

The Brooklyn Public Schools

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Dear Families and Staff,

Happy Saturday! As we wrap up another month of school I wanted to provide you with a quick communication and a few reminders. This year you are receiving regular updates from our two schools about what is happening. At times it seems like one more email or message but we are trying to keep you updated and celebrate student successes!

Dates to Remember:

- Thursday and Friday this week **3/2 and 3/3 students have no school**. There are professional development days scheduled.
- **Progress reports will be out on 3/1 at BMS.**
- It sounds like we have **snow coming this week!** I know that many families find hills to sled on, BMS near the playing fields is a popular one and not too big a hill to climb back up and easy to supervise. Be careful, sled at your own risk and have fun wherever you go!
- **Board of Education: our next meeting is 3/22.** We will recognize our winter athletes and hear about the plans to build a greenhouse at the elementary school after they applied and received a \$25,000 grant and a couple additional donations. *If there is a parent who would be interested in donating time or manpower to help us with engineering and constructing the greenhouse please contact me. We will need help with planning, grading, and connecting electrical and plumbing to the greenhouse!
- **Spring Parent Conferences are March 23rd.** Students will be dismissed early.
- **Brooklyn Middle School Drama Performance: March 24th and 25!** Don't miss out on your chance to see our students perform The Little Mermaid!
- **Brooklyn Board of Finance: April 5, 2023** the Board of Education's budget will be presented to the Board of Finance. At that meeting I will share the plan for next year's budget. It includes the current level of teaching and paraprofessional staffing plus one additional teacher at BMS due to class size. We will have grant funding for one more year that will support technology purchases and instructional materials for the new math curriculum that was adopted this year at BMS and a new math program at BES for next year. The Brooklyn Public Schools will be applying for a waiver under the new guidelines around the Science of Reading and will be purchasing supplemental instructional materials to enhance reading instruction with the goal of having all students proficient in the area of reading by the end of grade 3. The State will be providing grant funds to offset the purchase of these materials. We are also exploring grant funding to enhance school security. **The increase to the budget of 5.33% was adopted this week** by the Board and represents contractual increases such as salaries, tuition, transportation and increases in goods and services we are all experiencing. Next steps are to present the budget to the Board of Finance and they will determine what budgets

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in the Town of Brooklyn will be moved forward for a Town Vote.

- **April 7-14th is Spring Break.**
- ****Please keep your contact information updated through [PowerSchool](#) to be sure you receive [School Messages](#).** I have embedded links with more information about both. This is the first year we are using PowerSchool and so far it has gone smoothly! Please contact your child's school if you have any questions or need help accessing your child's portal.
- **May 21, 2023:** PTO Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Come and enjoy golf or just come to visit and support the PTO. More information to come!

For your Information: Our mission statement is written on the footer of this letter and can be found on the district website. We value your feedback. We are continually working to improve our school district through effective, high yield teaching strategies and by monitoring outcomes by measuring student learning. The educators work hard to provide students the best instruction daily while addressing the social and emotional needs of our school community. It is nice to feel the improved rhythm of school life following the pandemic. We still have our "regular" illnesses mixed in with COVID cases, but we are all enjoying a more predictable school schedule and routine. We are currently investigating possible grants and funding sources to improve air conditioning in the schools. We completed the installation of four of our six boilers and have achieved some efficiencies in heating. We are also continuing to benefit from the energy savings of our solar panels on both BES and BMS. The Town of Brooklyn is also benefiting by receiving ZREC funds annually and will continue to receive those funds until 2035!

School Calendars Links: Links are provided to the [2022-23 Calendar](#) and the [2023-24 Calendar](#) and are located on our website. I recently heard that a parent was unaware of the days off this week, and I am sorry about that. We do try to send out reminders and keep the calendars posted to our website. **Please feel free to contact the school or my office if you have any questions.** We always strive to maintain strong communication with students, families and the community.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the snow! I hope you have time to play in the snow some and look forward to the spring, just around the corner! March 20th is the first day of spring!

Respectfully,

Patricia L Buell

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