

# The SUNFLOWER

A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School

45 Braeburn Road, West Hartford CT 06107  
Phone: (860) 561-2200 Fax: (860) 521-8416

Sept. 11, 2014 Steven T. Woznicki  
Principal

## A Message from the Principal...

Dear Braeburn families and friends,

Judging by some of the comments I received when I asked students to share their favorite things about school so far, it looks like we're off to a very strong beginning of the new school year. Here are some of the highlights they offered:

- "Math class"
- "The teachers"
- "The new students in my class"
- "All of the new computers"
- "PE"
- "Hashtag smileyface" [that's verbatim]
- "Everything!"

I have to say that for me, perhaps foremost among my several highlights has been the opening of our pre-kindergarten program, led by Mrs. Beth Cannone. Beth has already established herself as an innovative early childhood educator who is fully committed to providing a wide range of child-centered experiences to Braeburn's youngest students. We are extremely fortunate that Beth has joined our school community together with paraprofessional Mrs. Marsha Walsh. It has become a favorite daily event for me to drop in to see what our little scholars are up to.

Now that we have a couple of weeks under our belt, the staff and I have begun to shift our attention toward setting our individual and school goals that will guide this year's work. This rather complex process typically goes unnoticed by those outside of the profession yet it is of critical importance to the progress we ultimately make toward the Braeburn School mission. Once our goals are established, I look forward to sharing them with you in a future message and/or conversation.

As you likely know by now, our annual Curriculum Night will be held next Thursday, September 18 at the following times:

Grades 3 through 5: 6:00-6:45

Grades Pre-K through 2: 7:00-7:45

(Please plan to visit our special area teachers in the cafeteria any time between 6:30 and 7:15.)

The purpose of Curriculum Night is to provide you with the information you need about the curriculum and instruction your child will experience this year so that we can more effectively work together on behalf of your child. To that end, we hope you will bring any questions you may have about our programs. We respectfully request that you reserve conversations related to your child's individual performance and/or needs for a private meeting with the classroom teacher and/or support staff.



To further promote open communication, I am inviting you to join me at our first "Principal's Coffee Hour." I envision this to be a time for parents to come and chat with me about ideas to improve *our* school. I will admit that to some extent, I am selfishly motivated to have these conversations because many of you have already made

wonderful suggestions that we have put into practice, *including these coffees!* The date and time of this event will be determined soon.

Lastly, to maximize the safety of our students and adult pedestrians, I ask that you please review and follow our traffic/parking lot guidelines that you will find on a subsequent page in this newsletter.

I am excited to continue our partnership in what the Braeburn staff and I consider to be the most important work on the planet: Educating children.

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of Steve Woznicki.

Steve Woznicki  
Principal

## CURRICULUM CORNER

### How Was School Today?

How was school today? It is the question that most parents ask and most children often give a one word response to, if any response at all. When reading a recent article on PBS.org, I found that experts report that this happens because we are asking for a summary of the day, forgetting that children do not summarize the way that adults do. The question is too general for children and is really more of a greeting than a real conversation starter. Diane Levin, Ph.D., who is a professor of education at Wheelock College states in this article, "more than just finding out how their day was, we want to help kids become problem solvers and independent learners." Part of this includes teaching them how to have a collaborative conversation, which is what teachers are continually working on with them in school.

So, how do you find out how school was today? Below is a list of specific questions that you can begin your conversations with that might elicit more than the standard one word answer.

#### Ask kids about what interests them:

"What did you do that was fun today?"

"What did you do during your specials today?"

"What did you like best about today?"

"What happened in the story that you read today?"

#### Ask about specific people and events in your child's life:

"What did Mr. Zeiner talk about in social studies?"

"What do you think about school so far this year?"

"What do your friends think about the substitute teacher?"

**Make comments about schoolwork. You can look over your child's work or the teacher's weekly class note, and ask:**

"Wow, what a cool picture of a squirrel. I like the bushy tail. What does he use it for?"

"Can you explain photosynthesis to me?"

"What is a whole number, anyway?"

For more tips on how to encourage conversation about school with your children, please visit PBS.org and click on the parent page.

*Ellen Cercone*

*Curriculum Specialist*



### News from the Library

This year, your child in K-5 will come to the library media center for 60 minutes each week. In that time, students will have a chance to check out books, listen to book talks, use the computers, master research skills and have fun! The following schedule is for your reference. Please help your child remember to return his/her library books on their library day. If students forget to return books, I will save books and materials on the "saving shelf" until the end of the week. Feel free to stop in or send me an email if you have questions.

Monday: Mr. Tavera, Mrs. Cannone (computer lab only), Ms. Whieldon, Mrs. Deslauriers, Mrs. Rotella

Tuesday: Mrs. Freimuth, Ms. Cashman, Mrs. Mansfield, Mrs. Weidl

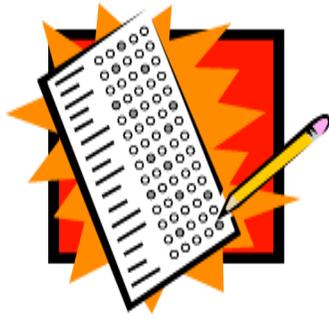
Wednesday: Mr. Petronio, Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. Cannone (library only)

Thursday: Mrs. Bohn, Mrs. Lopes, Mrs. Kulak, Mrs. Clark

Friday: Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Radis, Mrs. Aniello, Mrs. Mann

*Claudine Lavoie*

*Library Media Specialist*



Dear Parents and Guardians:

During the month of September, Braeburn will be mailing individual assessment reports to the families of students who participated in the Science CMT last year as fifth graders. Science is the only subject area test that includes an individual score report. By way of reminder, last year, all students in grades 3-8 and 11 participated in a field test of the *Smarter Balanced* assessment of reading, writing, and mathematics. While the 2013-14 Field Test provided students and our school system with important information regarding the expectations for these new state assessments, we will not be provided with individual score reports from the state. The *Smarter Balanced* assessments have officially replaced the CMT for grades 3-8 and the CAPT in high school as our mandatory state assessments for these content areas. They are scheduled to be given in the spring and will include individual reports of student performance beginning this school year. If you have any questions about these assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Woznicki".

Steve Woznicki  
Principal



Mr. Woznicki's Dog Benny

*Although we love our dogs*, we must ask that you leave yours at home when you come to the school. We have a number of children who are frightened of and/or allergic to dogs. Also, we have no way of knowing which dogs are friendly, "hypoallergenic," vaccinated for rabies, etc.

Thank you for your cooperation.



**Thank you to:**

**Dawn Quinn**

**Cathy Sardilli**

**Rebekah Seaton**

**Sabine Weiler**

**Claire Zhalov**

**for assembling the First Day  
packets for our students!**

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**WANTED:**  
**Braeburn Library Volunteers**

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Our library media center is in need of your support. Even if you can spare just one hour per week, you can help us provide a stronger library program for your children.

A library volunteer would help Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Bissell do some of the following activities...

- shelving
- filing
- circulation
- pull theme-related material
- shelve, straighten books, chairs/tables, picking up papers
- preparing displays/bulletin boards
- book fair
- check shelves for missing or overdue books
- read shelves to check that the books are in the correct order

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please join us on **September 23rd from 2:45-3:15** for a new volunteer training session. I will give you a tour of the library, demonstrate how to check books in and out and answer any questions you might have about the media center. We will have a sign up sheet available for you to select a volunteering day and time. Light refreshments will be served.

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RSVP RSVP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## BRAEBURN CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tues, Sept 16	9:00am-2:00pm	Officer Leonard Safety Lessons	
Thurs, Sept 18	9:00am-2:00pm	Officer Leonard Safety Lessons	
	6:00-6:45pm	Curriculum Night, Gr. 3, 4, 5	Cafeteria
	6:30-7:15pm	Curriculum Night, Specials	
	7:00-7:45pm	Curriculum Night, P-K, K, 1, 2	
Fri, Sept 19	4:30-7:30pm	Fall Fair (Rain Date 9/26)	
Mon, Sept 22	9:00am-2:00pm	Officer Leonard Safety Lessons	
Tues, Sept 23	9:00am-2:00pm	Officer Leonard Safety Lessons	
Wed, Sept 24	9:00am-12:00pm	Gr. 2 to Westmoor Park	
<b>Thurs, Sept 25</b>	<b>No School</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>	
Fri, Sept 26		Fitness Friday	
		Rosh Hashanah	
	9:00am-2:00pm	Officer Leonard Safety Lessons	
Tues, Sept 30		School Picture Day	
Sat, Oct 4		Dussehra/Durga Puja	
		Yom Kippur	
Sun, Oct 5		Eid al-Adha	
<b>Mon, Oct 6-Fri, Oct 17</b>		<b>Lyman Orchard Pie Sale</b>	
Wed, Oct 8	6:30-7:30pm	PK, K, Gr.1 Pizza Party	Cafeteria
<b>Mon, Oct 13</b>	<b>No School</b>	<b>Columbus Day</b>	
Thurs, Oct 16	8:45am-4:45pm	Gr.5 to Winding Trails	
	5:30-8:30pm	PTB Meeting; Love and Logic Presentation	
Fri, Oct 17	8:45am-4:45pm	Gr. 5 to Winding Trails	
Wed, Oct 22	2:30-4:00pm	Gr. 3-5, Town Wide Cross Country Meet (Rain Date 10/29)	
Thurs, Oct 23		Diwali/Divali	
Fri, Oct 24		Fitness Friday	
Tues, Oct 28		School Picture Re-take Day	
Fri, Oct 31	9:00 10:00am	Halloween Parade	

### ATTENTION

Although a new telephone system was  
installed at Braeburn School this summer,

our telephone number  
remains the same:

**860-561-2200**



**Officer Irene Leonard  
Community Relations Officer**

It is our great pleasure to introduce you to our new Community Relations Officer from the West Hartford Police Department, Officer Irene Leonard.

Officer Leonard will be a frequent visitor in our building as she provides safety education lessons in classrooms in the fall and spring to students in grades K-5. She has been in our building several times already this year, familiarizing herself with our school, students, staff and the families of the Braeburn community. Her warm and friendly personality make her the perfect fit for our school!

Welcome Officer Leonard! We look forward to working with you this year!

Thank You

Many thanks to our generous PTB for the delicious Welcome Back Luncheon.

A heart-felt *thank you* from the entire Braeburn staff!

**Curriculum Night  
Is Thursday, Sept. 18**

**Please Join Us**

**Gr. 3, 4, 5: 6:00-6:45 p.m.**

**Gr. P-K, K, 1, 2:  
7:00-7:45 p.m.**

**Specials: 6:30-7:15 p.m.**

**Grade levels meet in  
classrooms  
Special Areas in Cafeteria**

**Please plan to attend!**



## Vacant Seat Program Application Start Date is Monday, October 6, 2014

The West Hartford Public Schools Vacant Seat Program utilizes available space on school buses. This program allows students to ride buses, where space is available, who under the West Hartford Public Schools Transportation policy are not eligible for transportation. **No additional bus stops are added to the routes for this program.**

Interested parents should contact the West Hartford Public Schools Transportation Office at (860)561-6647 for additional information **on or after October 6th. Requests are taken by the Transportation office by telephone on a first come, first served basis starting at 8:00 am.**

## Braeburn ListServ

If you have not already done so, please sign up for the Braeburn ListServ which is used to communicate important information such as:

- The Sunflower Newsletter
- Posting of other important information from the Board of Education
- Town wide Health and Budget information
- and more!

### To subscribe:

If you would like to be notified of Braeburn School happenings send a blank email (no SUBJECT or TEXT at all) to:

**[BRAEBURNLIST-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@NETPALS.LSOFT.COM](mailto:BRAEBURNLIST-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@NETPALS.LSOFT.COM)**

You may access this link on the main page of our website at:

**[www.whps.org/Braeburn](http://www.whps.org/Braeburn)**

**You may register as many email addresses as you would like to receive notifications.**

You may **unsubscribe** at any time by sending an email to:

**[LISTSERV@NETPALS.LSOFT.COM](mailto:LISTSERV@NETPALS.LSOFT.COM)**

Please type "SIGNOFF BraeburnList" in the subject line.



**Next edition of the  
Sunflower:  
Fri. Sept. 26**

## Monthly Lunch Menu

Please visit [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org) for our monthly lunch menu. Under menus, choose Elementary Salad Bar menu.

## First Day Packets Forms

**If you have not already done so, please complete and return the following forms to your child's classroom teacher immediately:**

- Student Emergency Information Sheet
- Free & Reduced Lunch Application (if applicable)
- Photo Release/Web Release Form



## Traffic/Parking Lot Safety

Thank you in advance for helping us to maintain a safe school environment by observing the following guidelines:

The driveway loop adjacent to the curb is for buses only. Cars are not permitted to park or travel along the curb during arrival and dismissal times. Parking is permitted in designated spaces only (white lines on pavement). Drivers must observe all patterns and procedures as posted while moving through our parking lot.

Parents dropping off children in the morning should use the designated drop off lanes in our parking lot. These areas are clearly marked and are used for students to safely exit vehicles so that parents may continue through the lot in a timely manner. Leaving a vehicle unattended for any reason is not permitted in the drop-off areas.

- The drop-off area designated for K-2 students is located at the beginning of the driveway near the kindergarten playground.
- The drop-off area for intermediate students is located at the back end of the parking lot adjacent to the handicapped parking spaces.

Students dropped off in either of these areas should exit vehicles from the passenger side onto the sidewalk and follow the sidewalk along the perimeter of the parking lot, to their line-up area depending on their grade.

- U-turns, K-turns and double-parking are not allowed.
- Never allow your child to exit into the parking lot unless you are parking in a designated spot and walking with them. Never drop your child(ren) off in a traffic lane expecting them to navigate their way through the parking lot.

Please protect our students' safety and respect our community by obeying all traffic laws and signage.

Join us for an Evening Jam-Packed with Fun for the Whole Family!



**Dunk Tank: Dunk a Teacher for \$1!**

Inflatable Obstacle Course for Grades 3-5 • Bounce House for Grades PreK-2  
Car Races • Soccer Kick & Score • Face Painting • Funny Photos • UFO Throw  
Bank Shot • Penguin Fish Fling • Baseball Throw • Teacher Wheel • Lollipop Trees

**Buy a PUMPKIN for \$5 & decorate it at the Pumpkin Decorating Booth!**

### DELICIOUS CONCESSION CHOICES:



The DJ will provide music & fun all evening

### ADMISSION:

\$8 per Child | Adult admission is FREE!  
Multiple Child Discount: 3 Children = \$20 | 4+ Children = \$25

\* Pumpkins, hay bales & cornstalks provided by





## BRAEBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – ID 07528

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and a year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 3, 2014 through March 19, 2015, Braeburn Elementary School will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

- Log on to [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) (on or after September 15<sup>th</sup>) and select **CUSTOMER REGISTRATION** to register online using your Stop & Shop Card

OR

- Return this form to school with your child and include your Stop & Shop Card Number(13-DIGITS) \_\_\_\_\_, Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ and telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW THIS YEAR:** If you registered your card last year, you **DO NOT** need to re-register this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more Cash for our school.

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at [www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com). Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

*\*Phone numbers may not be used to designate.  
If you do not know your 13-digit STOP & SHOP CARD number, call the  
Card Hotline at 1-877-366-2668 and select OPTION #2*

## **THE SUNFLOWER PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION DATES**

The Sunflower is published twice per month on a Thursday. The first issue will be a full version that includes messages from the principal and other staff members, pertinent information on relevant and timely topics and dates and descriptions of upcoming events.

The second issue each month will be an abbreviated or “light” version with important reminders and dates to remember.

The deadline for the submission of articles to The Sunflower is the Monday before publication dates and can be sent to Linda Kaine at [linda\\_kaine@whps.org](mailto:linda_kaine@whps.org) and Susan Piazza at [susan\\_piazza@whps.org](mailto:susan_piazza@whps.org)

### **Publication Date**

### **Submission Deadline**

#### **September**

September 11

September 08

September 26 (Fri) – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **October**

October 09

October 06

October 23 – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **November**

November 06

November 03

November 20 – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **December**

December 04

December 01

December 18 – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **January**

January 08

January 05

January 22 – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **February**

February 05

February 02

February 26 – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **March**

March 12

March 09

March 26 – Sunflower Light No submission

#### **April**

April 09

April 06

April 23 - Sunflower Light No submission

#### **May**

May 07

May 04

May 21 - Sunflower Light No submission

#### **June**

June 04

June 01