

## Principal's Newsletter Brookhaven Elementary School

January/February, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

May the New Year bring you as much hope, joy, and excitement as the last four months have brought me as your principal. Your children are happy learners who enter our schoolhouse eager to learn each day! I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the successes here at Brookhaven School evidenced during the first semester:

1. Established data teams comprised of teachers and administrators continue to explore fall and winter literacy assessment results of all students, K-3. Moreover, an October NYS English Language Arts test was administered to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and scored, and an upcoming January practice is also scheduled. Student results on these New York State practice exams are continuously disaggregated and analyzed by our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade data team. Such data is being used to plan for necessary small group instruction to address specific student needs and document growth in the months leading up to the spring grade 3 assessments.
2. A team of educators is in the process of defining our School Improvement Plan for "Excellence". We also have already begun the process for applying as a Suffolk County Honor School!
3. Our Shared Decision Making Team is exploring content-based science and social studies nonfictional materials for small group reading instruction in the classrooms that address New York State standards in these areas.
4. Teachers have been extremely active in their own professional development to enhance instruction for all. They have participated in differentiation workshops, mentoring programs, "New Teacher Institutes" as well as professional development in guided reading instruction that focuses on emphasizing higher level processing strategies (comprehension). In addition, teachers have had training in student assessment practices and technology instruction that pairs with our wonderful ENO boards the district has purchased!
5. A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class conducted their first live video conference with a partner school overseas in London, England! There will be many more virtual chats with our London peers in the months ahead!
6. Our Science Fair Planning Team is already preparing for this school-wide spring event, leading up to our students' participation in the Brookhaven National Lab competition!
7. Many character-based initiatives have been implemented, such as our "Catch-a-Kid Being Good" program as well as the Honor Bus program. As a school, we have school-spirit items ready to be awarded to students who accumulate "Catch-a-Kid" coupons for great character!

I want to express my thanks to you for your active involvement in our school. We welcome your involvement and interest as we collectively celebrate the many talents of our students as learners. Please continue to take the time and ask your child how his/her day was, inquire about what he/she has learned, and take a look at some of the work your child is engaged in daily. These are all great ways to stay involved in your child's education.

As we welcome in a new year, let's focus on the important things in our lives – our children. I wish you the very best and hope that 2011 is a time for you to reconnect with our wonderful school.

*With best wishes,  
Mrs. Linda Jean Rozzi, Principal*

## **Brookhaven Students Give Back to Their Community:**

Let Brookhaven students be known as those who value community service! Under the supervision of school social workers Grace Reynolds-Victor and Anne Haddad, third grade students helped to assemble food baskets for families prior to the holidays. Due to the generosity of our entire school community, we collected many donated canned and boxed food items for the gift baskets. Students and staff school-wide also collected warm hats, mittens, scarves and gloves as well as gently used and new coats. We thank the third graders for participating in this worthwhile cause as they give back to their community!



In late fall, the Courtyard Committee organized a fall cleanup of our beautiful Brookhaven courtyard. Students and staff came out to weed, rake and plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Special thanks to teacher Jessica Weinberg who organized the event and our wonderful students who came out with their families to support this initiative! The Courtyard Committee is also currently researching the possibility of starting an edible garden for Brookhaven and writing numerous grants!

**We welcome back familiar faces to  
our staff this January!!!:**

**Mrs. Ami Richardson – PK**  
**Mrs. Jennifer Drake – Kindertgarten**  
**Mrs. Melony White – Kindertgarten**  
**Mrs. Crista Pervelis – School Social Worker**  
**Mrs. Stacey Weber – School Psychologist**

## **Brookhaven Welcomes Our New Assistant Principal, Mr. Davey!**

Give a warm welcome to Mr. Travis Davey, Brookhaven's new Assistant Principal! Before coming to Brookhaven, Mr. Davey served as an elementary Assistant Principal in Raleigh, North Carolina. We are glad he is an important part of our school and wish him much success in his new role. Mr. Davey is a graduate of Notre Dame University.

# Writer's Workshop

*Making writing a lifelong habit for elementary students.*



Writer's Workshop is an instructional writing framework that can build students' fluency in writing through continuous, repeated exposure to the process of writing and various mentor authors. Instruction typically begins with the writing workshop "mini-lesson", in which the teacher introduces a specific writing strategy. He or she may also refer to a specific author's craft as a model to imitate. The process includes a prewriting phase, rough draft creations, revision, edit, and careful attention to final publication format and presentation methods.

At Brookhaven, our teachers introduce elements of Writer's Workshop beginning in the Kindergarten and are committed to the process of helping our young students develop their written abilities.

The goal is to create students who exhibit confidence and fluency in their written skills that will be necessary for secondary and post-secondary success. The process yields student work that is creative, informative and well done! Throughout Brookhaven, you will find our walls adorned with samples of collective and individual student writing!



### *Calling All Literacy Volunteers!*

*We at Brookhaven School are looking for any willing parents, grandparents and neighbors who would like to serve as literacy volunteers throughout the winter and spring months. We are implementing two new volunteer programs... the Kindergarten Brigade Program and the Tikes Literacy Corp (TLC) Program. If you are interested in dedicating only a half-hour each week to assist a young reader, please call the main office at 731-1702 for further information. Training of interested volunteers will be in late January.*

## London's Calling... Brookhaven Students Video Conference with Peers in England!



Second grade students at Brookhaven Elementary School have successfully communicated with a partner school located in London, England via video conferencing technology. According to teachers Victoria Suarez and Stephanie Maffei, the opportunity has “allowed us to travel to London without leaving our seats in the classroom!”

The video-conferencing experience has enabled Brookhaven students and teachers to build relationships with children in Mr. Paul Greenwood’s class at the Northwood Elementary School, a London-based public school. The experience has provided participants the opportunity to learn first-hand the customs of others their own age living outside of the United States. “The children’s enthusiasm and dedication from both schools has been phenomenal,” Principal Linda Rozzi noted. “Strong teacher innovation paired with the district’s state-of-the art technology engages students in this wonderful experience. Overall, the virtual field trips demonstrate how schools can further collaborate with other schools now around the globe.” Millie Marchese, the district’s Director of Instructional Technology stated, “I loved it! This is what using technology for instruction is all about. Teachers used the technology to do something curriculum-based that practitioners would not have been able to do otherwise.”

In their first scheduled video conference, the students from London taught Brookhaven students about English customs and holiday traditions, and our own Brookhaven students taught them all about US holiday customs and sang them Christmas carols. “It is incredibly important to us that our kids are able to appreciate and share their backgrounds and culture at such a young age with their peers around the globe. By doing so, they experience other cultures and traditions in a way that is unforgettable,” said Rozzi.

According to both teachers, “This is going to be a learning experience not only for the students but for us as well, as we use the wonderful technology that we have been given to enrich the experiences of our students. Such an opportunity would not be practical without the use of such available technology.”

The students in Mrs. Suarez’ and Ms. Maffei’s class will continue to video conference monthly with the London School for the remainder of the 2010/2011 school year. Congratulations to the students and their teachers for such innovative efforts!

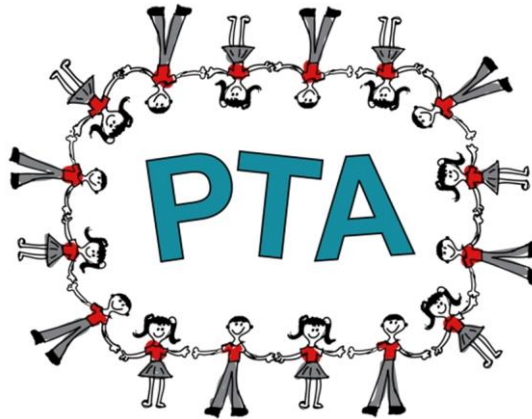
## ConnectEd Messaging System:

The ConnectEd messaging system provides parents/guardians with up-to-the minute important messages concerning school-related events, news, reminders and activities. If for some reason you are not receiving these phone alerts, or prefer them in any alternative language, please contact the main office at 731-1700. Thank you!



### *Important January/February Events for Your Calendar:*

- Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **SCHOOL IS CLOSED**
- Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011: BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at South Haven School
- Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Brookhaven 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Brookhaven 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bowling Night at Shirley Bowl, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011: BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at South Haven School
- Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Special Education Parent Involvement Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Central Office
- Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development Day - **SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS ONLY**
- Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Brookhaven's Valentine's Dance, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Valentine's Day
- Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>: Scholastic Bookfair (during school)
- Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011: BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at South Haven School
- Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> through Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>: Mid-winter Recess – **SCHOOL IS CLOSED**



### *PTA NEWS:*

As you may know, both Trish Porsche and Lori Walsh currently serve as our PTA co-presidents. Their years of service are so appreciated as they and their fellow board members helped to bring so many wonderful initiatives, programs and events to Brookhaven School. Unfortunately, they will be leaving Brookhaven School in June when their children graduate the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. They have been wonderful assets to this school community and they will be missed.

With that said, we are currently seeking new parents who would like to be on our PTA Board for the 2011/2012 school year. The PTA is seeking interested persons who would like to fill the various roles on the Board. If you are interested, please contact Trish Porsche at 631-345-3631. Thank you.

### *Educational Assemblies...*

Through the support of the PTA, the students of Brookhaven will be enjoying a series of educational programs during the months of January and February. Grade level assemblies will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> grade: "Meet the Animals" – January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: "Wildlife Conservation" – January 20<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: "Wild Defenses" –February 16<sup>th</sup> and February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

We are also in the process of scheduling a program to meet the needs of our Pre-K and Kindergarten students. More information will follow shortly.



