



# Words from Winn Brook

*Principal's Newsletter*

*Janet Carey, Principal*

June 17, 2009

[www.belmont.k12.ma.us/](http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/)



## Our New Mural

Winn Brook art teacher, Ms. White, with the help of sixteen grade 3 and 4 students, created an amazing mural which illustrates our core values: respect, community, and high expectations. Over an 8 week period, students, working in 4 teams, used their sketching, drawing and painting skills. The project required that they use all 3 core values in order to achieve the vision and goal of the mural. Each team worked together to create designs to surround and compliment a silhouette of a child. Students completed each mural panel by working together as a community, respecting each other's ideas, needs and desires, and meeting the high expectations of the project.

Ms. White was inspired by a project created by art teachers and students in Miami, Florida. The work was also inspired by the patterns and designs of Gustav Klimt (1862-1918), an Austrian artist who is known as a symbolist painter. The students noticed how Klimt created repeating patterns in his designs by using a variety of lines, shapes and color.

The doves in the mural symbolize innocence, gentleness, affection, peace and constancy. The doves remind us that no matter what is happening in our lives, there are always new possibilities open to us. The silhouettes of the children represent the spirit of our entire student body. The children's artwork is also full of symbols relevant to their lives and their interpretation of the project.

We are most grateful to Ms. White who did an incredible job bringing this project to fruition. She had a clear vision and spent countless hours working with the children and assembling the exhibit. We also want to thank our artists and models:

**Grade 3 Artists:** Laurent Brabo, Jessica Chen, Anelise Allen, Diego Valdivia, Brian Miller, Caleb Harris, Eva Hill, Olivia Bible.

**Grade 4 Artists:** Leah Boisvert, Sarah Montoya, Chris Sim, Grace Conti, Bonnie Jin, Emma Zhao, Liora Gut, Ariana Chinoporos.

**Grade 2 Models:** Shivani Scherp Mitchell Pereira, Kailah Hicks, Christopher Giron

Please stop by the front lobby to see this fantastic artwork.

# Final Concert

On Monday, June 22nd, Winn Brook students will gather in the gymnasium at **9:20** for a final school assembly. All of our students will be contributing to the celebration. The program schedule is as follows:

<b>Preschool</b>	Little Arabella Miller
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes My Hat, It Has Three Corners
<b>1st Grade</b>	Do Your Ears Hang Low? Puff, the Magic Dragon
<b>2nd Grade</b>	De Colores Three partner songs
<b>3rd Grade</b>	Dona Nobis Pacem The Canoe Song
<b>4th Grade</b>	Shake the Papaya Down Hands 'Cross the Ocean Wind Finale



We hope that parents will join us. The program is expected to run for one hour.

# Final Events

- ⇒ **6/22** Gr. 4 breakfast 8:00 in the cafeteria. Parents are welcome
- ⇒ **6/22** End of Year Concert in the gym @ 9:20 a.m. Parents are welcome
- ⇒ **6/22** Kindergarten picnic, after classroom presentations (approximately 11:00 am)
- ⇒ **6/23** Last Day of School **11:50 Dismissal**

# June Highlights



Mr. Levy's class performed in an intergenerational chorus with their senior friends.



Students in Ms. Crough's class portrayed characters in a wax museum who came to life at the touch of a button. The children researched a favorite heroes, dressed in costume, and presented their life stories.



The preschool playground was recently dedicated to M.J. Firenze, who was one of the first children to enjoy the space. In his memory, the PTA purchased new equipment and a plaque which will be placed at the entrance to "M.J.'s Place."

## Staffing Changes

In addition to our retirees, two of our specialists will be leaving Winn Brook School. Our speech therapist, Leora Bershtel, will be taking a leave in order to work for a year in England. Ms. White, our art teacher, will be doing her final practicum for a M.Ed. at a middle school and graduating from Lesley University next December. Due to budget constraints, we are uncertain whether or not Ms. Groff (library aide) and Ms. Murray (language arts specialist) will be returning next year. We are most grateful to all of these professionals for their wonderful work with our students and staff.

# Honoring Years of Service

After many years of dedicated service, three key members of the Winn Brook community will be leaving. We thank them for their many contributions. They have touched our lives and made this a better place in which to learn and grow.

Mr. Gleason began his teaching career in the Winchester Public Schools. He came to Belmont in 1979 as a grade 4 teacher at the Winn Brook School. After spending a number of years working at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, both at Winn Brook and Chenery, Bob returned to Winn Brook and grade 4 in 2001. Mr. Gleason has an extraordinary ability to motivate students, making each feel important and special. He goes out of his way to advocate for and support children in his care. Bob is a consummate professional who is highly regarded by colleagues throughout the district. With extraordinary dedication, he has served the Belmont Public Schools for 30 years.



Ms. Napolitano began her career in business and then returned to school for her Master's Degree in education. She came to Winn Brook in 1994 as a classroom assistant in the kindergarten. In 2000, Ms. Napolitano stepped into the role of first grade teacher. Deborah's strong analytical skills have enabled her to continuously assess and fine tune instruction as well as adapt curriculum for students with a variety of needs. She gives wholeheartedly to her students, going out of her way to find resources to support their learning and emotional wellbeing. Our Boston families have found a strong advocate in Deborah. She has lead our Metco Mentoring Program, connecting children with staff mentors, and arranging for social activities after school hours.



Ms. Goulder began her professional career as a child care worker at the Vermont Achievement Center. She then served as an instructional assistant and pre-K Language Arts Specialist before she began her many years of service as a preschool teacher in 1991, working for the Brookline-Newton Early Childhood Collaborative. The Belmont Public Schools employed Ms. Goulder in 1992. Hundreds of Belmont preschoolers have since benefited from Alison's strong knowledge-base and incredible dedication. Whether she is encouraging language development with a guitar in hand or promoting self control and motor skills with yoga, Alison is fully committed to the development of her students.



**We wish Mr. Gleason, Ms. Napolitano and Ms. Goulder well in their retirement and thank them for their outstanding service.**

# Thank you for a wonderful year!

On behalf of the entire staff and student body, I would like to thank the PTA for their tremendous support! The contributions of our PTA enrich our students' experience at Winn Brook in so many ways. Before the school year even started, Host Family Coordinators spent the summer months connecting families who were new to Winn Brook with some of our "veteran" families. By the first week of school, volunteers had been organized to ride the buses and "welcome back" coffees were held. Of course, the Child Care Board and staff were well prepared for students' return. Volunteers quickly assisted Ms. Groff in getting the library up and running.

The PTA has offered a wonderful array of enrichment classes both before and after school. Coordination of this program requires great organizational skills and an amazing amount of time. Students have also benefited from many fantastic programs which were brought into the school to enhance the curriculum. These have included science presentations on the farm in kindergarten, frogs in grade 1 and sound in grade 4. Our social studies curriculum has been enriched by a program on Alaska in grade 2 and a visit from Paul Revere House in grade 3. Additionally, students had wonderful experiences with the arts including the Tanglewood Marionettes and Giles LaRoche, who inspired the children with his amazing collages of cut paper.

In addition to wonderful classes and programs, the PTA has coordinated room parents, provided an outstanding newsletter, published the student directory, maintained the Lost and Found area, and given children opportunities for community service through food drives. Thanks to the Ways and Means Committee, the brick patio and new plantings are ready for installation. The Book Fair, membership drive, and plate/pumpkin decorating were all successful and so well organized! Thanks to the PTA Space Coordinator's efforts, all of the many programs and activities that are booked from within the Winn Brook community, as well as through outside groups, were prioritized and assigned appropriate space. The Hospitality Committee's busy year culminated with Teacher Appreciation Week which was an incredible tribute to our staff. We were treated to a fabulous luncheon with an amazing array of food. We hope that you have had an opportunity to see the beautiful bulletin board (near the fish tank) that the PTA created as a gift to the staff. They also sponsored another "make-over," turning the lobby outside the gym into an amazing woodland. As the year draws to a close, the 4th Grade Committee has been planning celebratory events including a wonderful field day and the upcoming breakfast.

Our PTA board has done an amazing job "steering the ship" in a very positive and productive direction. There are many details that require attention in order for a PTA to run as efficiently and effectively as our PTA does. We are most grateful for the many significant contributions that they have made to the school community. We also thank each and every parent who contributed in any way. If you joined the PTA, supported a fundraiser, or volunteered for even one event, you helped to make this a better school. Thank you!

## PTA Executive Board

**Presidents:** Rebecca Haight, Judianne Peterson, Rebecca Snow

**Treasurer:** Dan Murphy

**Recording Secretary:** Donna Allen and Kate Christo

**Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Carbeck

**Financial Liaison:** Joanne Kilcoyne

**VP Ways and Means:** Janet Goldberg

**VP Programs:** Mary Thomajan