

The SUNFLOWER

A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School



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

October 11, 2018

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal

A Message from the Principal...

Dear Braeburn Families and Friends,

Welcome back to a new and exciting year at Braeburn! Over the past month I have truly enjoyed seeing our students smiles and hearing about their summer adventures. I learned that many Braeburn students enjoyed the beach, vacations to many parts of the United States, Europe, and Central and South America, swimming, attending a variety of camps and spending quality time with family.

The month of October always reminds me of special family times with the cooler weather and the autumn events all around the state. We have kicked off the season with an amazing Welcome Back Bash! Thank you to the PTB for organizing such a memorable experience for our entire school community. Our fair brought a profound sense of pride as I looked out onto the field to see so many students and families laughing, playing, eating together and having fun throughout the afternoon. What a great way to begin the school year! Does anyone have any pies?

There are many events taking place during this month that I would like to highlight. In October, various grade levels will be heading to Winding Trails and Westmoor Park as we continue to learn inside and outside of the classroom. Thank you to our PTB for hosting our Pizza night for K and 1st and new families on October 10th. We will finish the month with our Halloween Parade on October 31st beginning at 9:00am. K-3rd grade will be parading throughout our school and campus. 4th and 5th grade is welcome to dress up and cheer on our younger students. No masks, weapons, weapon facsimiles are permitted.

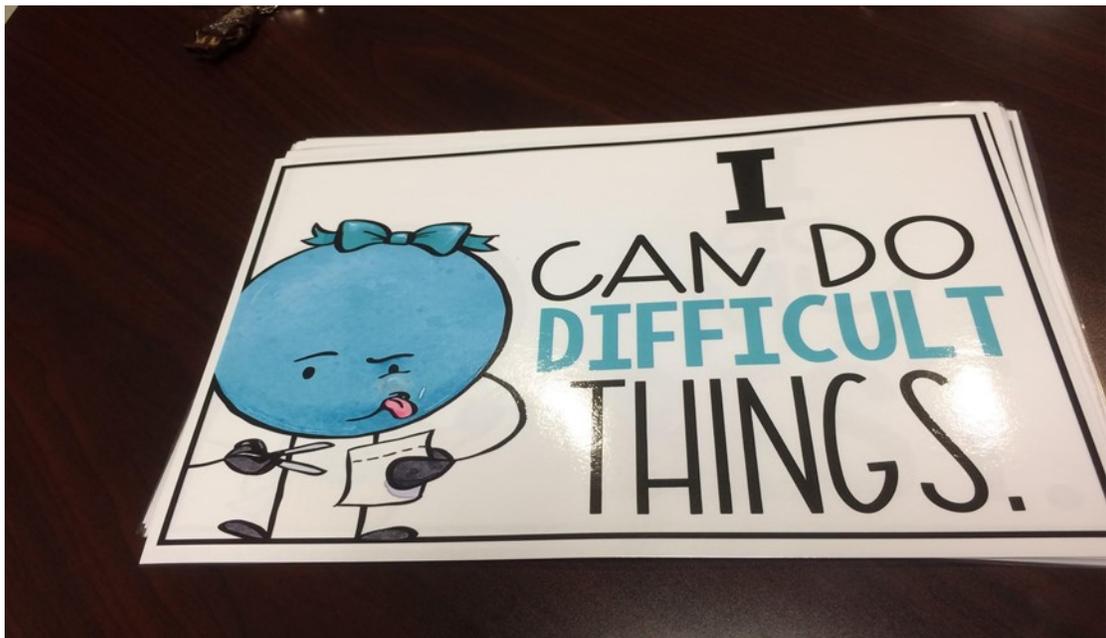
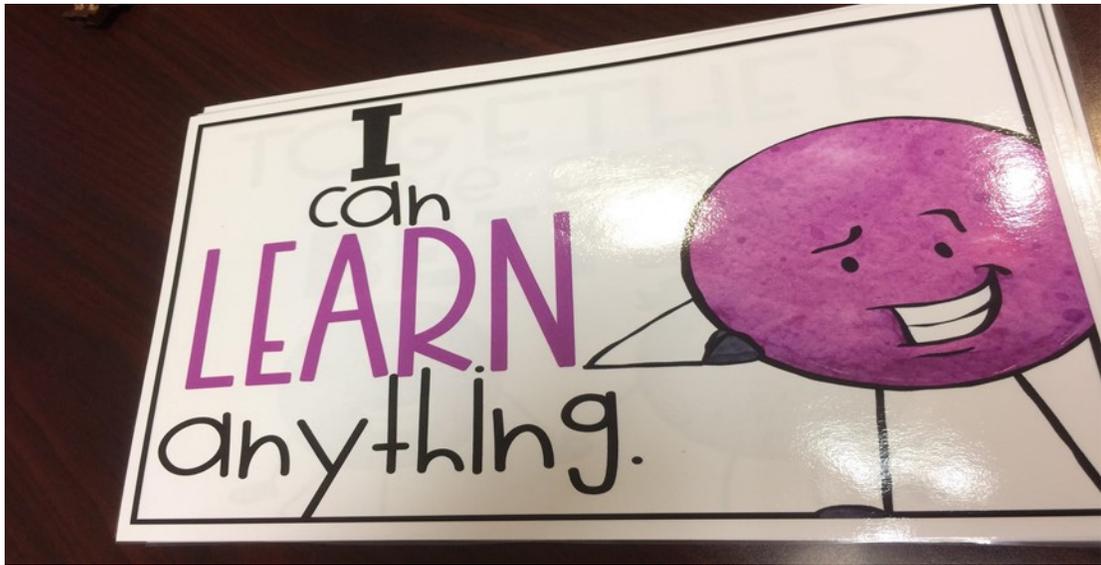
On the academic front we are working on deeper understanding of our instructional practices in alignment with district goals. As a staff we will embark on establishing goals to focus learning, facilitating purposeful discourse and eliciting and using evidence of student thinking. We are also working closely with the Growth Mindset text by Carol Dweck and we seek to foster a new psychology of success and learn to fulfill our student potential (see sample pictures below of some "shifts" in vocabulary and thinking). New science and social studies curriculum are also being implemented this year. Our Writer's Workshop model continues and includes a brief mini lesson, independent writing time (which may include conferencing with peers or teacher), and time to share some of the student's writing each day. I have already observed students writing in their journals and sharing their written pieces with their class! Such proud moments!

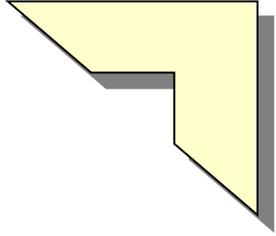
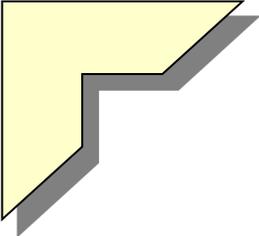
The children at Braeburn Elementary School are truly amazing and they absolutely make our day. They bring many smiles, laughter and remind us all how important their voices are in the educational experience. They are always kind, respectful, humble and looking to help others. To that end, I want to thank you for sharing your precious children with us.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal

Here are some shifts in mindset to help us grow.





CURRICULUM CORNER

Today marks the close of our fall benchmark assessment window. Students in grades K-5 have been in the process of both formal and informal assessments with their classroom teachers for the past several weeks. The purpose of these assessments is to get baseline information about each child's current academic status. Each student has participated in assessments in both reading and mathematics. At some grade levels, a baseline writing assessment has also been administered. These assessments are just a brief glimpse of the skills and strategies that your child came into the new school year with and will also give us a picture of where your child's teacher needs to focus their instruction this year with your child.

Reading assessments included test of oral reading fluency, decoding, vocabulary and reading comprehensions skills. Children were asked to read a portion of leveled text aloud to their teacher to monitor for fluency and accuracy as they read aloud. We also had a chance to assess their silent reading fluency and to listen to them retell the stories in their own words. Students in grades 3-5 were also asked to provide written summaries of text read.

In math, assessments included evaluation of number sense fluency, math fact computational skills and the ability to apply math concepts and skills to real world problem solving.

This information will be used as a starting point for teachers to be able to track individual student growth in the areas of math, reading and writing. Our goal is for every child to be able to work to his/her fullest capacity and to achieve their academic potential. Results of these tests place students in categories of at, above or below benchmark expectations. These same assessments will be given to students again in January and May to assess growth from fall to spring.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information as needed.

Respectfully Yours,

Ellen Cercone

Curriculum Specialist



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:

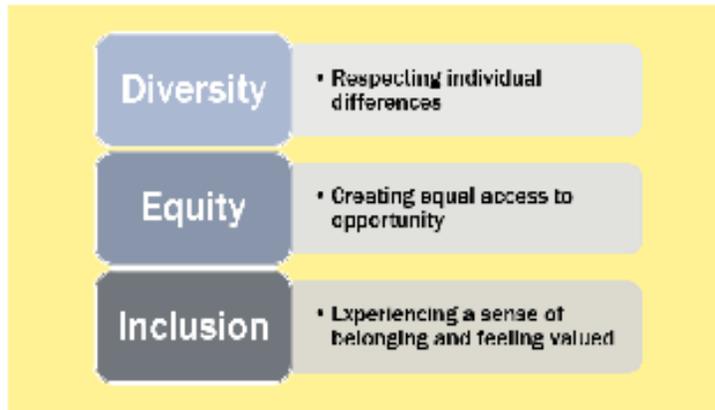
<https://www.whps.org/parentportal>

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's *NEW* Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee

welcomes you to join us for
a community meeting on

**Tuesday, October 23, at 6:30 pm
in Braeburn's cafeteria**

***Come share your
voice!***

The EDI Committee was created to maintain and support a culturally responsive and inclusive environment for all students, families and staff. Join us at this community meeting to come together and share ideas and thoughts around "equity, inclusion, and diversity" at Braeburn.

We want to hear from you!!!

Contact *Ayelet Connell* at ayeletconnell@gmail.com or *Gigi Belen* at reginabelen@gmail.com for more information.



Veterans Day Ceremony



Dear Parents,

As you know, students will be attending school on Veterans Day. In order to provide our students with an understanding of what this holiday represents, we are hoping to have veterans who have a connection to the Braeburn community visit our classrooms to speak with students about the special role that veterans hold in our community. This has been a wonderful experience in the past and a tradition that we hope to be able to continue.

We are hoping that our veteran parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, or friends of Braeburn students and their families would be willing to come in to speak to a classroom on Monday, November 12, 2018. We would provide the veteran guest with a list of questions that the children have created prior to the visit. The veteran is welcome to share some information with the students about the type of service that they were a part of, pictures of themselves in uniform and/or medals or honors that they have earned during their service to our country. **The classroom visit would take place between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

Immediately following the presentations the veterans will be invited to attend a small reception in their honor. Student council members will be the hosts of the reception, as would the student who has invited the guest to honor us with their presence on this very special day.

To assist us in our planning, please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return to school no later than, Wednesday, November 7, 2018. We will send a confirmation letter to each Veteran prior to his/her visit that includes a list of questions that the students generated to help them to prepare for this special day.

This year we invite you to send in one photograph with name and rank of a service member. We will display this picture for all to see on our 'Wall of Honor'. We will return the photograph in early December.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this special project! We look forward to this exciting event and to helping our students learn about the many courageous men and women who have served their country.

Sincerely Yours,

Jeffrey Sousa, Principal
Ellen Cercone, Curriculum Specialist

Name of Veteran Guest _____

Name of Student Who Has Invited the Guest _____

Student's Classroom Teacher _____

Phone Number or E-Mail Address to Confirm Attendance _____

Digital Citizenship



The mission of West Hartford Public Schools is to *inspire and prepare all students to realize their potential and enhance our global community*. In an effort to prepare our twenty-first century learners to do just this, the Library Media curriculum addresses critical learning in **digital citizenship** or appropriate use of technology. We believe that students who are empowered with the tools and techniques to appropriately navigate online resources at an early age, will apply these skills throughout their educational careers and beyond.

The Library Media Services team at West Hartford Public Schools utilizes resources from Common Sense Education to support our students' growth as digital citizens. Lessons vary from Grades PK-5, but cover: internet safety, privacy and security, relationships and communication, cyberbullying and digital drama, digital footprint and reputation, self-image and identity, information literacy, creative credit and copyright. Rather than focusing on what the students should not do online, we attend to responsible use which fosters learners who can effectively engage with the internet in a safe way.

Please visit the Library Media Center or contact me for more information!

Kind regards,

Claudine Lavoie

Library Media Specialist

claudine_lavoie@whps.org

Author Visit!

November 16th



We are so excited to welcome David Biedrzycki to Braeburn on November 16, 2018. David is an author and illustrator who published several picture books for children in the primary grades. He began illustrating books when he was four years old, writing his first superhero book in second grade and continues to create stories for children today. As a writer and illustrator, Mr. Biedrzycki has an understanding of the strategies necessary to develop life long readers and writers with first hand experience in publishing books at a young age. Mr. Biedrzycki says, "Since 1998 I have been creating art on my computer. I bring this technology with me to school visits and wow the students with a giant screen presentation. I show them the basic seeds I use to create my ideas for books and how I write and draw my stories at the same time. I also create digital art right in front of them and leave a copy of it for the school to hang up." What an exciting demonstration of literature and technology combining right in front of our students' eyes. On November 16th, classes in grades K-3 will see how he creates the art for his books and have a chance to ask him questions about the writing process.

If you would like an autographed copy of one of his books, please see the flyer on the next page

This visit would not be possible without the generous support of the Foundation for West Hartford Public School and the Catherine and Martin Woods Family Grant. Thank you!!

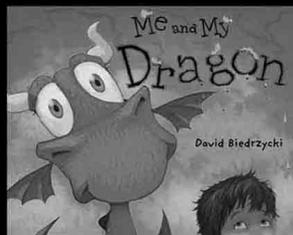


Students Name: _____ Teacher _____

Children's Author/Illustrator **David Biedrzycki** Book orderform



Breaking News Bear Alert
Winner of Georgia State
and Illinois State Monarch
Book Award



(If no name is listed book will just be signed)

| Title | Softcover | Qty. | Hardcover | Qty. | Personalize to: |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| The Freshwater Alphabet Book | \$8 | | N/A | | |
| The Boat Alphabet Book | \$8 | | N/A | | |
| Dory Story | \$8 | | \$17 | | |
| The Underwater Counting Book | \$8 | | N/A | | |
| The Beetle Alphabet Book | \$8 | | \$17 | | |
| Ace Lacewing Bug Detective | \$8 | | <i>sold out</i> | | |
| Ace Lacewing Bad Bugs Are My Business | \$8 | | \$17 | | |
| Ace Lacewing in The Big Swat | \$8 | | \$17 | | |
| Santa's New Jet | \$8 | | \$17 | | |
| Santa Retires | \$8 | | <i>sold out</i> | | |
| Me and My Dragon | \$8 | | \$18 | | |
| Me and My Dragon Halloween | \$8 | | N/A | | |
| Mi dragon y yo | \$8 | | \$18 | | |
| Me and My Dragon Christmas Spirit | | N/A | \$18 | | |
| Breaking News Bear Alert | \$9 | | \$18 | | |
| Breaking News Bears to the Rescue | | N/A | \$18 | | |
| Breaking News Alien Alert | | N/A | \$18 | | |
| Groundhog's Runaway Shadow | | N/A | \$17 | | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| Total Order | Softcover | | Hardcover | |
|--------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|

Cash or check accepted. Have checks payable to David Biedrzycki
Please attach check with paper clip if possible.

WANTED: Braeburn Library Volunteers



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

I will schedule a time to train any person who would like to help in the library. In the training, 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. If you're interested in helping, please send in the information below or email claudine_lavoie@whps.org. Thank you!

Name _____

Home Phone _____

Email address _____

Child's Name _____ Teacher's Name _____

Available days/times: _____

School Picture Day!



We focus on *you!*

Friday, October 12, 2018



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.



West Hartford Public Schools
Nutrition Services

Happening In The Café

Munchables

(bento boxes)

Featuring



FEATURED LUNCH

Friday October 19th

Steak & Cheese Pinwheel

Tender Steak and Cheese Wrapped in a
Whole Grain Dough



Spook-tacular

Halloween Nuggets

Tender chicken with a whole grain breading

October 31st



These great entrees, along with all the lunches we serve, are offered with an assortment of FRESH FRUITS and VEGETABLES which are sourced locally when possible

Playhouse Theatre Group, Inc. and Playhouse on Park Announces the Formation of Playhouse Theatre Academy!

Playhouse Theatre Academy is a theatre school offering recreational classes and pre-professional training for both children & adults. All programs, classes and workshops will now be held at the beautiful 224 EcoSpace which is conveniently located for anyone in Greater Hartford area or beyond. Registration is now open for fall and year-round classes. Additional classes are being added regularly. We are also interested in learning of days/times/programs that work for you! For more information about Playhouse Theatre Academy, The 224 EcoSpace and/or any of the classes listed below visit www.PlayhouseOnPark.org or contact our Director of Education Elizabeth Simmons at ESimmons@PlayhouseTheatreGroup.org or 860-523-5900 x 15.

Young Actor Core Programs are offered in 9-week sessions. You can register for fall, winter and/or spring sessions. Class descriptions, teaching artists' bios and complete schedules are available online:

CREATIVE KIDS (Grades K - 2)

Mondays 4:30 - 5:30 pm, Instructor: Tori Mooney or
Saturdays 10am - 11am, Instructor: Erin Lafferty

PUTTIN ON A SHOW (Grades 1 - 3)

Mondays 5:30 -6:30 pm, Instructor: Tori Mooney

YOUNG ACTORS (Grades 3-5)

Wed. 4:30 - 5:30 pm, Instructor: Emily Santarsiero

ACTOR PERFORMANCE TRAINING PROGRAM (Grades 6-8) - year long program!

Thurs. 4:00 - 5:30pm, Instructor: Emily Santarsiero

Young Actor Workshops are specialty courses offered in 5-week sessions, once per year. Class descriptions, teaching artists' bios and complete schedules are available online:

MUSICAL THEATRE (Grades 3 - 8) Fall only!

Wednesdays 5:30pm - 7pm, Instructor: Chris Coffey

COMEDY/IMPROV (Grades 3-8) winter only!

Wednesdays. 5:30 - 6:30pm, Instructor: TBA

For more information about Playhouse Theatre Academy, The 224 EcoSpace and/or any of the classes listed below visit www.PlayhouseOnPark.org or contact our Director of Education Elizabeth Simmons at ESimmons@PlayhouseTheatreGroup.org or 860-523-5900 x 15. General number 860-523-5900 x 10



Scarecrow Party: Fund Raiser for Westmoor Park and Friends of Fern

Age 3 and up

Scarecrows aren't really scary, they're funny and whimsical, or they might make you look twice to see if there's a real person standing out in the garden. If you love scarecrows watching over your garden or as a yard decoration, then you'll love this new special program at Westmoor Park.

You will need to bring an old pair of long pants and a long sleeve shirt, a hat, gloves and boots can be added if you wish. We'll provide instruction and inspiration, along with the stick frame and stuffing for your scarecrow.

The party will take place at Westmoor Park on Sunday afternoon, October 14th from 2:00 – 4:00pm. (Rain date Sunday October 21st, 2:00 – 4:00pm) Advance registration is required for planning purposes. *Instructor: Westmoor staff and Friends of Fern Volunteers*

Cost: \$30 per Family to make (1) one Scarecrow, additional donations to support the parks are appreciated.

| Program # | Day | Date | Time | Res/NRes |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| 522822 A | Sunday | 10/14 | 2:00-4:00PM | \$30/\$30 |
| Rain Date 10/21 | | | | |

Location: Westmoor Park

Registration online, in person, by fax or mail to Westmoor Park

Westmoor Park
119 Flagg Rd., West Hartford, CT
Ph.: 860.561.8260 Fax: 860.236.3815
www.westmoorpark.org
westmoorpark@westhartfordct.gov



Newington Children's Theatre Company 2018-2019

AGES 8-18 - SCHOOL-YEAR MUSICALS

Take to the NCTC stage in one of our school-year performances! Shows are double cast, with rehearsal one to two nights a week (some Saturdays). Performances will take place at John Wallace Middle School in Newington. Every cast member receives a free show t-shirt! Fee: \$300

PETER PAN JR

AUDITIONS: January 7-9

REHEARSALS: January 14-March 14

PERFORMANCES: March 15-24

Wendy Darling loves to tell stories to her brothers, Michael and John. But when her father announces she must move out of the nursery, Peter Pan comes to visit the children and whisks them away to Neverland.



MARY POPPINS JR

AUDITIONS: March 27 & 28

REHEARSALS: April-May

PERFORMANCES: May-June*

*Once performance venue is secured, dates will be confirmed.

Using a combination of magic and common sense, Mary Poppins must teach the family members how to value each other again.



AGES 5-8 - IN PERFORMANCE

In Performance gives kids the opportunity to learn and strengthen their musical theatre skills, while becoming more comfortable with being on stage. Throughout the class, kids learn blocking, music and choreography in preparation to become part of the upcoming production. Every cast member receives a free show t-shirt! Three sessions to choose from! Thursdays: 4:30-5:30, Saturdays: 8:30-9:30am OR Saturdays: 10:00-11:00am. In addition to the weekly classes, participants are asked to attend two rehearsals with the older cast (TBD). Fee: \$150

THE WIZARD OF OZ

October 18-November 15

October 27-November 17

PETER PAN JR

February 21-March 7

February 23-March 9

MARY POPPINS JR

Dates TBD



Performing Arts Theatre

The WIZARD of OZ™

Young Performers' Edition

November 30-December 9, 2018

**Fridays at 7pm
Saturdays at 2pm & 7pm
Sundays at 2pm**

**860.666.NCTC
www.NCTCArts.org**

Performed at John Wallace Middle School ~ 71 Halleran Drive, Newington

ELC Lottery Applications



The Early Learning Center at Whiting Lane School and Aiken Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The program is family centered and has half day sessions that meet four days a week. A lottery will be conducted in January. To be considered for the program, children must be three years old by September 1, 2019, toilet-trained by the start of the school year and exhibit age-appropriate language, social and play skills. All applicants must participate in a play-based screening prior to being considered for the lottery selection. If you are interested, please contact Pam Macca at (860) 233-1455. The application process will close on December 15, 2018.

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



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.



Martin Smith, LMFT

Children Benefit from a Growth Mindset

This time of year, we parents are focused on how to support our children as they begin school. We know that our kids will inevitably face obstacles, setbacks, criticisms, and that their roads will not always be smooth; however, watching them negotiate rocky paths can be difficult. While we may not have full control over which challenges our kids will face, what we can do is help them develop a mindset for how to approach and manage them.

In her book Mindset, Carol Dweck, Ph.D. encourages parents to remember the inherent value in challenging experiences. Rather than interpreting perceived failures as a fixed character trait, Dweck reminds us that talents and abilities can actually be developed through challenges. She encourages us as parents to help our children view taking risks, facing challenges, and risking failure as helpful things that are an important part of their development. We can support this process by creating a context in which a growth mindset can flourish. Here are some thoughts for how:

REACT TO SETBACKS AND FAILURES AS EXPERIENCES THAT ENHANCE LEARNING

Help kids ask themselves: What is this setback teaching me? What should I do next? Where can I get support? Kids need to know that through hard work, good strategies, and good use of resources, they can be better learners and grow from setbacks. Remind them that challenges provide opportunity for growth.

CREATE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT AT HOME

How well children's everyday needs are met has a significant impact on their education and how well they can mentally and physically respond to challenges. Like adults, kids are better able to manage stressful situations when they are rested, well fed, and have consistent homework and activity schedules. Teach them this, so they can make choices about when to try and manage challenging thoughts or projects.

If kids seem to be "spinning" or getting overwhelmed by feelings of stress or failure, help them evaluate if they are hungry, tired, or in need of a break. If they are, encourage them to meet those needs first before dealing with their struggle, and ask them later if that break was helpful. We can help our kids understand cause and effect, so they begin to learn how to care for themselves during trying times.



WHAT DO WE DO?

We work every day to strengthen lives.

(continued)

If we want to help our kids develop a growth mindset, we first have to ensure that they are mentally and physically comfortable enough to be receptive to it.

BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

We are better positioned as parents to understand situations at school and dynamics our children may be managing when we know the players, and that insight will make it easier to offer guidance. Get to know teachers, friends, activities, and curricula as much as possible. We can show interest and be curious about these things when we are with our kids. Families are busy, and we cannot do everything, but we can do our best to pick and choose important events to attend at school. We can reach out and communicate with teachers, show appreciation for their commitment to our children, and highlight what we see as going well and what is challenging.

As we support our kids in school, we can try to think back and remember our own struggles at that age to bring a level of understanding and empathy to what is going on with our kids. The world has changed a great deal since we were young, but many of the developmental struggles are the same. As Carol Dweck points out, struggle and challenge is how we grow, and one of the best things we can do for our kids at this age is to help them learn that. With each struggle they encounter and then manage, their confidence will grow. And as they age, they will know that they are prepared to meet whatever life brings their way.

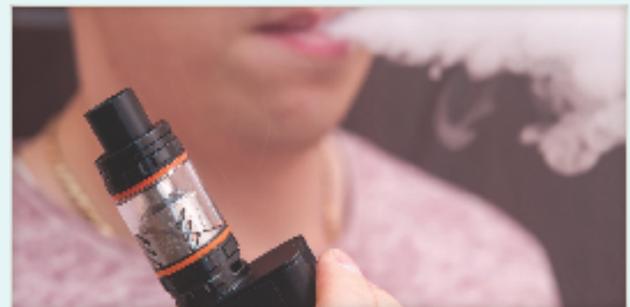
Good luck! And if the road gets a little too bumpy and you need support for your child or yourself, we are here.

If you would like to pursue counseling for yourself or your child, be in touch. Call us at 860.521.8035. We take insurance and have evening and Saturday hours.



VISIT THE BASE AT THE WEST HARTFORD TEEN CENTER

Located in the basement of the Elmwood Community Center, THE BASE is open Monday and Friday 2:30-5:00 p.m. and Wednesday 1:00-3:30 p.m. Teen Nights will be held this fall from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on the following dates: October 19, November 30, and December 21. Any West Hartford resident in grades 9-12 is welcome to drop in. Admission is free.



VAPING IS DANGEROUS—AND ON THE RISE AMONG TEENS

The rate of youth cigarette smoking is at historic lows, but the number of kids using electronic ("e") cigarettes—known as vaping—has increased. E-cigarettes were created to help adult smokers stop smoking. And while they do contain fewer toxic chemicals than regular cigarettes, they still contain nicotine. Many teens believe there are no serious health risks and that they are simply inhaling vaporized, flavored water. NOT TRUE. Nicotine is the primary ingredient in e-cigarettes, and fun-flavored vapors often contain lead, zinc, chromium and nickel. Vaping nicotine is extremely addictive and can cause memory and attention loss, especially in the developing teenage brain. It also leads to greater use of other substances like marijuana and cocaine. Send a clear message to your kids: DO. NOT. VAPE.

Every Family School Edition is a newsletter of the Bridge Family Center | 1022 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107-2105 | 860.521.8035 | info@bridgefamilycenter.org | Learn more by visiting www.bridgefamilycenter.org Facebook.com/BridgeFamilyCenter | Executive Director: Margaret A. Hann | Editor: Amanda Aronson | The Bridge is a private, nonprofit youth and family service agency offering a broad range of services to children, youth, families, and adults.



Trick or Treat Street

Come join Conard students for some Safe Halloween Trick-or-Treating! Bring your little Goblins and Ghouls to Conard on October 26th from 4 ~ 6 pm to Trick-or-Treat at classroom doors. Children Pre-K thru grade 3 are welcome, accompanied by an adult.

Admission is \$3 for children with a canned food item and \$4 without.

All proceeds go to the Freshmen & Sophomore Class Boards to help defray costs for Senior Year Activities.

All canned food items will be donated to the WH Food Pantry.



Stop&Shop[®]

Special thanks to Stop & Shop for continuing to sponsor this community event!

Contact Holly D'Addario at: Holly_Daddario@whps.org with any questions.

West Hartford Special Education PTO News

October 2018

ONGOING

2018-2019 Membership Drive

Receive *The Everyday Parenting Toolkit* by Alan E. Kazdin FREE with your 2018-2019 West Hartford SEPTO Membership; which is just \$15! A book discussion will be held at the Noah Webster Library on Tuesday, March 19

led by Matthew Carbone, MEd, MA, BCBA District-Wide Board Certified Behavior Analyst with West Hartford Public Schools.

Register for your 2018-2019 WHSEPTO Membership at <https://www.whsepto.org/membership.html>

NEW! Online Parent Support Group

http://bit.ly/WHSEPTO_SUPPORT

Caring for a child with special needs or differently abled can be challenging but it doesn't have to be lonely! Join our NEW Online Parent Support Group for friendship and support. Please note: this is a Facebook "Closed" group. You will need a Facebook account to join.

Internet Safety for Our Student and the CareCard

Tuesday, December 11th at 7pm, King Philip Middle School Media Center

Officer Cummings of the CT State Police will discuss internet safety, social media awareness, and current

CT online trends with an emphasis on how special needs children process and partake in social media. The presentation covers current Connecticut laws, social media trends, and free online resources. Officer Kisela of the West Hartford Police Department will join us to register your student for CareCards.



During the third week of October, all **third graders** will participate in the InView Test of Cognitive Skills. It is part of our town wide testing program and the purpose of the test is to provide information on students' ability to think rather than on their achievement. The test takes approximately two hours and is completed in multiple sessions.