

The *SUNFLOWER*

A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School



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August 16, 2017

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal

A Message from the Principal...

Dear Braeburn Families, August 2017

As I look at the calendar this morning I notice that there are two weeks left until we begin our 2017-2018 school year! I know that I am excited to welcome our students back to school on **Wednesday, August 30th**. I have certainly missed seeing their smiles, hearing their laughter and teaching me what they are learning about in the classroom. Before then I hope to see many of you at our Open House on **Monday, August 28th at 4:00-5:00pm**.

Every new school year brings excitement for new opportunities; to learn how to approach a math problem with a fresh perspective, write to a different audience with a purpose, research to find reliable sources of information, explore a scientific hypothesis and explain a rationale to a solution. Every year offers new friendships, collaborative experiences and perspectives which will open our children's young minds to know that we live in a beautiful town and in a big world. I am honored to lead our dedicated staff in the critical work of educating our scholars on their individual paths to success.

On that note I want to enthusiastically introduce our new Braeburn educators. Mrs. Kimberly Valenti, our new second grade teacher, received her MS in Elementary Education at Eastern Connecticut State University. She has been part of the Braeburn family for two years serving as our math interventionist and prior to that she worked at Bristow and King Phillip as a Language Arts and Social Studies teacher. She looks forward to spending time with family and friends, traveling to different places, including Siesta Key, Florida, where she spends many vacations and also enjoys cooking all types of foods.

Mrs. Tara Baker, our new fourth grade teacher, has served as a reading tutor for the past three years here at Braeburn and prior to that taught nine years at the first, second and third grades at Duffy Elementary School and Buttonball Lane School in Glastonbury. Mrs. Baker attained her BS in Elementary Education at Western Connecticut State University and MS in Elementary Education at Central Connecticut State University. She enjoys photography, is a reader and collector of children's literature, and loves spending time with her family here in West Hartford.

Mrs. Margo Parenti will be joining the Braeburn community as our new 5th grade teacher. Margo began her teaching career in West Hartford at Wolcott Elementary School in 2004 where she taught for nine years and met her husband, Rob Parenti, a Braeburn teacher at the time. In 2013, she took a leave of absence to raise their two sons, Alexander and Nicholas. Margo earned her B.A. in Human Development from Connecticut College and Ed.M in Learning and Teaching from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is currently working toward her K-12 foreign language certification in Spanish at Central Connecticut State University. An avid coffee drinker and yoga enthusiast, she is excited to be part of the Braeburn family.

We are excited to welcome them to the Braeburn family with their strong commitment to our students and families. Please join me in welcoming them to Braeburn!

Thanks are in order to the Town of West Hartford, Board of Education and to Public Works for relocating and constructing our Kindergarten playground. In addition, PTB also purchased our school wide IXL license which enhances our mathematics instruction. THANK YOU!



I want to close the first edition of the Sunflower with gratitude to every member of our Braeburn community. Because of you, we can celebrate the wonderful school year last year and look forward to a new year with great promise. I look forward to making our school even more impressive with your insight and support.

Enthusiastically,

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal