Welcome
On behalf of our entire staff at Briarwood, I would like to formally welcome you to the 2015 – 2016 school year. The opening of school is always a fun and exciting time for students, parents, and staff members. It is by far my favorite time of the school year. The enthusiasm and eagerness on the faces of the kids is an amazing sight.

Great Start
If the beginning of this school year is an indication of things to come, we are in for a terrific year of teaching and learning. We kicked off the school year with our annual, “Welcome Back BBQ, Meet Your Teacher, and School Picture Day” which was held on Monday, August 31. Hundreds of students and family members enjoyed a wonderful lunch…all compliments of our terrific PTA. Students were able to meet their teacher, find their classroom and desk, bring in their school supplies prior to the actual first day of school, and have their school picture taken. Nearly 93 percent of our students attended this event…thanks for a great turnout. This preliminary social event has helped alleviate a great deal of stress and anxiety for many students and parents making the first day of school smooth and enjoyable.

Our curriculum nights will be held at 6:00 pm on September 9 (grades 3 – 5) and at 6:00 pm on September 16 (grades Preschool, 1 and 2). Please mark the appropriate date(s) on your calendar and do your best to attend this important event. If you ever have any questions regarding your child please feel free to contact your child’s teacher directly.

Staffing Update
We are fortunate to have added some dynamic new staff members to our team over the summer months. Please welcome our newest additions to the Briarwood family:

- Amy Frazier – PM Kindergarten and Overload Library
- Jennifer Hampshire – Grade 2
- Kelli Marek – Grade 2
- Lucia Willeman – Grade 3
- Tiffany Comolli – Grade 4
- Lynn Evans – Grade 4
- Chelsey Wood – Grade 4
- Patty Horvath – Grade 5
- Sarah Threlkeld – Librarian
- Reanne Nakapaau – Overload Music
- Kathy Brumley – Overload PE
- Arianna Romo – ECE Preschool
- Emily Piutau – Special Education
- Andrea Bunker-Dalry – Registrar/Attendance Secretary
- Steve Pyell – Custodian
- Heather Davis – Bear Club Director
A few current staff members have made some changes for this school year. Laycie Rader will assume the Dean of Students role, Sarah VanderWel will be teaching 1st grade, our music teacher, Beth Mohr, is returning from leave, and Keri Silvers is adding the Student Support Coach role. We also have a couple staff members with upcoming name changes. Mia Palsson has a new last name (Harrington) as does Meghan Converse (Gordon).

Program Update
We are adding a couple new programs to our school this year. EACAP is a preschool program that will serve 3-4 year olds four days a week from 8:30 – 11:30 am. EACAP will share a teaching space with our Head Start program which has changed its hours to 12:00 – 3:30 pm. We are in the process of staffing the EACAP program but should be ready to open the program towards the end of September. We have also added a certificated English Language Learner (ELL) teacher to our ranks. Meg Kaufman will be working part-time at Briarwood this year supporting our ELL students and their families.

Thanks for Your Support
Our entire staff is thrilled about the opportunity to work with your student(s) this year. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environment for all kids. Our school has an excellent parent support group and we invite you to become part of our learning community. Ensuring student success is a joint effort. It takes the student, the family, and the school working together with a common vision to help all kids reach their potential. We invite you to continue to be an integral part of your child’s education. We look forward to your active participation in our school community.

Sincerely,

Drew Terry
Principal