

Brookside Briefs

February 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The 100th day of school has become a fun milestone in school calendars from coast to coast. It's a way to celebrate progress since September in all areas of growth: academic, social and emotional. At Brookside Place School students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 celebrate with special activities, many involving number sense. It's a great way to mesh age-appropriate math concepts with real life experience and some fun. (Barring any snow days, the 100th day of school will be on February 13th.)

This month we also celebrate the addition of two staff members to Brookside Place School. Ms. Caitlin Schafer is our new General Music teacher and Choral Director. She brings a love of music and an enthusiasm for teaching to her role and joins as after the recent retirement of Ms. Rapach. Ms. Paula Ruiz is the replacement teacher for Mrs. Bramwell who recently began her maternity leave. Ms. Ruiz will be teaching Spanish and Special Education (Grade 2). Both teachers are very excited to work with your children in their respective areas of expertise. Please join me in making them feel welcome.

The character trait for the month of February is kindness which dovetails nicely with Valentine's Day. I encourage you to use the holiday to engage your child (or children) in a conversation about kindness. What does it mean to "lead with kindness?" What acts of kindness did they experience that day? How did that make them feel? How can they show kindness to others? Students will be exploring these ideas in their classrooms and through school initiatives like "Pasta for Pennies" and the "Souper Bowl."

In closing, I wish everyone an enjoyable mid-winter recess. Please take a look at the remainder of the Briefs for more information including *new* student registration procedures. 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.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Registration

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Registration has begun and there is a new procedure for the 2017-2018 school year. To register a child for kindergarten or first grade, please go to www.cranfordschools.org and click on the "For Parents" tab and choose "Kindergarten Registration" in the drop down menu. Follow the instructions. Registration is taking place at the Board of Education Offices the week of February 6, **but an appointment is required.**

Mid-Winter Recess

School is closed for three days in February surrounding President's Day. School will be closed on Friday, 2/17, Monday, 2/20 and Tuesday, 2/21. School will resume on Tuesday, 2/22.

Pasta for Pennies

Thanks to your support the Brookside Place School community raised \$5,619.26 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society through the Pasta for Pennies initiative. The classroom that raised the most money this year was Mrs. Halkias' 5th grade class which contributed \$740.14 to the effort. They are the winners of a pasta, salad and breadsticks lunch courtesy of the Olive Garden. Congratulations! Since BPS started the program several years ago, the school has donated more than \$10,000 to finding a cure.

Souper Bowl

Thank you for sending in canned soup for "Souper Bowl 2017." The winner of Super Bowl LI is still to be determined, but the Atlanta Falcons were in the lead at BPS heading into the weekend. Thank you to all families who donated canned soup in the name of either team. All donations will benefit Cranford Family Care.

Changes to Contact Information

Please remember to alert the BPS Main Office if there are changes to your home phone, cell phone(s) or email address(es). Changes should be emailed to Mrs. Rokicki at rokicki@cranfordschools.org

Principal Open Agenda Meeting

The second of three open agenda meetings is slated for Wednesday, February 15, 2017. All Open Agenda meetings take place in the BPS library and begin at 7:00 PM. I look forward to discussing any topics that participants bring up that will help improve the outstanding learning environment at Brookside Place School.

Delayed Opening Times

Winter weather is here which could result in a delayed opening. As a reminder for Grades 1 – 5 students enter at 9:50 AM and attendance is taken at 9:55 AM. Dismissal is 2:55 PM. Please note students should not arrive to school before 9:40 AM. Thank you.

Morning kindergarten students enter at 9:50 AM and are dismissed at 11:55 AM.

Afternoon kindergarten students enter at 12:55 PM and are dismissed at 2:55 PM.

Recess and Fresh Air

Thank you in advance for sending your son/daughter to school **well bundled each day**. Students will continue to go outside for thirty minutes of recess fun and fresh air whenever the weather permits. Lunch aides will expect students to wear all of the outerwear (e.g. jackets, hats, gloves, etc.) that they wore to school in the morning.

INDOOR Recess Note

Indoor recess will be held when the weather prevents outdoor play. The overwhelming preference would be for students to play cards, board games, color, draw or socialize with friends. However, students may opt to bring an electronic device to use during indoor recess only. Please take a moment to discuss the pros and cons of choosing to bring an electronic device with your child and discuss the responsibility it entails. Any student using an electronic device will be expected to abide by the expectations set forth by the lunch aides.

Main Office Phone Numbers

To reach the Main Office please call 908-709-6244.

Attendance Line/Absence Reporting

Please remember to reach out to Mrs. O'Hara at 908-709-6246 to report your son/daughter's absence. Please remember to indicate your child's name, date of call, class, and reason for absence. Any long term absences should be sent to Mrs. O'Hara's email address: oharapau@cranfordschools.org.

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>

Drop Off Zones

The 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) are clearly designated between signs in both locations. Please remember 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.

- ❖ 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 - Parents/guardians are also asked to discuss the importance of their children obeying all traffic safety signs, using crosswalks at all times and keeping the staff parking lot clear of all pedestrians.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Klimko

February 2017 Calendar

- 2/2 Parent/Teacher Committee (PTC) Meeting at 9:00 AM at the Board Office
- 2/4 Family Skate Night at Union Sports Arena, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- 2/6 - 2/11 Kindergarten Registration at Board of Education offices – **appointment required**
- 2/13 Board of Education Meeting at 8:00 PM at the Board Offices, 132 Thomas Street
- 2/14 Classroom Valentines' Day celebrations during the afternoon session
- 2/15 Principal's Open Agenda in the BPS Library at 7:00 PM
- 2/17 – 2/21 School Closed**
- 2/22 Classes Resume
- 2/22 Grade 4 Trip to Overlook Medical Center
- 2/24 Intervention and Referral Services Meeting (I&RS) – BPS Main Office
- 2/27 Board of Education Meeting at 8:00 PM at the Board Offices, 132 Thomas Street