

The Briarwood Buzz

By: Mrs. Norris

January Issue

From the Principal.....

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are approaching the half-way mark of this school year! The children came back to school after winter break revived and ready to learn!

Congratulations to Mr. Jeremy Serfozo on being selected as Briarwood's Teacher of the Year! We are so happy and lucky to have Mr. Serfozo as a part of the Briarwood family. For a short bio to honor him, please read about him on our website, our document manager, or in the local paper.

Florham Park Kindergarten Registration is here! Please see our website for more information.

Registration Open House

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020

Time: 10:00am-3:30pm

Location: Briarwood School

151 Briarwood Rd.

As mid year approaches, the staff is taking time to review the first half of the year and set goals for the second half. Although there are no formal conferences, please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns at any time.

In February, we will be participating in various events to celebrate kindness. Our goal at Briarwood is to define what kindness is for our youngest learners in Florham Park and lay a strong foundation of understanding as they continue to grow and learn. Each day, the children will be tasked with a kindness challenge to complete. Teachers will be reading books, role playing,

and celebrating catching students being kind. Classes will be working with our guidance counselor, Ms. D'Aries, and our Briarwood Buddies on various activities. Families will also be sent ideas for how the work can be continued outside of the walls of the schools. We will be sending you materials shortly. This should be an exciting month ahead!

We are grateful for your continued support.

Warmly,
Samantha Heimple



What's Happening in Kindergarten.....

In Reader's Workshop our kindergarten students have been working hard using all of their reading superpowers! We are strengthening our reading muscles each day making us stronger readers! The classes are enjoying book shopping for books on their own level and building their reading stamina. It is amazing to see how much we have grown since the beginning of the year!

In Writer's Workshop we are working on a Narrative Unit called Writing For Readers. The students are writing true stories about moments from their lives. They are having so much fun telling stories about things that have happened to them and also listening to all of the wonderful stories their peers are writing!

In Math we are learning all about teen numbers. In addition to counting and writing the numbers the classes are using ten frames and tally marks to represent the numbers.

In recognition of Martin Luther King our classes had many discussions on kindness and ways we can make the works a better place. In Science we are learning all about Weather. We are asking questions, making observations, and gathering information to learn all we can!



HATS OFF TO OUR TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Mr. Jeremy Serfozo

We are proud to have Mr. Serfozo represent all of our fabulous educators at BWD!

Mr. Serfozo was honored at the January Board of Education Meeting.

About Mr. Serfozo:

I started my professional career here in the 2008-2009 school year in my twelfth year in the Florham Park Public Schools. Besides teaching general music, I teach chorus, handbells and Orff ensemble. I have a BA in Music Education graduating Magna Cum Laude and an MA in Educational Leadership where William Paterson University selected me as the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award. Last year, I won the Support Music Merit Award from the National Association of Music Merchants. I am also a certified Apple teacher.

I am the husband to a loving wife, Alicia, and I have a daughter, Juliette, who just celebrated her 5th birthday and will attend Kindergarten in the fall. Music is my true passion. My favorite band of all time is The Beatles and I can truly listen to anything but I gravitate to guitar music. I started playing guitar when I was 14 and I knew it was something I would do for the rest of my life. But I also love to read about colonial America and visit the many historical sites I read about since New Jersey has such a rich history. I really admire George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. Someday I hope to walk Washington's "retreat route to victory". I am an ardent supporter of the New York Rangers. I love comedies and I am currently re watching "The Office." I also have some family members that live in Florida, so I spend a lot of time planning Disney vacations for my family.



NURSE NEWS

February is Dental Health Awareness Month!

February is Dental Health Month, and the health office sees a lot of students who lose their baby teeth, many for the first time! Here are some tips to keep your child's mouth healthy.

Have your child brush their teeth twice a day especially in the morning and at night. Help younger children with proper brushing, as they may not be capable of doing a thorough cleaning themselves.

Limit sugary drinks, sport drinks and sodas as these can bath the teeth in acid during the day. Encourage water. Have your child eat a proper diet with fruits and vegetables! Limit sugary foods which can stick to the teeth causing cavities.

See a dentist for an annual checkup. This is important to prevent tooth decay.



Flu season is in session!

According to the NJ Department of Health, Influenza is on the rise in New Jersey with Strain B being predominant! As always, please remind your children to wash their hands often throughout the school day especially before snack and lunch time.

Change of Clothes

It is always a great idea to have a change of clothes for your child in his/her backpack. Not only for bathroom accidents, but for recess ones too! We have had several muddy falls this season.

Reminder

Your child must be fever free (100.3 or below) for 24 hours without medication in order to return to school. We are trying collectively to keep Briarwood germ free and healthy as can be!

As Always!!!



Flu shots are required for pre-school students only! Please bring in documentation when you have gotten your child the flu shot.



As the temperature drops please make sure your children are wearing the appropriate clothes. The students go outside for recess every day when the temperature is above 31 degrees F.

Look what's happening Around Briarwood School

Briarwood students celebrated the Lunar New Year with a parade through the halls of the school.

Second graders from Mr. Serfozo's and Mrs. Lawton's classes participated in the lion dance and played musical instruments during the parade.

2020 The Year of the Rat 





1R (Rella) and 1T (Tighe) came together to celebrate the end of our writing unit. We shared our All About Chapter Books!





TO THE PTA.....
For the Harlem Wizards assembly

All grades had a great time!



Important Dates

January 31	Sport your favorite Jersey or team color in honor of the Super Bowl!
February 12	Spirit Day – Wear Pink/Red for Valentine’s Day
February 13	Kindergarten Registration 10 am – 3:30 pm
February 13	Full Day Teacher in Service – SCHOOLS CLOSED
February 14 - 17	Winter Recess – SCHOOLS CLOSED
February 28.	BWD Spirit Day – Wear Bulldogs or Blue/White