

Greetings, BW Families –

Our school days are numbered – 8 student days remaining! **The last student day is Tuesday, June 4th.** The last support staff day is Wednesday the 5th, and the last teacher day is Thursday the 6th. This school year has been incredibly busy but has gone by quickly.

As most of you know, **I am retiring** next fall. I qualify for the **Rule of 90 in late September so my last day is Monday, September 30th.** **Jesse Peterson, our new principal, will start on August 15th.** We will work together from August 15th through September. Mr. Peterson visited Big Woods on Monday and spent the day with students and staff. He is a positive energizer and will serve the Big Woods community well. I believe that change is good, and this is an excellent change.

At this time, I don't have retirement plans but will spend as much time as possible with my 88 year old mother and my dog Blue. Eventually, I will find a flexible part-time job and volunteer. Meanwhile, **thank you for entrusting your children to the Big Woods staff and me for the last 15 years.**

If you have questions or concerns through the summer, continue to contact me. I will be available for appointments and phone calls.

Respectfully, Lee Brown

BIG WOODS UPDATES

BW PTO Bash (TOMORROW)

You are invited to the **BW PTO Bash on Thursday, May 23rd from 4:30-6:00 PM.** **Weather permitted,** the Bash will be held on the playground. Big Woods will be locked, but portable toilets are available for all. (Yay!) **If it rains, the Bash will be cancelled.**

The PTO is showing their appreciation to BW families for their continued support by providing a **complimentary treat from the Brain Freeze Ice Cream Truck, crazy hair-dos, and playground time.** All students must be accompanied and supervised by adults.

Thanks to the amazing PTO for all they do for Big Woods students, staff, and families.

Big Woods Blitz (Track & Field Activities)

The BW **Blitz is on Friday, May 24th.** Times are as follows:

8:00-9:00 **4th grade** 9:15-10:15 **3rd grade** 10:30-11:30 **2nd grade** 12:30-1:30 **1st grade**

Please help your children **dress for the weather.** All students should bring an **extra pair of socks and shoes** regardless of the weather, as the **grass is WET.** The forecast is not promising so we will **let you know Friday by 6:45 AM if the Blitz is cancelled.** We do not reschedule the Blitz.

Blitz volunteers need a government-issued ID, as do all adults who enter the building.

Assembly

The spring assembly is on Tuesday, June 4th. Due to seating limitations, the assembly is not open to the public. Parents will be invited if their child is an emcee, is receiving an award, or performing individually. Invited guests may check in with the office staff. Please bring government issued photo IDs.

Visitor Registration System (VRS)

On Monday, May 20th, the STMA school board approved the use of the Raptor VRS district-wide. The VRS is the system we use to scan visitors' photo IDs.

MN Reading Corps Position

Big Woods needs one **part-time literacy tutor** to share his/her time and talent to help our kids become successful readers and learners. Tutors work one-on-one or in small groups with students during school hours throughout the school year.

You can be a great tutor regardless if you are a recent grad, career changer, stay-at-home parent, or retiree. No experience? No problem. **Minnesota Reading Corps provides comprehensive training** in strategies proven to help students learn, so tutors are well equipped to help students grow.

Perks as a Tutor

- Receive a stipend every two weeks
- Earn up to \$4,200 for college tuition or student loans. Tutors 55 and older may gift the award to their child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child.
- Free health insurance and child care assistance for those who qualify.

Be the change for struggling students! Learn more at ReadingAndMath.net. Send questions join@servetogrow.org or call 866.859.2825. You can also call Big Woods at 763-497-8025, and we'll connect you with staff here.