

# The Briarwood Buzz

By Mrs. Felt

## From the principal...

Happy first month of school! I am so pleased with the opening of our 2017 school year. Our classrooms are filled with engaged children ready to learn and have fun in a stimulating environment!



Our building theme BWD School: Friendship Grows Here is off to a great start! The students did a wonderful job creating hands of friendship. We proudly displayed their flower mosaic of friendship in our front hallway.

Children will be participating in their first Briarwood Buddies activities this week! Please have a conversation with your child about what they experienced and which child they partnered with. I am sure they will be thrilled to share their new adventure! Please note: our children will be participating in monthly BWD Buddies events, and they will keep the same partners all throughout the year.



Thank you for your understanding and the use of our outdoor box for items. Every hour we check our storage container and bring items inside. We call children to the Main Office to collect their items throughout the school day.

A friendly reminder: During the school year, we celebrate with 2 parties that involve food: our Halloween and Valentine's Day Events. All other parties will be celebrated with alternate (non food) classroom activities- this includes birthdays.

Exemplary attendance is an important goal that our school strives to maintain. Being on time and having good attendance ensures your child will not miss out on learning. Setting up clothes, breakfast, and lunch items the night before will help to guarantee your child is on time. If your child is sick, please keep them home to rest and recuperate. It is our goal to allow children the ability to perform at their best while at school.

I thank our families once again for their partnership in educating our youngest learners in Florham Park. I look forward to enjoying this endeavor together!

Warmest regards,  
Mrs. Glaab



**Below are some opportunities to learn more about partnering with the school to enhance your child's learning:**

**Thursday, November 2, 2017  
7:00-8:00 PM  
Ridgedale Library  
Reading and Writing Workshop**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017  
7:00-8:00 PM  
Ridgedale Library  
Literacy Basic Skills Parent Information  
Night**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
525 West 120 Street  
New York, NY**



**Parents Make the World of Difference to Kids as Readers and Writers:  
Parents as Partners, Supporting Joyful Literacy- Lucy Calkins &  
Partners**

**The day begins with a welcome from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project's founding Director, Lucy Calkins, and then continues with three rounds of workshops, including half a dozen choices for each round. We have come up with enough workshops that you can find topics that are exactly right for you, whether you are the parent of a kindergartner or a fifth grader, whether you have questions about how best to help your fourth grader with his writing homework or about how to locate books your first grader can read.**

Those of you whose children are just starting off on their school journeys may want to know how children move from pretending to read to actually reading. Those of you who have older children may wonder how to turn around reluctant readers, how to help kids write the sorts of Post-its their teachers want, or how to prepare for high stakes assessments. And still others of you may want support helping your child read and write in English when you speak another language at home. Many of you have questions about ways to communicate with your child's teacher, or how you might better understand what your child's progress reports say, or what reading levels really mean. We'll have workshops that address a wide variety of questions and needs—so that you can choose ones that are right for you, for your daughters and sons.

The workshops will be practical. You'll see examples of student work, watch demonstrations of how you can work with your children at home, see videotapes of classroom instruction in action, and get important tips and suggestions for helping your child. You will come away with a better understanding of literacy instruction as well as how to best support your child's reading and writing journey.

You'll also leave with tools you can use to support your child at home as well as suggestions for resources—for great books, for web sites, people to reach for your questions.

In each of the sessions, there will be a workshop in Spanish for caregivers who are Spanish speakers.





# What's happening in Kindergarten...



Kindergarten is off to a great start! We are working hard learning the rules and routines of our classrooms, making new friends and having fun each day!

Reader's and Writer's Workshop is up and running. We are working on developing strong reading and writing habits and building stamina. In Math, we are learning all about numbers to 10. We are also enjoying learning all about weather in

science! We can't wait to see how much we learn and grow this year!



# Reader's and Writer's Workshop!



## Reminder for Physical Education classes..

Please wear sneakers on gym days! Sneakers should have either laces or velcro. If sneakers are slip on please make sure they fit snug enough so they won't fall off during activity.

Students follow their regular schedule on most days including half days and delayed openings.



## From the school nurse



All kindergarteners got a visit from the school nurse and learned about Alexander the Elephant which talks about food safety, food allergies and reminds children not to share food or eat on the bus.

Hope everyone enjoyed celebrating Family Day! It is a great reminder that dinner is an important time to communicate with our children. If your child has colored the Family Day star on Doc Manager please have them send it in to the health office for display.

### Important Dates:

October 2-6: NJ "Week of Respect"

October 9: Columbus Day (No School)

October 10-13: Fire Prevention Week

October 16-20: Scholastic Book Fair/  
School Violence Awareness Week

October 18: Kindergarten Fun Night

October 23-27: Red Ribbon Week

October 31: Halloween Parade (9:15am)

