

End of Year Newsletter, June, 2019

Dear Families,

It has been another productive year at Brier Park. As the last day of school is here, I thank our teachers, educational assistants, our designated early childhood educators for their efforts this year working with your children. As well, thank you to Mrs. Baxter for keeping our school running efficiently. We also appreciate the efforts of Mr. Torelli, our custodian and Mrs. Head, our caretaker for their efforts this school year and especially this summer as they clean our entire school to a shine in preparation for September 3rd.

As always, it is the time of year to extend well wishes to our colleagues that are going in different directions.

We thank Miss Paul for teaching the grade five/six class during the last six weeks as Ms. Moses was off. She's done a great job teaching, particularly the science units and math strands necessary for the report card. I saw a Skype call her class made with an astronomer and learned a few new things myself about space travel.

Thank you to Miss Pustai for being our learning resource teacher as Ms. Matheson was off being an instructional coach. Miss Pustai chaired our annual reviews, updated the IEPs and communicated with outside agencies on behalf of our school and our families. Ms. Matheson will be returning to Brier Park in September.

We give thanks to Mrs. Craig for teaching our kindergarten class. She returned from maternity leave in May and has been with us for the last five weeks. I had the pleasure of being in her class during morning carpet time for a couple of days. It was fascinating to see how she incorporated literacy and numeracy into the morning activities on the carpet using the smartboard, one tool the kindergarten students love to use. Mrs. Craig is going to Walter Gretzky School in the fall.

We are sorry to see Mrs. Pettman leave Brier Park as our designated early childhood educator. She worked tirelessly with the students in her classroom she shared with Mrs. Halabecki. She is a valued member of our kindergarten teaching staff. We wish her well in her future endeavours with Grand Erie.

Appreciations go to Miss O'Brien for her work this year with our kindergarten to grade six students. She taught music and drama to our older students and gym to our kindergarten students. I enjoyed seeing the students perform their drumming activities.

We are grateful to Mr. Petersen for his fifteen years at Brier Park teaching the intermediate grades. Mr. Petersen has given his time, expertise and wisdom to our students for many years. We wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his teaching career at James Hillier School.

We are indebted to Mrs. Piovesan for her THIRTY years at Brier Park School. Over that time, she taught grade one, two, three and was our learning resource teacher. Her wisdom and teaching skills were used to mentor our newer teachers throughout the years. Mrs. Piovesan ran our Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program bringing students and mentors together for many years.

We also want to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Ciere, our School Council Co-Chair and a dedicated volunteer at Brier Park for over eight years. Mrs. Ciere was responsible for organizing and running our Snack Program, our pizza hot lunches, co-planning our Family Wellness Night and running School Council over the years. Her dedication to our school is admirable. We wish her well in her new adventures. THANK YOU SO MUCH for all you gave to Brier Park.

The staff at Brier Park wish you and your family a great summer. I hope the sun shines and you are able to enjoy the outdoors for the season. Remember, summer reading loss is a real thing. Please ensure your children read with you, for pleasure and for information over the summer. Try to include some real life math activities into your time together. Writing for a reason, a post card, a thank you note, a road trip list are all great reasons for students to write over the summer.

Thank you to our families for your support over the school year. We look forward to working with you again in September.

Papa Johns donated a bike to our school to raffle. Syleena was the winner of the bicycle. Thank you to Papa Johns for the donation. Syleena will enjoy riding it this summer.

As a thank you for our business this year, Papa Johns is offering Brier Park families a 40% discount on any summer orders. A flyer was sent home with all students this week.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brittain