

The SUNFLOWER

A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School



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

September 17, 2018

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal

A Message from the Principal...

Dear Braeburn Families and Friends,

Excitement fills the morning air and quickly energizes the hallways of Braeburn. Our students are making new friends, learning new routines, building new relationships with their teachers and having fun. Handshakes, smiles and hugs fill the hearts of our community as we begin our new school year and have set the tone for success and caring for one another. Thank you to every community member who has contributed to a wonderful beginning.

I want to take a moment to share just some of the many great observations made so far. Our students are amazing! I consistently see them helping one another, using manners and smiling. Our students are sharing their hopes and dreams, discovering that they have the potential to fulfill them and that every staff member looks forward to helping each one be realized. Students across all levels are engaged in learning experiences to help them gain confidence and to help them reflect on what they can work towards for their own personal growth. A growth mindset is prevalent and powerful.

Every time I speak with Braeburn community members I learn something new that impresses me. One example is the involvement of our PTB in strongly supporting our students and staff. Another is the increased use of technology to support our students. This happens daily and I am constantly reflecting on what a special school Braeburn is.

An important piece of partnering together will take place on our annual Curriculum Night on **Thursday, September 20th** during the following times:

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

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

(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 that your child will experience this year. This will also improve our combined efforts to support your child in a partnership. We hope that you will bring questions you may have regarding 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.

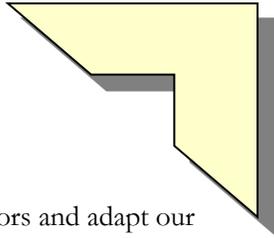
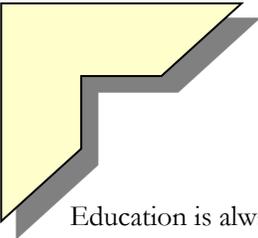
Lastly, to maximize the safety of our student and adult pedestrians, I ask that you please review and follow our traffic/parking lot guidelines which you will find on a subsequent page in this newsletter. As a reminder, buses are back on the roads so please pay special attention to student safety during our drop-off and pick-up times.

I am thankful for the opportunity to learn and lead daily and I continue to be amazed by all the powerful work that is being done everyday. I look forward to celebrating our many successes this year!

Enthusiastically,

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal

Please follow up on Twitter [Jeff Sousa@Braeburnbobcats](#) and Instagram [@Scholarleader](#). If you are interested in helping us install raised garden beds throughout our campus, please reach out to me.



CURRICULUM CORNER

Education is always changing! As educators we teach, reflect upon that teaching, grow as educators and adapt our teaching practices as well as content to reflect current research into how students learn best. The West Hartford Curriculum Department is currently in the middle of a three year cycle of implementation of new social studies and science curriculum. Last year, new science curriculum was integrated into grades 2 and 3, while grades 4 and 5 received new social studies units. This year students in grades 1 and 4 will engage in new science units, while those in kindergarten and grade 2 will receive new social studies units of instruction.

Science lessons were created according to guidelines and practices from the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards move away from past science practice of having students learn through rote memorization of facts, use of worksheets, and reading textbooks and answering questions at the end of a chapter. Instead we are moving toward students conducting investigations, solving problems and engaging in discussions with teacher guidance. Students are showing their learning by writing in journals, writing reports, and creating posters and media presentations that explain their learning. No longer are teachers posing questions with only one right answer. Instead students are discussing open ended questions that focus on the strength of the evidence of their experimentation. Students will be using the 5E instructional model... Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

Social studies curriculum was developed with guidance from the Connecticut Social Studies Framework. This framework helps to prepare students for college, career and/or civic life. The units are based on inquiry and “emphasize the disciplinary concepts and practices that support students as they develop the capacity to know, analyze, explain and argue about interdisciplinary challenges in our world” (College, Career & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards). This curriculum encourages students to apply knowledge and disciplinary concepts and tools, evaluate and use evidence, and communicate conclusions and take informed action.

Social studies content is now being embedded into English Language Arts units. In kindergarten students will explore the question *Who Am I?* by comparing themselves to fictional characters and each other. They will also explore the question, *What makes a community?* by studying the most important places in a community or town and the people who make that community or town a better place. In second grade, students will explore the question *What does it mean to make a difference?* by reading literature where characters do something that makes a difference in their family, school, community or the world at large. They will then be encouraged to make a difference themselves by engaging in a kindness challenge. A second unit is still in finalization stages.

Science units in grade 1 will have students develop an understanding of the relationship between sound and vibrating materials as well as between the availability of light and ability to see objects. They will learn how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow and meet their needs as well as explore the effect of behavior upon survival. They will also be able to observe, describe, and predict some patterns of the movement of objects in the night sky. In grade 4, students will develop an understanding of the effects of weathering on the rate of erosion by water ice, wind, or vegetation. They will analyze and interpret data from maps in order to describe patterns of Earth’s features. They will learn that plants have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. In addition, they will develop an understanding that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electrical currents or from object to object. Finally, they will use models to describe wave patterns and to show that waves can cause objects to move.

We look forward to seeing you at our Curriculum Night on September 20, 2018.

Ellen Cercone
Curriculum Specialist

Curriculum Night

Thursday, Sept. 20

Please Join Us

Gr. 3-5 6:00-6:45 p.m.

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

Gr. K-2 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Grade levels meet in classrooms

Special Areas in cafeteria

Please plan to attend!



Thank You!

Many thanks to our wonderful PTB for the

delicious and nutritious Staff Luncheon on August 28th!

Special thanks to those who made this luncheon possible; Abby Wittnebert, Natalie Sullo, Jess Miranda, Nicole Bouvier, Kristin Dolan, Kate Walas, Amanda Epstein, Ayelet Connell, Nicole Osier, Katie McCarthy, Erene Hammond, Samantha Doering, Regina Belen and Jess Egan



Vacant Seat Program

Application Start
Date is

Monday, October 1, 2018

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 1st. Requests are taken in this office by telephone on a first come, first served basis starting at 8:00 am.**



Traffic Safety

For the safety of our students and our entire school community, please exercise caution and observe all traffic regulations and signage when driving in our parking lot and in the Braeburn School neighborhood.

- **Drop-off areas are for drop-off only. Parking is not allowed in these areas.**
- **Double parking is not allowed at any time.**
- **Only cars with handicap stickers may park in handicap designated spots.**

Traffic violations are reported to the W.H. Police Department Traffic Division and our Security Officer will issue citations for traffic violations if he is on the premises.

PTB Board - 2018-2019

Samantha Doering & Megan Clarke
Co-Presidents

Elaine Nigro & Becky Fletcher
Co-Treasurers

Jean Rim
VP of Communications

Anna Kalke & Carla Economos
Co-Vice Presidents of Fundraising

Regina Belen & Kate Walas
VPs of Community Outreach

Katy Purviance
Bonus Bucks Treasurer

School Hours



2018-2019

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

8:35-3:20

Wednesdays:

8:35-2:00

For safety and comfort, **children should not arrive at school earlier than 8:20** as there is no supervision prior to that time. The only exceptions are those students attending WHEE or before school activities such as band, orchestra, choir or student council.

Children are considered tardy if they arrive in their classrooms after the 8:35 bell.

Parents with students arriving late must ring the front bell to enter the building and proceed with their student to the school office. **Late sign-ins are recorded for attendance purposes** and a tardy pass will be provided to your student before he or she proceeds to his/her classroom.

Parents should **not** plan to escort or pick up their child(ren) in the classroom. All pick-up and drop off will occur outside of the building (with the exception of late arrivals and early dismissals which occur in the school office).

SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Yom Kippur – NO SCHOOL

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Curriculum Night

Monday, October 8, 2018

Indigenous People's Day – NO SCHOOL

Library in a Nutshell



Welcome to the school library media center! Here in West Hartford, we are fortunate to have a full-time certified library media specialist in every elementary school library. Gone are the days when students came to the library to “just check out books”. Today, West Hartford school libraries are vibrant and active places - truly the “heart” of each school! How have things changed? The library media program in the elementary school provides the foundation skills for students to become critical users of information, and readers for lifelong learning. *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* published by the American Association of School Librarians provides the framework for instruction.

Library media specialists collaborate with K-5 classroom teachers to teach students to find and evaluate appropriate sources to answer questions for inquiry-based research projects; apply critical thinking skills to construct new understandings; demonstrate mastery of technology tools; share their knowledge and be ethical participants in our community; as well as show an appreciation for literature. By the end of fifth grade, students are well prepared to meet the academic demands of middle school.

For more detailed information about the library in a nutshell, please feel free to stop by the library media center or contact me at the email below.

Kind regards,

Claudine Lavoie, Library Media Specialist
claudine_lavoie@whps.org

IMPORTANT! NEW THIS YEAR...

BRAEBURN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

INFORMATION

PLEASE BE SURE TO SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!

All forms in the Welcome Back category should be filled out. This is important information that we will be using for your contact information, emergency contacts, and other important forms that we need during the school year. We will not be using paper forms this year. Please make sure that all required forms are completed!

Instructions for setting up the portal account can be found at the following website:

<https://www.whps.org/parentportal>

Access the parent portal by going to:

<https://powerschool.whps.org>

Your Access Code and Password were mailed home to you. An access code and password is needed for each student.

Need Help or cannot find your access code? Contact Mary Ellen or Monica in the office.

Braeburn Chess Program Registration

Fall 2018

Registration Deadline: September 21st

Award winning chess instructor and coach, Alexander Lumelsky, is offering this instruction-based chess program for students grades K through 5, beginners welcome. The program offers class instruction on chess play and strategy and is intended for players of all and no prior skill or experience. The program also features supervised practice play, over-the-board instruction, possible in-club competition play, and opportunity for play in off-campus competition.

Mr. Lumelsky is the organizer and coach/instructor of several award winning West Hartford chess programs, including those at Aiken, Braeburn, Bugbee, Duffy, Norfeldt Elementary and King Philip Middle Schools. He has coached elementary and middle school students to State Champion status and other placement, including over 35 titles and champion honors at the national and state levels in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. His elementary and middle school teams have been the most decorated and dominant public school chess programs in Connecticut over the past six years.

Mr. Lumelsky also organized many area chess programs, including school and library programs in Farmington, East Hartford, Newington, Bloomfield, Burlington, Tolland, Suffield, etc. He is a Board Member and Tournaments Coordinator of the Connecticut State Chess Association and an at large Board Member of the New England Chess Association. He is also a Connecticut Delegate to the U.S. Chess Federation, and the co-Founder of the Connecticut Chess Organization, a non-profit project for the benefit of children's chess.

Club meetings for the spring will be in the Braeburn library from 2:00 to 3:00 PM on Wednesdays: September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28, and December 5. **The program is for students grades K through 5, no prior experience necessary.**

The program fee is \$160 per player.

Any questions about the program can be directed to Alexander Lumelsky, alexander.lumelsky@gmail.com.

NOTICE: PLEASE E-MAIL REGISTRATION INTENT WITH NAME OF PLAYER, GRADE AND SCHOOL NAME, AND BRING BELOW REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO THE FIRST CLASS. SEPTEMBER 21 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER.

Registration Form (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Player's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

School Braeburn Elementary Town West Hartford

Parent Name: _____ Preferred Phone #: (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____ Parent's e-mail: _____

_____ Mark "X" here if financial assistance is needed.

**Please make checks payable to "AllClubs Chess". PAYMENT IS DUE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.
Please submit registration intent via e-mail by September 21 and bring registration with payment to first class.**

Food Drive



Please donate food to help
support the West Hartford
Food Pantry

Wednesday, September 19, 2018
9:00am-2:00pm
Stop & Shop
176 Newington Road
West Hartford





GRADE 5 PARENTS

Understanding the Human Body Parent Preview Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 6:30-7:30 PM

CHARTER OAK ACADEMY AUDITORIUM

425 OAKWOOD AVENUE

(PARKING ENTRANCE ON FLATBUSH AVENUE)

Different aspects of curriculum spiral through the grades in mathematics, science, health, social studies, and language arts. In fifth grade, we build upon the previous work in science and health to initiate a strong beginning to the understanding of the human body.

Your child will soon be studying puberty and the human reproductive system. These will be presented by a classroom teacher. You are invited to attend a preview of this unit.

At the meeting, we will preview the video and discuss the supplemental handouts and topics covered.

MIGHTY TIMES: THE CHILDREN'S MARCH

-FREE MOVIE & COMMUNITY CONVERSATION-



Join West Hartford friends and neighbors as we learn the story of how the children of Birmingham, Alabama fought segregation in 1963 through nonviolent protest and were catalysts for positive change that impacted our entire nation. Stay for the youth led panel discussion about activism in our schools and community, featuring West Hartford students.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 2-4PM AUDITORIUM at CHARTER OAK INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

All ages welcome, especially middle and high school age youth.

Organized by the West Hartford Beloved Community Builders.



**THE
WEST HARTFORD
ART LEAGUE**



**THURSDAYS
SEPT. 20-NOV. 29
4:00-5:15 PM**

CHILDREN'S ART CLASS

**STONE CARVING AND SCULPTURE
WITH JOAN SHAPIRO**

WE WILL WORK ON EXPERIMENTAL PAINTING, COLLAGE, AND DRAWING, AND CREATE SMALL ALABASTER STONE SCULPTURES USING RASPS AND FILES. YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE TO FORM WIRE SCULPTURES OR WORK "HANDS-ON" IN CLAY TO CREATE ANIMALS OR OTHER FORMS. EXPRESS YOUR UNIQUE ART STYLE IN THIS EXCITING AND VARIED 10 WEEK PROGRAM.

MEMBERS: \$122 NONMEMBERS: \$142

**WESTHARTFORDART.ORG
OR (860) 231-8019 TO REGISTER**

West Hartford Special Education PTO (SEPTO)

September 2018

Dear Parents, Teachers, Administrators and Friends:

West Hartford SEPTO (Special Education Parent/Teacher Org.) invites you to join our dynamic organization, serving the needs of our community. We are a district wide PTO that focuses on special education issues for all the children in our town from Pre-K – High School, at all of our 16 schools.

As a member of WHSEPTO, you can be proud to know that your membership dues of just \$15 will support YOUR students. Here are just a few of the ways West Hartford Special Education PTO gave back to the community last year:

1. Funding the purchase of new assistive technology to be used throughout town.
2. Grants to the West Hartford Schools Foundation to support micro businesses in the high schools and a cooking/social skills class at STRIVE.
3. Funded the purchase of bouncy bands for all 16 schools.

WHSEPTO also supports YOU!

Do you need help sorting through the maze of people, services, and therapies, etc.?

Are you looking to gain more information so you can advocate for your child more effectively?

Maybe you want to meet other parents within West Hartford who are looking for support or friendship?

This is what we do...Our mission is threefold – to Educate, Advocate and Network.

We do this via:

Information Sessions/Meetings with guest speakers

Website & social media

Online Parent Support Group *New! Coming Soon*

And more!

Please join us by becoming a member of the West Hartford Special Education PTO. Annual membership dues are just \$15 per household. You can register online at www.whsepto.org/membership or by filling out our Membership Registration Form which you will find attached.

Wishing you wonderful 2018-2019 school year,

Jennifer Sherman, President

West Hartford SEPTO | P.O. Box 270381 | West Hartford, CT 06127 | info@whsepto.org



facebook.com/whsepto



whsepto

**WEST HARTFORD SPECIAL EDUCATION PTO
2018 – 2019 Membership Registration Form**

We welcome you to become a member of West Hartford SEPTO!

There are 3 Easy Ways to Join or Renew your Membership!

1. Complete this form and email to info@whsepto.org
2. Register online at www.whsepto.org
3. Or you can print and mail this form and your payment to WHSEPTO, Attn: Membership P.O. Box 270381, West Hartford, CT 06127.

Membership is \$15.00 per household | Please Make checks payable to West Hartford SEPTO

MEMBER NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Membership Type: Parent/Guardian Teacher/Admin Community

Check one: New Renewal

May we publish your name and contact information in our Online Member Directory? Yes No
The directory is only available online to current members via password. No child info will be published

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

If a parent/guardian: Name of child receiving services: _____
 Birth Year: _____ School: _____

If a teacher/administrator: School: _____ Position: _____

How did you hear about WHSEPTO? Newsletter WHSEPTO function Website
 School Other

***** WHSEPTO USE *****

Batch: _____ Date Received : _____ Amount Received _____ Ck _____ Cash _____

From the Nurse:

Regular school attendance is necessary for optimal learning. However, a mere presence at school does not ensure effective learning. A child must be feeling well in order to maximize the learning experience. In addition, a child who is sick and comes to school may spread the illness to other students and staff. It is recommended that a child remain home if any of the following conditions are present:

Fever: Temperature of 100 degrees or higher. The child can return to school after he/she is fever-free for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Motrin (Ibuprofen).

Vomiting/Diarrhea: A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should stay home and return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours.

Conjunctivitis (Pink eye): Following a diagnosis of conjunctivitis, the child may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication.

Rashes: Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. A child with a suspicious rash should return to school only after a health care provider has made a diagnosis and has authorized the child's return to school.

Colds: Consider keeping your child at home if he/she is experiencing excessive nose blowing and/or coughing.

Antibiotics: If your child has a contagious illness that requires antibiotics, he/she must be on the medication for 24 hours before considered non-contagious and able to return to school.

Eileen Flaherty, School Nurse

rev. 9/18

“Note to School”

All families received a “Note to School” pad in the First Day Packet. **It is important that you send in a “Note to School” for any day your child’s *regular* dismissal plan changes.**

Dismissal plans should be arranged *in advance* so that students *arrive* to school with a “Note to School” explaining the dismissal change. Changes to dismissal plans after the school day has begun are discouraged, short of changes required for emergency situations.

Playdates, etc. arranged *after* the school day begins would require parents to meet their children as usual and see them off to their playdate.

A “Note to School” about the dismissal change is your *first option*, not emailing the teacher after the school day has begun, as many times teachers may only be able to check their email before and after school.

In an emergency situation, please contact the school office. Also, please let the office know if you are in need of another “Note to School” pad.

Thank you.

Update on Privacy Law - Public Act 16-189

We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff. In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit www.whps.org/pa189.

Jared W. Morin, Ed.M.

Director of Technology Services

Town of West Hartford & West Hartford Public Schools