



THE BROOKFIELD BROADCAST

Create Your Tomorrow

Brookfield Public Schools Newsletter - Spring 2017



The Brookfield Broadcast provides insight into the outstanding efforts of our students and teachers in a host of areas.

In Brookfield, we believe each day presents a new opportunity to support our students in their pursuit of academic, artistic, social, and athletic excellence while promoting the ethos of service. Furthermore, our intentionally designed, highly engaging experiences help develop student leadership skills, celebrating their voice in a socially and emotionally supportive environment.

The cornerstones of our Strategic Plan includes specific skill development in communication/collaboration, critical thinking/problem-solving, creativity/innovation and character/connection. As I have said before, the daily work begins with each of us as we hold ourselves and each other accountable to ensure the children enjoy an extraordinary educational experience. We support and work with each individual to set challenging goals and inspire our students to stop at nothing in "Creating Their Tomorrow"!

We welcome your feedback as we strive to continuously improve. Please feel free to contact us at 203-775-7620; email <http://www.brookfield.k12.ct.us/district/webforms/contact-us>; Twitter @SUPR_BARILE or visit us on Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/brookfieldps> 100 Pocono Road, Brookfield, CT 06804.

Superintendent
John W. Barile

THE BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS...

Brookfield High School students showed off their musical and theatrical talents in their recent production of *The Addams Family*. The cast, crew, and pit orchestra worked together seamlessly to showcase the comedic pitfalls of this unique, and at times quite scary, family living in the middle of Central Park. Mr. LaMendola directed yet another masterpiece accompanied by Mr. St. George's masterful leadership of the music. The newly installed, state of the art, lighting and sound systems proved to be a real difference-maker that highlighted the amazing student talent on stage.

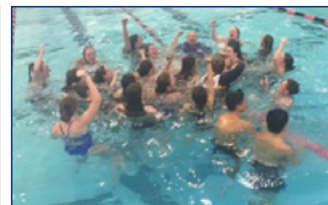


STATE CHAMPIONS, AGAIN!

The Boys Basketball and Swimming and Diving teams took home CIAC state championships this season. While this is not the first time our boys-in-the-pool have earned top honors, it is the inaugural win for our boys on the basketball court. Combine these two winter championships with our fall championships, thanks to our Girls Swimming and Diving team and Boys Soccer team, and BHS is now at 4 state championships in one school year. That is quite an amazing feat. Our coaches work tirelessly to ensure our student-athletes excel in the classroom before they step foot into the athletic arena. Everyone, including parents and fans, contributed to these winning seasons.



**BHS BOYS
BASKETBALL
TEAM WINS STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR THE FIRST TIME!**



CES COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Each month, Center School students gather for a Community Meeting. Beginning each meeting with our "School Family" song, these meetings are specifically designed to help the students build a sense of belonging in their school community. Throughout the year, every student has an opportunity to present at one school meeting and celebrate the work they are doing every day in the classroom. As a school, we honor the learning and growth of every student.



SCIENCE FAIR

Huckleberry Hill Elementary School conducted its annual school wide Science Fair on Thursday, March 16th. Projects were displayed in the upper gym. The goal of the Science fair is to develop and share a love of science! Congratulations to our future Scientists!



ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

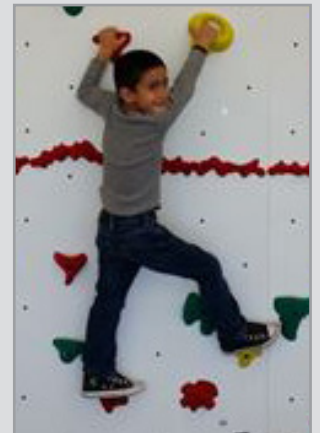
Brookfield's Odyssey of the Mind teams had tremendous success at the CTOM competition at Southern CT State University Saturday. There were 160 teams participating from all across Connecticut. As in years past, Brookfield's OM teams have performed extremely well, and this year FIVE teams will be representing Brookfield at the OM World Finals at Michigan State University in May. There are THREE teams attending from WMS, one team from HHES and one team from the high school.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.



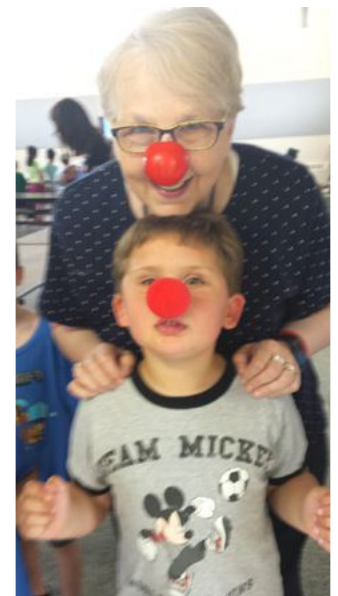
CES WALL CLIMB

Center School added a climbing wall to our gymnasium this fall thanks to the efforts of our physical education teacher, Joe Genovese and the generosity of the Brookfield Education Foundation. This wall is specially designed for young children and can be adapted to reinforce academic skills taught in the classroom at the same time students are "climbing." The motor planning and problem-solving skills required to complete the traverse wall support students' physical growth. The wall has quickly become a favorite physical education class activity.



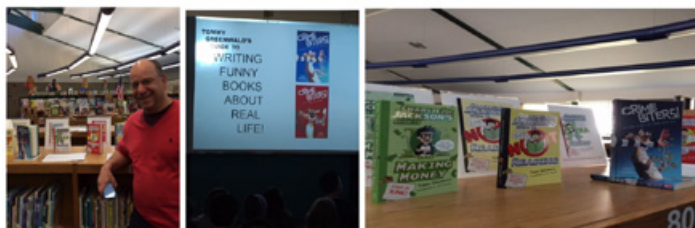
CES RED NOSE DAY

Throughout the year, students at Center School support the broader community. Through PTO sponsored drives, students collect winter gear for local children. Later in the year, students collect cleaning supplies and school snacks for the Brookfield Food Pantry. This spring, Center School participated in worldwide Red Nose Day for the second time! On this day, students contribute loose change in exchange for a red nose and are treated to classic cartoons at lunch. Monies raised support children's causes world-wide.



AUTHOR TOMMY GREENWALD VISITS WITH OUR GRADE 3 & GRADE 4

Author Tommy Greenwald made a repeat visit to HHES. He talked with our fourth graders about the joy of reading. Mr. Greenwald's first character, Charlie Joe Jackson, is based on his own children. He explained to the students that he began writing to inspire his own children to love reading. Tommy Greenwald's books are currently in the library. Thank you to our HHES PTO for sponsoring this great author visit!



EARLY START TO CODING AT CES

Students at Center School learned early coding skills through the use of the OSMO app for the iPad this fall in a combined Library Media Skills and Art class. Under the direction of Mrs. Joyce Zaldo and Mrs. Fearon, students worked on the basic steps of coding, while practicing collaboration, problem solving, perseverance, and computer literacy. After the introductory lessons, the OSMO coding apps and tools were distributed to classrooms. Students have been able to continue practicing and exploring their problem solving skills with these engaging materials.



MRS. ORZOLEK'S UKULELE CLASS

Students at Center School are learning to play the ukulele! Mrs. Lynn Orzolek, music teacher at Center School, uses this instrument to reinforce the basic music curriculum. Students are engaged and happy to strum to her beat as they successfully play their first song on day one! Lynn patiently helps each child learn to hold, strum, and finger basic cords throughout the ukulele instruction unit.



FRESHMAN FORUM

This fall, Brookfield HighSchool hosted its first ever Freshman Forum entitled "Connections, Conversations, and Actions". The forum is an essential part of the 9th grade Health curriculum and all 9th grade students and parents attended the evening presentation. The event featured speakers from the community including our Superintendent, Chief of Police, our School Resource Officer, a criminal defense lawyer, a social worker, our director of Special Services, a young woman who is in recovery from drug addiction and that young woman's mother. These speakers shared their personal experiences from multiple perspectives on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse. A brief question and answer session followed the presentation. We are proud to share this vital information to better educate our school community about this ever-growing issue.



BROOKFIELD SUPERINTENDENT JOHN BARILE

In preparation for "READ Across America Day" on March 2nd, Superintendent Barile read Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs & Ham to Mrs. Ranieri's Third Grade Class. Thank you to Superintendent Barile!

HHES plans to Drop Everything And Read (DEAR). Activities include in and outside of classroom experiences as well as a whole-school reading sing-a-long. Students brought home Dr. Seuss reading materials that were shared with family members as we continue to work on building reading fluency through reading aloud. Across the country, thousands of schools participate in Read Across America Day each year by bringing kids and books together. We encourage you to 'Drop Everything And Read' with us!





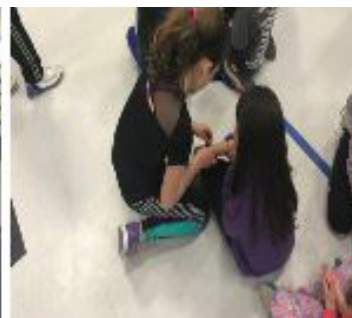
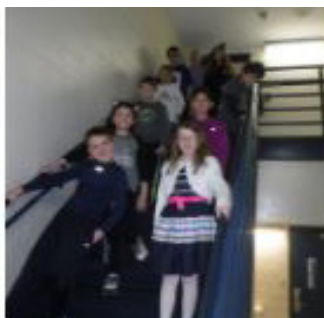
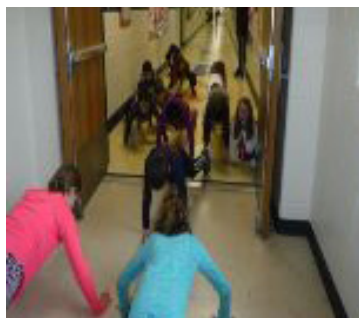
FIRST ROBOTICS AND SEAPERCH

Our future engineers are working to get their robots prepped for their next competition. Our FIRST Robotics students, Team 1099 - Disco Techs, have competed in several local and district events with plans to participate in the district championship at the University of New Hampshire. This year's challenge is Steamworks and asks teams to work collaboratively with technology to provide airships with the necessary resources for a long distance flight. Our SeaPerch students participated in local competitions where they put the robot they build through an underwater obstacle course. Two Brookfield High School students will compete in the national competition in May at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. STEM is our future!

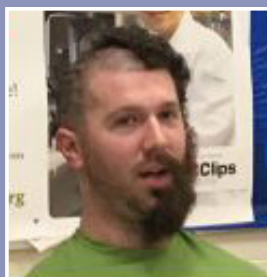
RISE AND SHINE BEGINS AT HHES

Back by popular demand! Rise and Shine Morning Boost! 2017 began Tuesday, March 7th. Join the HHES school nurses, Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Werner, along with our PE teachers, Ms. Olivier and Mr. Cudney, as we exercise, dance and walk the hallways! This takes place every Tuesday morning from 8:00AM-8:30AM, in the upper gym, during the months of March, April, May and June.

As part of our exercise program, we would like each participant to bring 2 cans of food. These items will be used to help us exercise our arms and upper bodies. At the completion of the program, these items will be donated to Brookfield Social Services. After each session, students will receive a token donated by the HHES PTO.



ST. BALDRICK'S



Brookfield High School's Peer Counselors hosted a St. Baldrick's head-shaving event to raise money for childhood cancer research. While the initial event was postponed due to a mid-March snowstorm, those brave souls who agreed to shave their heads to show solidarity with children who lose their hair due to cancer treatment, were ready to go two weeks later. The Superintendent of Schools and principle Balanda agreed to shave their heads if the group raised over \$5000. They did have to get their locks cut because the students raised nearly \$10000 over the course of a few months. The Peer Counselors intend to continue to raise money for St. Baldrick's in the coming years..



WMS SPELLING BEE

This year the WMS Spelling Bee went on for 30 rounds! Third place was 7th grader Samhita S., second place was 7th grader Emmanuel D., and the first place winner, who moved on to the Connecticut Regional Spelling Bee at the Noah Webster House, was 7th grader Zaen Q. The winning word was exponentially. Zaen came in fifth place at the regional competition. Thanks to Mr. Cook for leading our spellers this year.



INTERNATIONAL WEEK

HHES celebrated International Week in numerous ways, including visits from family members who shared about their cultures with students and staff. Families were invited to come into school and present a variety of aspects of their culture. Presentations included music, dances, food, and clothing. The hallways at HHES displayed colorful artifacts, flags, and facts about different countries. Thank you to all the families who took the time to share with our students.

Senorita Solis y Senora Kane organized the visits during Spanish instructional times.



WESTERN REGION MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

This year WMS had 5 students participate in the Western Region Middle School Music Festival at Western Connecticut State University. Shruti K. sang alto in the chorus, Katie Y. sang soprano in the chorus, Evan K. played trumpet in the jazz band, Trem A. played alto sax in concert band, and Sean E. played alto sax in concert band. Thanks to Ms. Grace, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Vogel for leading these phenomenal musicians.



WMS PEER LEADERS VISIT GR2

It's become an annual tradition - WMS Peer Leaders visit HHES with books in hand! This fabulous learning opportunity is also a time for former students to see some of their favorite teachers. Approximately 25 of WMS's 5th & 6th grade Peer Leaders came to HHES to read with our Grade 2 students this year. In small attentive groups, Peer Leaders read their favorite books and in turn, were read to by Huckleberry's second graders. WMS students were accompanied by Emily Kupper & Shannon Leitch - Gr 5 teachers



DR. EINSTEIN SCIENCE AND MATH COMEDY SHOW

Students were entertained by "Dr. Einstein's" comedy and musical talent while learning about math and science. Topics included simple addition and subtraction, fractions, gravity and relativity, planets and the solar system, rainbows and light, time and time zones, and travel. Musical numbers in this show included "Somewhere Over The Rainbow", "Happy Birthday", "Planets In The Sky" and "Wonderful World." Thank you to the HHES PTO for sponsoring this engaging and popular school-wide learning assembly.



NATIONAL HISTORY BEE

WMS students Christopher B., Joseph M., and Margaret S., qualified for the regional finals of the National History Bee in Bridgeport, CT. Thanks to their advisor, Mr. Milde.

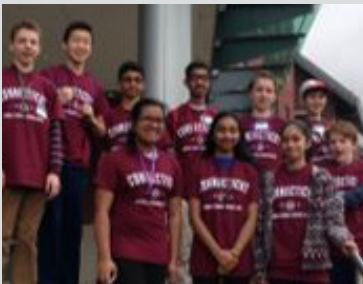
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016

GRADUATES	209
4-YEAR COLLEGE	174
2-YEAR COLLEGE	10
MILITARY/GAP/WORK	25

FINANCIAL AND REGULATORY CONTROL

After over a year of examining and then pursuing enhanced financial and regulatory controls, we are thrilled to report that we have addressed almost all of the BlumShapiro recommendations as a conclusion to Phase I (Policy & Procedure Audit Recommendations) and Phase II (implementation Uniform Chart of Accounts) of this town wide project.

This is an exciting time for Brookfield in that these fundamental procedures will impact our trajectory for the future. Through collaboration with the Town, we will now transition to Phase III (Munis Conversion) of this important process, July 1st, propelling Brookfield to a model of financial and regulatory controls.



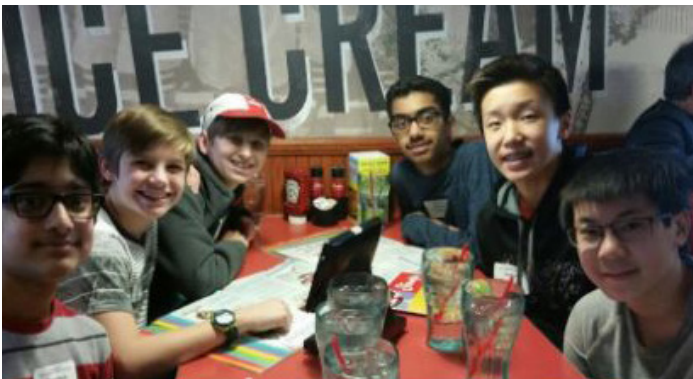
CONNECTICUT MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL

WMS students participated in the Connecticut Middle School Science Bowl at UCONN this year. We had two teams participate. Thanks to their advisors, Mrs. D'Amora and Mrs. Cohen.

- The 8th grade team consisted of Mahika Y., Alex D., Andrew Y., Ian B., and Adharsh K. Overall the 8th graders finished 7th out of 32 teams.
- The 7th grade team was made up of Ryan M., Rohan S., Samhita S., Shruti K., and Gregory F. Overall the 7th graders finished 12th out of 32 teams. We are very proud of their efforts.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

Our WMS Mathcounts Team took 1st place at the Northwest Regional Mathcounts Competition for the third year in a row. The team consisted of Parker A. (33rd), Alex D. (3rd), Avery H. (1st), Adharsh K. (8th), Ben M. (5th), Omkar M. (22nd), Rohan S. (16th), Adeethya S. (12th), Zaen Q. (40th), and Andrew Y. (5th). Six of the students (Alex, Avery, Adharsh, Ben, Adeethya, and Andrew) were in the top 12 so they moved on to the state finals at University of Hartford. At the State Mathcounts Competition, the team placed 1st in Connecticut. This is the second time the team has won the state championships, the other year was in 2011.



STRATEGIC COHERENCE PLAN

Goal #1- Goals for Learning

The district has identified, defined and committed to supporting a focused set of appropriate student learning goals that will ensure student success in life, learning and work beyond school.

Goal #2- Teaching for Learning

The district has committed to supporting instructional and adult learning strategies that ensure rigorous digitally supported pedagogical experiences aligned with the district's student goals.

Goal #3- Measures of Learning

The district has committed to using and reporting on appropriate and balanced measures of student and adult success that are aligned with its student learning goals.

Goal #4- Alignment and Coherence

The district is aligning its supporting organizational systems to support the acquisition of its student learning goals.

STUDENTS WHO THRIVE!

By Mr. Charlie Manos, Director of Special Services.



Research in the area of social emotional learning has taught us much about what attributes and skills help our children to thrive, become resilient and ultimately act as both protective factors against challenging situations while supporting future success. This article will focus on those attributes.

Core Attributes Necessary for Children to Thrive

Mood Mastery: The ability to regulate one's mood, internal emotional state and sooth oneself.

Respect: The ability to develop, understand and internalize healthy boundaries and parameters through their interactions with adults.

Expressiveness: The ability to identify, understand, and communicate their thoughts and feelings in mutually trusting and safe relationships.

Passion: The ability to develop a love for learning while learning how to deal with disappointment, competitiveness, and perfectionism.

Peer Smarts: The ability to successfully navigate peer relationships through trusting their feelings and instincts, informed problem solving and knowing when to walk away from some of those relationships.

Focus: The ability to develop over time skills in the area of organization by increasing complexity of demands while simultaneously building perseverance.

Body Comfort: The ability for a child to accept the way they look; to think but not obsess about it, to avoid struggles around food and to avoid sexual attitudes that affect self-image.

Caution: The ability for children to seek guidance before first-time events and not be afraid to discuss difficulties afterward.

Team Intelligence: The ability to learn and implement the basic laws of group dynamics so that they can function well with others without losing their individuality.

Gratitude: The ability to develop a healthy appreciation for their strengths, that they are not the center of world, that they are here to make the world a better place to live and that giving back is a critical reason for our existence.

WHAT CAN GROWN-UPS DO TO HELP?

Adult Factors Which Foster & Support Resiliency in Children

Set & Communicate High & Realistic Expectations

Set Clear & Consistent Boundaries

Increase Opportunities for Bonding and Consecutiveness

Teach Life Skills

Provide Care & Support

Provide Opportunities for Meaningful Participation in Decision Making/Problem Solving.

Students who thrive and have a high probability of future success have more of these skills and attributes and have adults in their life who "intentionally" and "mindfully" cultivate these attributes. These attributes also buffer our students against mental health challenges and substance abuse (self-medication). They also promote the desire to do well in school academically and tend to overcome or successful deal with learning challenges.



CES Staff Recognizes "Autism Awareness Day"

ASSESSMENT LITERACY

By Maureen Ruby, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent

As both a parent and an educator, I know that "assessment literacy" - understanding assessment - is critical to instruction and to meeting the needs of all students. To provide a high quality education, several key components are absolutes: (1) standards reflective of what students must know and be able to do, (2) a sound, standards-aligned curriculum, (3) excellent instruction, and (4) an assessment system to measure the effectiveness of both curriculum and instruction.

To read the complete article, go to :

http://www.brookfield.k12.ct.us/sites/brookfieldps/files/uploads/assessment_article_dr_ruby_0.pdf

