issue requires the co-operation of both the Town and its residents to reduce the rodent population.

Residents are encouraged to clean up their own property and public ways/sidewalks in their neighborhood. Below are links that will help you with the clean-up.

<http://www.belmont-ma.gov/sites/belmontma/files/file/file/ratnotice.pdf>

[https://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/~media/A230A996FE2143CB913D59F9A420BD0E.ashx](https://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/~/media/A230A996FE2143CB913D59F9A420BD0E.ashx)

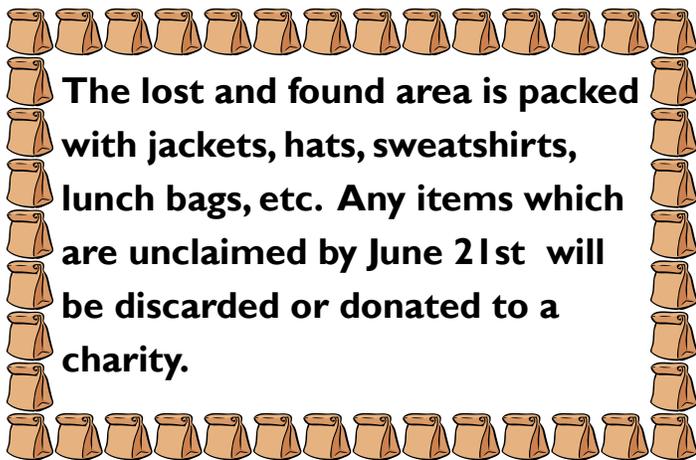
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services/dealing-pests-and-rodents>

Recycle Day

***May 12th**, 9:00am-1:00pm at Town Yard, DPW Recycle Day



For any comments or questions please contact Mary Beth Calnan, Belmont Recycling Coordinator, mcalan@belmont-ma.gov



The lost and found area is packed with jackets, hats, sweatshirts, lunch bags, etc. Any items which are unclaimed by June 21st will be discarded or donated to a charity.

Upcoming Events

- ✓ **5/17** Multicultural Night *
- ✓ **5/18** Grade 1 Habitat field trip *
- ✓ **5/18&25** Presentation on Hawaiian culture—grade 4
- ✓ **5/21&22** Grade 3 - Paul Revere House presentation *
- ✓ **5/24&29** Grade 3 Freedom Trail field trip *
- ✓ **5/28** **Memorial Day NO SCHOOL**
- ✓ **5/29** Adventures in Africa—grade 2 program
- ✓ **5/30** Early Release Day **11:50 dismissal, no lunch**, Friday schedule
- ✓ **6/4** PTA meeting with Superintendent Phelan
- ✓ **6/5** Grade 4 Field Day—rain date 6/12
- ✓ **6/7** Grade 4 visits Chenery & Geography Bee
- ✓ **6/20** Final day of school **11:50 dismissal**

* PTA sponsored events

BINGO!

The PTA, chaired by Chris McLaughlin, planned an exciting BINGO Night for our 4th graders. There were prizes galore and our "Mystery Caller" turned out to be our beloved Ms. Duggan who serves as a lunch aide and Enrichment Program Monitor.



Arbor Day

A little rain wasn't enough to stop our first graders from participating in Arbor Day. Thanks to Belmont's Tree Warden, Tom Walsh, along with the Belmont Department of Public Works, two beautiful London plane trees were planted near the driveway in front of the school. We were joined by Selectman Adam Dash and Selectman Mark Paolillo, as well as a representative from the Shade Tree Commission. The somewhat soggy first graders shared a wonderful song and a short poem to mark the occasion. A "time capsule," which included messages from all of the children, was buried with the tree. We hope that they will feel a sense of ownership and serve as good stewards of the trees.

