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connecting school  
and community



The Education Report  
of the Woodbridge  
School District

summer 2017  
no. 11

woodbridge.k12.ct.us

## MISSION STATEMENT

BEECHER ROAD SCHOOL IS A CARING, CREATIVE  
COMMUNITY THAT MODELS AND INSPIRES THE JOY  
OF LIFELONG LEARNING, EMBRACES DIVERSITY, AND  
CELEBRATES THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF EACH PERSON.

WOODBIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION - JUNE 2017

### Teacher of the Year

Joanne Giaquinto has been named the 2018 Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. Ms. Giaquinto has been with the school district since 1995 and has served as a support teacher in several ways, first as a reading tutor, then as a language arts specialist.

When she saw a rising number of students entering Beecher whose language was other than English, and who required services, her interest in these children was piqued. She went back to school to become a certified TESOL\*. Serving double-duty, she works with primary grade children who need support in reading, and she services the school's ELL\*\* population in all grades.

Ms. Giaquinto is a strong advocate for all the children she supports. As the lone teacher for ELL, she continually attends meetings at the state and regional level, keeping up to date about best practices and service requirements for these students with their unique needs. She shares that knowledge with the BRS staff through school presentations and planning professional development activities for teachers.

Her goal is to work closely with the classroom teachers to modify assignments and studies, and ultimately, exit students from the programs when they are strong enough on their own.

Congratulations Joanne Giaquinto, our Woodbridge Teacher of the Year. 🎉

\* Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages  
\*\* English language learners



Superintendent Gilbert and Principal Prisco, with Joanne Giaquinto (center) beaming with pride.

### A New Beginning



To the Citizens of  
Woodbridge:

As I conclude  
my first year as  
Superintendent of  
the Woodbridge  
School District,  
I would like to

express my sincere appreciation to the citizens, town leaders, parents and staff for their strong support of Beecher Road School. In a year that has seen the uncertainty of funding at federal, state and local levels, Woodbridge continues to display tremendous financial commitment to an outstanding elementary education for our children. On behalf of the learning community of Beecher Road School, we thank you for your support and look forward to our continued partnership.

As you read this edition of our award-winning education report, *The Bridge*, take pride in all we've been able to accomplish together. And, please see more of my reflections and vision on page 8. 🔄

Sincerely,

*Bob Gilbert*  
Bob Gilbert

### Look Inside !

### A Sampling

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# Beecher Student & Parent Handbook 2017 -18



Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



Where learning is the adventure.

## Guiding Principles of the Responsive Classroom

To be successful academically and socially, children need a set of social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control.\*

The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.\*



How the adults at school work together is as important as their individual competence. Lasting change begins with the adult community.\*

How children learn is as important as what they learn: Process and content go hand in hand.\*



The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.\*



Knowing the families of the children we teach, and working with them as partners, is essential to children's education.\*

Knowing the children we teach - individually, culturally and developmentally - is as important as knowing the content we teach.\*

\*At Beecher Road School



## MR. GILBERT'S PARENT UPDATE



Superintendent of Schools Woodbridge School District

### MISSION

*Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.*

woodbridge.k12.ct.us

April 11, 2018

### Funding Our Schools: The Lifeblood of Excellent Education

Dear Beecher Road School Families:

I would like to provide you with an update of our budget requests for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. The Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance have reviewed our operating and capital budgets, and have made the following adjustments:

**Capital Budget:** reduced \$185,000. What we lost:

1. Asphalt replacement in the north parking lot and access path (\$135,000)
2. Erosion control landscaping (\$50,000)

At the Board's suggestion, we will explore the feasibility of the Town Parks Department performing the requested erosion and landscaping work.

At this time, our remaining request for Technology Infrastructure equipment (\$46,000) will be included in the final Capital Budget brought forward to the taxpayers.

**Operating Budget:** The Board of Education approved a budget request of \$14,722,284 for 2018-19. This amount represented an increase of \$378,782 or 2.64% over the current year. This budget maintains all current programs and certified staff. The budget also adds 1.5 positions for enrollment and Pre-K, supports our strategic plan goals/initiatives, and provides new cost efficiencies, shared services and revenue streams. The next step in the process was to present that request to the town's Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. After their deliberations, \$50,000 was reduced, while at the same time designating \$50,000 from the Town's current projected surplus to be held in reserve for Special Education related costs that are volatile, based on often unexpected needs. The Board of Education 2018-2019 Operating Budget request to be presented to the taxpayers is \$14,672,284, or a 2.29% increase as compared to the current year.

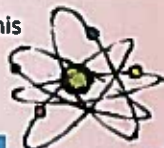
Further complicating funding for local districts is the uncertainty at both the state and federal levels. Our elected officials face a new layer of complexity. In Woodbridge we are fortunate to have the continued support, understanding and commitment of our Boards of Education, Finance, and Selectmen, in approving our funding request.

The next step in the budget process will be the annual Town Hearing currently scheduled for April 23, 7:30 p.m. in the Center School gymnasium. The final part of the process takes place with the annual Town Meeting on May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

*School Budget Coming To  
Public Hearing April 23:  
Operating Budget Approved  
by Boards:  
\$ 14,672,284  
A 2.3% increase over  
current year*

If you have been following our Parent Updates and BOE presentations this year, you will know that exciting initiatives are taking place at BRS that not only meet the needs of TAG (Talented and Gifted) students but all students. Initiatives such as Enrichment Clusters (gr. 3), Genius Hour/Project Based Learning (gr. 5) and Capstone (gr. 6) are examples of how BRS is moving towards the realization of a "School Wide Enrichment Model." These programs, coupled with the differentiated instruction in classrooms and other enriching opportunities, (EDay, Band, Chorus, Robotics, Poetry Guild, and Math Olympiad), provide stimulating choices for our students. Work is also taking place to restructure our TAG identification process to assess all students at BRS.

The BOE will be updated on progress as well as future plans for the "School Wide Enrichment Model" at their regular Board meeting in May.



## Enrichment

Happy Birthday  
Dr. Seuss



**Read Across America** is a national day to celebrate reading and promote its importance in our lives. In honor of Theodor Seuss Geisel's birthday, beloved children's author known by his pen name Dr. Seuss, each March 2 (or thereabouts) adults are invited to come to schools across the nation and read to children.

In all, 24 guest readers ranging from the Chief of Police, to State Senator and Representative and other elected officials, to Board of Education chair and a visiting superintendent, PTO and Woodbridge Town staff and many others came to BRS to be part of Read Across America.



*State Senator George Logan reads to children at BRS as part of Read Across America Day.*

At BRS the "day" was extended to a week of daily reading activities. Pursuits such as enjoying a book on *Tumblebooks* (digital book), reading somewhere different, reading on non-fiction day, and creating a giant post-it detailing a favorite book or character pasted on a huge book on public display to name some.

### DATES OF INTEREST

- Parent/Teacher Conferences April 9 and 11
- PTO Spring Book Fair April 9-13
- Spring Break April 16-20
- Earth Day April 22
- Town Budget Hearing April 23
- WBOE Meeting April 24
- Spirit Day April 27





Marsha DeGennaro &lt;mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org&gt;

## Beecher Road School Principal's April 13th

1 message

Gina Prisco &lt;noreply@woodbridge.myenotice.com&gt;

Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 4:45 PM

Reply-To: Gina Prisco &lt;gprisco@woodbridgeps.org&gt;

To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

# Woodbridge School District

## Principal's Message

Good Afternoon Beecher Families,

I would first like to wish everyone well, especially if you are enjoying some time off next week. Let's hope that Spring will decide to join us with some warmer weather and sunshine. The children have been working hard and as soon as we return from a well-deserved spring break we will be rapidly approaching end of the year activities. Please keep an eye on my message and messages from your child's teacher to assist you with planning for attendance at any important events.



### Beecher Road School Field Day - June 7th Save the Date

The Physical Education and Health Department is planning an all school field day. The day will begin with an all school walk, and then students will go to their first activity. Our sixth grade students will be running all of the activities. Please help your child remember to bring a water bottle, hat and plenty of sunscreen.

There will also be 2 water stations set-up in strategic locations to be sure all students stay hydrated!

**Gallons of water needed!!!!**  
**3 ounce paper cups needed!!!!**

We will begin accepting water/cup donations as of Monday, April 24, 2018. All water and cups are to be brought to Mr. Taddei. If you have any questions, concerns or you would like to volunteer to help please e-mail Mr. Taddei at [ataddei@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:ataddei@woodbridgeps.org)

### Safety and Security Reminders

We at BRS continue to keep security at the forefront of our conversation in light of some local and national events. We meet as a team to review our protocols and continuously look for improvement. For parents looking for resources, Childmind.org has a variety of topics. The following link will assist with strategies to support your child when dealing with recent traumatic events. <https://childmind.org/article/anxiety-school-shooting/>

Parents and visitors to Beecher Road School, please know that we understand it is polite to hold the door for others when entering but each person visiting BRS will need to be "buzzed" in so we ask that you not practice what is called "piggybacking" and let others in behind you. Please also remember to have your license

### Quicklinks

[Contact Us](#)

[School Lunch Menu](#)

[School Resources and Forms](#)

[Superintendent's Updates](#)

### Parent Information

Please be sure all demographic information has been updated. This includes phone numbers and email addresses.

### Upcoming Events

Individual Classroom Events and Field Trips are not posted here. Please look for communications from your child's classroom teacher regarding field trips and class events.

### Dates to Remember

**4/16-4/20** Spring Recess- No School - No Extended Day

**4/24** Board of Education Meeting - 7pm  
Stella Media Center



Marsha DeGennaro &lt;mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org&gt;

**eNotice Send Verification**

1 message

scheduler@finalsite.com <noreply@woodbridge.myenotice.com>  
Reply-To: "scheduler@finalsite.com" <noreply@woodbridge.myenotice.com>  
To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 7:19 PM

Your scheduled eNotice has been sent.  
**Subject:** Communication from the Superintendent

Below is a copy of the HTML version your recipients received.

**Woodbridge School District**

40 Beecher Road - South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Robert F. Gilbert - Superintendent

Good Evening Beecher Road School Parents and Families,

I would like to thank everyone (staff, students, families, and the Woodbridge Police Department) for their cooperation and support this morning when we were informed and directed by the Woodbridge Police Department to initiate a Shelter in Place security protocol. As you may know through local news reports, the Shelter in Place was necessary due to a serious incident on Rimmon Road. With the safety of students and staff as our number one and immediate priority, the administrative team worked closely with (SRO) Officer Lynch to ensure all safety protocols were in place and followed. We then provided communication about the Shelter in Place to parents through our Instant Alert system. I would like to commend our students and staff for the way they responded to and followed the protocols of the Shelter in Place. Later in the morning, the police lifted the Shelter in Place and we communicated back to all parents that the school had resumed normal operations and activities. All students and adults were safe and secure throughout the entire incident. As always, if your child needs special support as a result of today, please communicate directly with your child's teacher.

If you did not receive an Instant Alert message today (this was sent as a "green alert" consistent with other incidents like this) please click on the link below to update your status to include "green" alerts

<https://instantalert.honeywell.com>

We thank you again for entrusting your children to us and appreciate your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Bob Gilbert

Woodbridge School District  
40 Beecher Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525  
District Office: 203-387-6631 ~ Main Office 203-389-2195

[Contact Us & Directions](#) | [Website](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) from this eNotice.



Marsha DeGennaro &lt;mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org&gt;

**eNotice Send Verification**

1 message

scheduler@finalsite.com <noreply@woodbridge.myenotice.com>  
Reply-To: "scheduler@finalsite.com" <noreply@woodbridge.myenotice.com>  
To: mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org

Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Your scheduled eNotice has been sent.

**Subject:** Upcoming Board of Education Meeting Agenda

Below is a copy of the HTML version your recipients received.

**Woodbridge Board of Education**

40 Beecher Road - South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525  
[www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us/boe](http://www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us/boe)

Margaret Hamilton - Chair  
Nancy Maasbach - Vice Chair

Good Day Woodbridge/Beecher Road School Parents and Staff,

The Woodbridge Board of Education welcomes you to all regular, subcommittee, and special meetings. Please be advised that our next regular monthly meeting will be held this Tuesday, April 24th, at 7 PM in the Stella Library Media Center. Please be advised that the agenda and backup materials for this meeting are [available for viewing in eMeeting](#).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Superintendent's office.

Thank you!

Woodbridge Board of Education  
40 Beecher Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525  
District Office: 203-387-6631 ~ Main Office 203-389-2195

[Contact Us & Directions](#) | [Website](#)[Unsubscribe](#) from this eNotice.



# News and Events

April 2018

## April Initiatives and Events

Many initiatives are underway in the Town and we continue to plan for the future. I'd like to keep you informed and as always, I ask you to continue providing me with your feedback.

### Next Steps for the Former Country Club Property

At the April 11 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, we plan to hear the results of the recent Public Opinion Survey on future options for the former Country Club of Woodbridge property. Then, once we have had time to think about these findings, the Board is planning to meet again on Wednesday, April 25 to discuss and hear public comment. I am very pleased that we will have an opportunity to take an in-depth look as we consider what to do with this beautiful piece of property. Please visit the Town website at [WoodbridgeCT.org](http://WoodbridgeCT.org) for further information as it becomes available.

### Join Us for Rid Litter Day

Another wonderful tradition that is springing back to life in April is Rid Litter Day, on Sunday, April 22 from

9 am to noon, which is also Earth Day. The event will kick-off at the Fitzgerald Tract, where residents may check-in, receive a trash bag, and be assigned a map indicating the roadside areas in need of clean up. This will be a great way to show how much we all care about our Town. I will be there with my work gloves in hand and I'd like to encourage everyone to join in and take part! Please visit the Town website for details as we get closer to Earth Day.

### Increasing Communication Opportunities

To help keep you informed regarding the issues and initiatives of YOUR Town government, I have begun to send out a monthly update by email, called "News from Town Hall." In it I will recap what takes place at all of the Board of Selectmen meetings with brief write-ups and links to further information available at our Town website. I hope you will take the opportunity to learn more about the topics that interest you – please be sure you are signed up to receive these emails by visiting the Town website today!

—First Selectman Beth Heller

### Save the Dates

and

### Plan to Join Us

- April 6, 10 am: Conservation Commission monthly guided hike. Commission member Traci Cipriano will host this month's walk at the Racebrook Tract.
  - April 23, 7:30 pm: Preliminary Budget Hearing at the Center Gym.
  - April 29 & May 6: Woodbridge Outdoor Pool Open House at the former Country Club of Woodbridge, times to be announced.
- Visit the Town website for more event details: [WoodbridgeCT.org](http://WoodbridgeCT.org)

## Read Across America

First Selectman Beth Heller and more than a dozen community leaders read to almost every classroom at Beecher Road School during the annual "Read Across America" event in March.

Read Across America is a national event to commemorate Dr. Seuss's birthday. During the event, community members are invited to read a Dr. Seuss book to students as a fun way to promote reading. Superintendent Bob Gilbert thanked volunteers for their time and for helping to model a love of literature.

