

Brookside Briefs

January 2019

Full Day Kindergarten Applications

Dear Parents/Guardians:

New Year's Day feels like the perfect time for looking back and planning for the future. Here's a fun activity you can try with your child or children. Create a family Top Ten List for 2019. You can even designate a category or a challenge for each number. Some examples might be: an act of kindness, a place to visit, a book to read, a goal for learning, a new food to try. The possibilities are limitless and they can help your child broaden his or her horizons by suggesting activities or goals he or she might not have originally considered. A Top Ten List can be posted to the family frig or taped to a bedroom door to keep goals top of mind as the year unfolds. In BPS classrooms teachers often use charts and other visual aides to assist learning. It's an approach that can work well at home too.

Cranford Public Schools has also been engaged in goal setting and planning for the future. Thank you to those who have attended the Reimagining Cranford Public Schools community meetings, including the one on December 17 which featured additional proposals for addressing district needs. There will be four follow-up meetings during January and February and a wealth of information is available on the Cranford Board of Education web site. Please see the entry below for times and locations of those meetings which will include Q&A sessions.

As we begin the fifth month of the 2018-2019 school year, we have already achieved several milestones including Parent/Guardian – Teacher conferences, first trimester report cards, character education initiatives, classroom celebrations and school-wide events like Fall Fest and musical assemblies. I feel so fortunate to lead a team of dedicated educators who are supported by an engaged parent/guardian community. I look forward to all 2019 has to offer. Please see the remainder of the January Brookside Briefs for timely reminders, forthcoming dates and important information about BPS and district initiatives. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or topics you would like to discuss. My email address is klimko@cranfordschools.org.

The Cranford Board of Education will continue to offer two tuition-based, full-day kindergartens for the 2019-2020 school year, pending sufficient enrollment. A lottery system will be used to determine participation. Children who will be five years old by October 1, 2019 and are Cranford residents are eligible to enter the lottery. An email was sent by the district on December 12, 2018 and included details such as application form, cost and deadline. The application is also posted on the BPS web page. Applications must be submitted to the Superintendent's Office, 132 Thomas Street, **by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 4, 2019**. Applications submitted after January 4, 2019 will be placed on a waiting list.

Registration dates for both full-day and half-day kindergarten as well as grade one students new to Cranford will be announced in mid-January with registration taking place in early February.

READY Applications

Cranford Public Schools offers an inclusive half-day preschool program called READY that places children with special needs with their typical peers. For more information and the application, please visit the BPS Web page. Applications must be received by US Mail or hand delivered **before or on Friday, January 11, 2019** to the Board of Education Office, 132 Thomas Street. Friday, January 11 is a firm deadline, so thank you for submitting your application before or on that date.

A Job Well Done

The musical talents of our students and teaching staff were on full display at our recent winter concerts. There were two festive assemblies, one for parents/guardians and one for the students and staff, which featured wonderful seasonal music. Thank you to the students and their teachers, Ms. Schafer (chorus), Ms. Lee (orchestra) and Mrs. Mockoviak (band), for sharing their talents with us. Thanks also to art teacher Ms. Baillod who partnered with fifth graders Ciara Conley, Grace Ingraham, Lucia Grillo,

and Kylee Schmidt on the program cover and corresponding bulletin boards.

A Tradition of Giving

Books, pajamas, toys, clothes and gift cards were some of the wonderful holiday presents donated to the families of Cranford Family Care through the BPS Giving Box. Holiday gifts were donated and distributed to fifty families / individuals thanks to the generosity of our school community. Thank you to all the families that participated and to the Brookside Cares for Cranford Committee, a subset of the BPS PTA, for coordinating this annual tradition of community service and support.

BPS students enjoyed the pleasure of shopping for loved ones at the annual BPS Holiday Boutique. The BPS PTA coordinates this annual event which allows students to shop independently for affordable gifts and even have a gift of their choice wrapped. This fun event also helps children develop traits like generosity and decision making.

Finally, a thank you to all the BPS families that made donations to the Cranford Kids Give Back drive for Cranford Family Care as well as those who donated supplies for shelter dogs as part of the BPS Student Council Pajama Day.

Each of these four initiatives was a wonderful complement to the December character trait of generosity.

Principal Open Agenda Meeting **January 8, 2019**

The first of two open agenda meetings for the 2018-2019 school year will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the BPS Library / Media Center. This is a great forum for discussing ideas pertinent to Brookside Place School.

School Closed for MLK Day **January 21, 2019**

School will be closed for students and staff on Monday, January 21, 2019 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Reimagining Cranford Public Schools **Community Meeting Dates**

Community feedback continues to be instrumental in shaping the process of potentially Reimagining Cranford Public Schools. There will be four meetings to discuss the ten plans that were presented on December 17, 2018 including Q&A sessions. These community-wide meetings will take place at 7:00 PM on the following dates/locations:

- January 22 at Livingston Avenue School
- February 5 at Orange Avenue School
- February 7 at Hillside Avenue School
- February 19 at Brookside Avenue School

Acts of Courage

The featured character trait for January is COURAGE. Classes will explore what courage means, ways to show courage, people who have shown courage in the past and examples of actions that are and are not courageous. All members of our school community are encouraged to write down any signs of courage they notice and submit these to the “Acts of Courage Container” in the BPS Main Office. These “acts of courage” will be read weekly over the morning announcements during January. The classes will also hear the following read-aloud stories: *Shelia Rae, the Brave* (K-2) and *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* (3-5). Finally, the third grade will create a bulletin board display with a focus on “courage” for outside the Main Office. You can see it featured on the BPS PTA web site.

Delayed Opening Schedule

Winter weather is part of the landscape in January, February and sometimes even March! In the event of a delayed opening, please see the schedule below. School schedules (regular day, single session and

delayed opening) are posted on the BPS PTA web page. They are also included on page 6 of the BPS student agenda. (Please note that on a delayed opening schedule, student arrival should begin at 9:40 AM at the earliest.)

Grades 1 – 5

Student Entrance: 9:50 AM
Attendance: 9:55 AM
Lunch: 11:50 AM – 12:50 PM
Dismissal: 2:55 PM

AM Kindergarten

Student Entrance: 9:50 AM
Attendance: 9:55 AM
Dismissal: 11:55 AM

PM Kindergarten

Student Entrance and Attendance: 12:55 PM
Dismissal: 2:55 PM

Change to Contact Information

If there is a change to your contact information, please remember to alert the BPS Main Office. This pertains to home phone numbers, cell phones and email addresses. More and more, families are opting to forgo a land-based home phone number so it is especially important that cell, personal email, and work contact information is current and up to date.

Online Resources

Please visit the following sites for important school-related information:

- Cranford Board of Education web site:
www.cranfordschools.org
- Brookside Place web page:
www.cranfordschools.org/Domain/14
- BPS PTA web site:
<http://bpspta.digitalpto.com>

Cancelling Lunch Orders

Parents/Guardians of students who pre-order the school lunch are reminded that if their son/daughter is going to be absent (illness/field trip), to **cancel the order by 8:00 AM on that morning** to avoid the charge for the lunch. For order edits or cancellations, please email foodservice@cranfordschools.org by 8:00 AM.

Main Office Phone Numbers

To contact the BPS Main Office you may dial any of these three numbers: 908-709-6244 (Main Office line), 908-709-8878 (Mrs. Rokicki, school secretary), 908-709-6247 (Ms. Moultrie, clerical assistant).

Attendance Line/Absence Reporting

Please reach out to the school nurse, Mrs. O'Hara, at 908-709-6246 to report your son/daughter's absence. Please remember to always indicate your child's name, date of call, class, and reason for absence. Please be sure to state specific symptoms: sore throat, fever, nausea, headache, etc. Thanks, in advance, for making these calls as early as possible. If you send an email to your child's teacher regarding a planned absence, please be sure to copy Mrs. O'Hara at oharapau@cranfordschools.org

Drop Off Zones

There are two drop off zones (one on Spruce Street closer to the closed part of the parking lot and one on Brookside Place close to the second grade door). Thanks for remembering to keep these two zones free of parked vehicles.

General Reminders

- ❖ Brookside Briefs and Healthy Hints will be posted monthly on the BPS PTA website and BPS web page:
www.bpspta.digitalpto.com
www.cranfordschools.org/Domain/14
- ❖ Homeroom begins promptly at 8:42 AM. Please check with your son/daughter about the

belongings he/she will need for the day to help develop personal responsibility.

January 2019 Calendar

- ❖ Lunch at Home:
 - ✓ **Send in a note for HR teacher**
 - ✓ Pick up at 11:50 AM at Brookside Place doors
 - ✓ Return time 12:48 PM at Brookside Place doors.
- ❖ If you have a problem or concern, please contact your child's teacher immediately. He/she will notify you as to the best method for contacting them (phone, e-mail, note, etc.).

Safety First

Safety is a core value at Brookside Place. Please see the following reminders:

- Please refrain from walking or biking through the parking lot.
- Please use crosswalks and the help of the crossing guard to cross streets.
- Please keep dogs on a leash and at the perimeter of the school grounds at all times.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Klimko

- 1/1 Tuesday - Happy New Year 2019!
School Closed for Winter Break
- 1/2 Wednesday - School Resumes

Reimaging Cranford Public Schools at Cranford High School – Rescheduled from 12/4/18 – Focus will be on CHS Academy programs – 7:00 PM
- 1/8 Principal's Open Agenda Meeting in the BPS Library / Media Center - 7:00 PM.
- 1/10 Reimagining Cranford Public Schools Community Meeting for PreSchool Families - Calavary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman Street -7:00 PM
- 1/11 BPS School Store – Grades 4 and 5
- 1/14 Grade 4 Boxwood Hall Presentations
- 1/18 BPS School Store – Grades 1 and 3
- 1/21 School Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/22 Reimagining Cranford Public Schools meeting at Livingston Avenue School – 7:00 PM
- 1/25 BPS School Store – Grade 2