

The SUNFLOWER

A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School



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

Feb. 11, 2016

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Interim Principal

A Message from the Principal...

Well, looks like the snow finally decided to fall and remind us that we are still in the winter season! I truly enjoy seeing our students outside during recess having fun in the winter blanket that covers our campus at the moment. The month of February has already provided us with many reasons to celebrate, including our 100th day of school when our Kindergarteners paraded through the building with the most creative and imaginative hats! Our other learners were busy, busy, busy counting, sorting, predicting and creatively writing. What a fun day to celebrate our learning and tie in many mathematics concepts along the way! Author Jarrett Kroscozka was also here and inspired our students to never quit and to always pursue our dreams. This was an encouraging message for all as we work our way through this wonderful school year.

Some upcoming events to highlight are:

- Student Council's Caring Kits for Kids Drive is running until 2/26
- Author Visit with Rick Labadia (PreK-2) 2/26
- Dr. Seuss celebration kicks off 2/29
- March Parent conferences will take place on the 8th, 9th, 10th & 11th. Please look for more information coming home from your teacher regarding a specific date and time.
- One Book One School coming in March - The World According To Humphrey by Betty G. Birney (Special thanks to FWHPS for funding this endeavor)

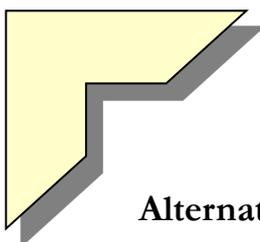
On the academic front, students continue to impress with their inquiry especially in science. Units on force have students investigating different materials and what variables impact their distance travelled. Our writer's workshop is moving forward steadily and the level of engagement is tantalizing. Recently, in second grade our students were observed writing book reviews to leave in an envelope for a peer to read so they could then decide if he/she would like to read it. The focus of these reviews was character traits. In fourth grade our students are beginning to explore their first research project on Connecticut. The research is guided and students will be working closely with their teachers and our Library Media Specialist to learn about reliable sources, finding supportive details and more!

As we all bundle up during these frosty days, please take the time to stop in and check the lost and found! Many times students are so excited to get back to work that a mitten may wander or a hat may fly loose.

As always it is a joy to work with such a dedicated staff and superstar students.

Yours,

Jeffrey Sousa



CURRICULUM CORNER

Alternate Methods for Math

Perhaps you've asked yourself, exactly what is this "partial product" and "forgiving method" of math that my child is coming home with? Math is not always being taught to students using what we typically refer to as traditional algorithms. The *traditional algorithm* is the way most of us were taught math when we were in school. There was **one way** to do a math problem, and **only** one way to do it. We often learned how to do it through rote practice, and if you were like me, we didn't always understand the mathematical reasoning behind what we were doing.

One of the most important shifts in math through the Common Core Standards is that we want children to be able to understand and be able to explain their mathematical thinking and reasoning. As such, teachers are teaching the traditional algorithm for multiplication in grade 5, and the traditional algorithm for division in grade 6. This is a shift for many of us in the way that we have previously taught math.

So the big question is, why? Our job as educators is to help children build a **conceptual understanding** of key math principles. When we ask students to use alternate methods of multiplication such as partial products, or division using the forgiving method, we are looking for students to apply their background knowledge about decomposing numbers, expanded notation and the distributive property. On paper, these alternate measures require students to complete and show more steps than the traditional algorithms do. By doing this, students are better able to understand the processes of multiplication and division as they are breaking the steps down into smaller parts, which then enables them to put the smaller parts back together to create the whole concept. We are teaching the algorithm but we are not teaching it in isolation. As quoted in Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics by Van de Walle, Karp, Lovin and Bay-Williams, "the main focus in teaching the standard algorithm should not be as a memorized series of steps, but as making sense of the procedure as a process."

You can visit khanacademy.com or YouTube to view videos of the partial product and forgiving method of solving multiplication and division problems. Please visit the link on the West Hartford Public Schools website: whps.org under the "For Parents" tab or visit www.corestandards.org for more information about the standards.

Ellen Cercone
Curriculum Specialist



Early Dismissal Schedule for Parent/Teacher Conference Week

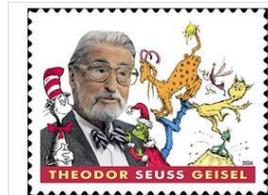
Tues. March 8	1:30 pm
Wed. March 9	2:00 pm
Thurs. March 10	1:30 pm
Fri. March 11	1:30 pm

**Please plan to pick-up your children
at school or meet them on time at
their bus stops. Thank you.**



BRAEBURN CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
<i>Fri, Feb 5-Fri, Feb 26</i>		<i>Caring Kits for Kids Drive</i>
Thurs, Feb 11	1:00 pm	Gr. 5 World Language Conversations
Sun, Feb 14		Valentine's Day
Mon, Feb 15		Presidents' Day
<i>Mon, Feb 15-Tues, Feb 16</i>		<i>Winter Recess (includes Presidents' Day)</i>
Tues, Feb 23	7:45-8:30 am	Student Council Meeting, Room 136
Wed, Feb 24	4:00-5:00 pm	Box Tops for Education Collection ends Braeburn Skate Night at Veterans Rink
Fri, Feb 26		Fitness Friday Author Rick Labadia Visit
<i>Mon, Feb 29-Fri, Mar 4</i>		<i>Dr. Seuss Week</i>
Mon, Feb 29		Red and White Day
Tues, Mar 1		Crazy Sock Day
Wed, Mar 2		Wacky Beach DEAR Day Dr. Seuss' Birthday Decorated Bags to the Stop & Shop Family Night; Non-electronic Activities encouraged PTB Game Night, Cafeteria
	6:30-7:30 pm	
Thurs, Mar 3		Read My Shirt Day
	6:30-8:30 pm	Bridge Workshop and PTB Meeting
Fri, Mar 4		Buddy Reading Day



**Next Edition of
The Sunflower will be
Date Reminder Version:
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016**



Monthly Lunch Menu

Please visit the WHPS website for
our monthly lunch menu at:

<http://www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=2084>



YOUR LIBRARY

Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Bissell have scheduled some exciting activities for students and staff to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2.

Wacky Beach DEAR Day is set for March 2. Students can come dressed in their warmest beach wear, glasses and hats. They should carry their book and maybe a beach towel. When students hear the announcement, everyone should stop, drop and read on their towels.

Dr. Seuss Week!

Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Bissell want to honor the man who brought us The Cat in the Hat, The Foot Book, Wacky Wednesday and Horton Hears a Who.

The week of February 29-March 4 is Reading Week. Students can join their teachers as we celebrate reading:

Monday: Red (Read) and White Day-students can wear stripes and Dr. Seuss hats

Tuesday: Crazy Sock Day-Thanks to the Foot Book

Wednesday: Wacky Beach Dear Day-students can dress in mismatched clothes, inside out, backward

Thursday: Read My Shirt Day-students should wear an appropriate shirt or sweatshirt with words on it

Friday: Buddy Reading Day-students will complete a quick activity with his/her book buddy during the day

So much fun packed into one week!

Decorating Bags for Stop & Shop

This year Mrs. Lavoie is sponsoring a paper bag project with all students. This is an **at home** project where students will decorate a Stop & Shop paper bag with an illustration of his/her favorite book. These masterpieces will be on display in the library from February 17-March 1. On March 2nd, all the paper bags will be delivered back to the Stop & Shop on Farmington Ave. They will use our students' bags to bag groceries on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Families are welcome to shop that day, too! More information is coming home soon!

Phew! We're tired already! We can't wait to see how our students celebrate reading this month.

Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Bissell



DEAR BEACH DAY

In March, Braeburn students will hang out at the “beach” and READ.

On Wednesday, March 2 all students and staff members at Braeburn will stop, drop and read... together! Our entire school, staff and students, will participate in DEAR (**D**rop **E**verything **a**nd **R**ead). Students don't know when D.E.A.R will begin so they must carry a book everywhere on that day (except lunch and recess).

On this day, we're pretending to be deserted on a private beach with the sun and waves crashing next to us as we read. We encourage students to dress in their (warmest) beach attire, sunglasses, flip flops and beach hats. Students will carry their books and maybe a beach towel to sit on. Students never know when DEAR will be called. Maybe your child will be in his or her art class or in the gym or in the hallway... you never know.

If you're visiting Braeburn on March 2, bring your book and beach towel too. You might be a part of our second D.E.A.R day of the year!

*Mrs. Claudine Lavoie
Library Media Specialist*



If you still have not returned your **Paul Cryan photos** or you plan to reorder, please do so as soon as possible. Send unwanted photos or reorders directly to:

Paul Cryan, Photographer
40 Avon Meadow Lane
Avon, CT 06001

Phone Number: 860-676-1350

Do not return photos or reorders to Braeburn.



Do you get the Braeburn PTB E-News?

Once a week, an E-News is sent via email that includes Braeburn and PTB information, updates, news, etc.

If you are not already receiving the PTB E-News, please send an e-mail to: jennifer.j.hall@gmail.com



Veterans Memorial Ice Skating Rink
56 Buena Vista Road West Hartford, CT 860-521-1573



SKATE FOR FUNDS PROGRAM

**Braeburn School PTB
at Veterans Memorial Ice Skating Rink!!!**

Join us for a fun session of ice skating and help to raise money for
Braeburn School PTB

DATE: Wednesday February 24, 2016

TIME: 4:00-5:00 P.M.

FEE:

Fall/Spring - Resident: \$5.25 Child/\$5.75 Adult Non Resident: \$6.75 Child & Adult Skate Rental: \$4.00
Winter - Resident: \$5.75 Child/\$6.25 Adult Non Resident: \$7.25 Child & Adult Skate Rental: \$4.00

*Make sure to bring this flyer to the rink on the
day of the event and give it to the cashier!*



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year·book
'yir,book/
noun

:a collection of memories for the many students of Braeburn to cherish for years to come containing class photos of each Braeburn class, photos of the friendly Braeburn staff, collections of photos of the many Braeburn Events from the current year, and a montage of photos of our 5th graders from when they began their elementary school career to their final Braeburn year ... including their own thoughts about their experience!"

Hi Braeburn Families!

The search for pictures for this year's *2015-2016 Braeburn Yearbook* has begun! Although the yearbook will not be published until the end of the school year, the process takes much longer so ... **let the process of collecting photos begin!**

Because there are so many photos out there, and so little space on my computer, I have created a Dropbox account where your photos can be "dropped." This will allow you to simply upload your pictures from your computer into my Dropbox "**Pictures for Braeburn Yearbook 2015-1016**" shared file (I will post the link at the bottom of this article).

Having so many random photos in the file can be confusing sometimes, so, if you need to clarify a photo (i.e. picture of a 5th grader from 2nd grade, a specific assembly, etc.), please send me a quick email with your name and details about the picture.

There is limited space in the Dropbox account and if the shared file doesn't allow you to upload a picture(s), please just send me an email to let me know or you can email me the photo(s) if there are not TOO MANY photos!

TO SUMMARIZE:

1. Collect any Braeburn photos you may have from school events this year OR of 5th graders, from past or current year(s).
2. Go to the link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/V9rpUqcyXaHL1eSWR9eo> and upload your photo(s).
3. If the photo(s) needs clarification, email me: candaceczaj@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please email me.

Happy Clicking!
Candace Czajkowski

candaceczaj@gmail.com





“The laws of nature are written in the language of mathematics”

-Galileo Galilei

The grade 3 and 4 Math Quest Screening test will take place at the elementary schools from March 28th - April 8th, 2016. Students will be assessed to determine the need for instruction two years beyond their current grade placement.

Math Quest provides opportunity for students to interpret ideas through numbers, ideas, and words, and make them meaningful through the process of analyzing information and/or evaluating predictive solutions. Students participate in an environment that cultures creative problem solving and thought.

Through progressively more complex problem solving, text and interest, mathematical tasks are applied according to the greater than two+ years beyond skill level of modification of mathematical application according to pacing and instruction of previously mastered skills. Math Quest is focused on responding to students' academic needs to assure the appropriate level of challenge.

Curriculum covered in different math tracks

Grade	Traditional (concepts introduced)	Honors	Math Quest
3	Multiplication, division, intro to fractions		
4	Fraction equivalence, decimal notation		Grade 4/5
5	Four operations with fractions, decimals		Grade 6/7
6	Ratio concepts, algebraic expressions	Grade 6/7	Grade 7/8
7	Ratio proportions, algebraic expressions/ equations	Grade 7/8	Algebra
8	Radicals/integer exponents, linear equations, Pythagorean Theorem	Algebra	Geometry *
9	Algebra	Geometry	Algebra II
10	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calc
11	Algebra II	Pre-Calc	Calculus
12	Pre-Calculus	Calculus	College *

There will be a parent information meeting about the Math Quest Program and the screening process:

When: Monday, February 22, 2016
Where: Duffy Elementary School Auditorium
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

* This curriculum work may require students to travel to a different school campus, e.g. high school or off site campus.



Special Notice to *5th Grade Parents* Bristow Middle School Enrollment Process

Bristow Middle School will be holding its enrollment for the incoming 6th graders in January. Bristow Middle School is a school of choice, drawing its diverse population from all neighborhoods in West Hartford. In the 2016-2017 school year, Bristow will enroll 420 students in grades 6 through 8.

All 5th graders who reside in West Hartford and are attending West Hartford Public Schools are automatically included in this process. Other 5th graders who reside in West Hartford and attend a private, parochial or inter district magnet school like The University of Hartford Magnet School are also eligible, although they need to apply to be included in the process and verify they reside in West Hartford with our Residency office.

Each 5th grader received a number randomly to establish the choice order. This number was mailed home to parents on January 21, 2016. In order to help parents make an informed choice, two informational meetings will be held at Bristow Middle School on Monday, March 7 and Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 pm. Parents can choose to attend either of these meetings as they are both the same. Students are invited to attend these meetings with their parents. **We recommend you attend one regardless of the number your child receives so you are prepared in case we get to your child's number.**

For information about Bristow and full details about how this enrollment process works, please visit the Bristow website at <http://bristow.whps.org/>.

You can also call or email the principal, Steven Cook, at 860-231-2100/ or Steven_Cook@whps.org.



West Hartford Special Education PTO February Meeting

Wednesday, February 24 at 7pm
Talking About Speech and Language

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between speech and language? Do you want to get familiar with terms such as articulation, oral motor, receptive language, expressive language and pragmatic language use? How do West Hartford's Early Learning Center, elementary and high schools address your child's speech and language needs? Join our SEPTO district representative Jennifer Lano, M.S., CCC-SLP (Whiting Lane ELC/Speakology LLC) and district colleagues: Katie Krasula, M.S., CCC-SLP (Sedgwick Middle School) and Laura D'Ostilio, M.S., CCC-SLP (Hall High School) to help you better understand your child's speech and language needs throughout the years. Learn what speech therapy looks like across the ages and how these skills help your child in school and in life. **Location: Sedgwick Middle School
128 Sedgwick Road, West Hartford
(Enter through Wardwell Rd entrance)**

Coming up in March...

Friday, March 4 at 9:30am
Coffee & Conversation at
Panera - Bishops Corner

The first Friday of the month, parents of children receiving special education services meet for coffee and a chance to talk & make new friends in a casual setting.

For More Information and to become a
Member of West Hartford Special Education
PTO visit:
www.WHSEPTO.org

Follow us on Facebook



West Hartford Public School Pre-Kindergarten Programs

Apply now for the 2016-2017 Pre-Kindergarten programs located at Charter Oak International Academy, Florence E. Smith STEM School and Webster Hill School. Applications will be available in all West Hartford Elementary School Offices, at the West Hartford Town Hall in the Residency Office (Room 154) and the Human Services Office (Room 306), and online at whps.org beginning January 11, 2016.

Applicants must be:

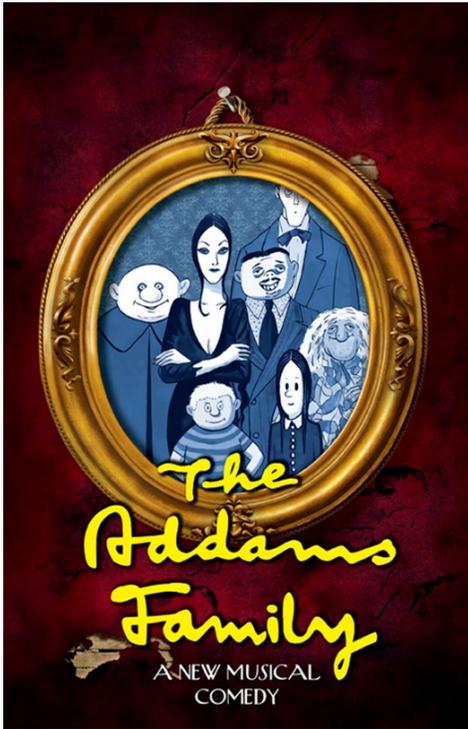
- A resident of West Hartford
- Age eligible:
 - Charter Oak International Academy will accept 80 Pre-K students born between 1/2/12 to 8/31/13.
 - Smith and Webster Hill Schools will accept 16 Pre-K students each born between 1/2/12 and 1/1/13.

**Please plan on attending one of the following
Open House Informational meetings:**

Charter Oak International Academy:	February 11th 6:30 pm
	March 3rd 6:30 pm
Florence E. Smith STEM School:	February 25th 6:30 pm
Webster Hill School	February 2nd 6:00 pm



For additional information, please call:
Charter Oak International Academy (860) 233-8506
Florence E. Smith STEM School (860) 236-3315
Webster Hill School (860) 521-0320
Mary Stone, Early Childhood Curriculum Specialist (860) 561-6635



The Addams Family

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, February 19

(snow date: February 24)

6:30- Conard Auditorium
Sneak Preview The Addams Family

7:00- Conard Café
Ice Cream Social

**The Ice Cream Social Is A Fundraiser For
Conard High School Musical Productions
\$5.00 per person at the door**

**Sneak preview of selected musical numbers beginning at 6:30
in the Conard Auditorium**

Tickets for performances available for purchase beginning February 22, 2016
www.ConardHighSchoolMusical.com

Performance dates and times:

Friday, March 11 at 7:00

Saturday, March 12 at 7:00

Sunday, March 13 at 2:00

Friday, March 18 at 7:00

Saturday, March 19 at 7:00

There is a limited number of wheelchair accessible handicap seating in the Conard High School Auditorium.

Questions? Please contact Anne Coon at conardmusical@whps.org

LIKE us on Facebook: Conard High School Musical Productions

THE ADDAMS FAMILY A NEW MUSICAL Book by MARSHALL BRICKMAN and RICK ELICE Music and Lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA
Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams Originally produced on Broadway by Stuart Oken, Roy Furman, Michael Leavitt, Five Cent Productions, Stephen Schuler, Decca Theatricals, Scott M. Delman, Stuart Ditsky, Terry Allen Kramer, Stephanie P. McClelland, James L. Nederlander, Eva Price, Jam Theatricals/Mary LuRoffe, Pittsburgh CLO/Gutterman-Swinsky, Vivek Tiwary/Gary Kaplan, The Weinstein Company/Clarence, LLC, Adam Zotovich/Tribe Theatricals By Special Arrangement with Elephant Eye Theatrical

Attention Parents!

We are offering you the opportunity to help us understand children's opinions about food advertising.



- Do you have a child age 8-11?
- Are you concerned about how food advertising might affect children?
- Do you want \$30 (\$15 each) for you and your child to watch some ads and answer some questions?



If you answered **YES**, join our study!

Our goal is to understand how children respond to different messages in food advertisements. To do this we need you and your child's help! It takes no more than an hour. All you and your child have to do is watch three ads for food products and fill out a few short questionnaires about them and your child's media habits. Your child will also receive a snack. As a show of our appreciation, you will receive \$30 cash for your time and travel expense reimbursement to our office in Hartford (near CT Science Center).

To schedule a time to participate contact Karen Haraghey at 860-380-1012 or karen.haraghey@uconn.edu

UConn

IRB Approval
Protocol #HI5-052

