



Paw Prints

Letter from the PTA President *Derby Pattengill*

Alright! We made it through September.

I hope everyone is in the swing of school, homework, and all of those extracurricular activities. September for the PTA was busy as well. We hosted the volunteer orientation, the Book Fair, (thank you Pam Nelson and committee), Back to School Night, (thank you Laura Tandet and committee). All of the events were well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. I thank you for your generosity. With proceeds from the book fair, we were able to purchase \$1500 worth of books for the classrooms. The end of September also saw Chris Morache launch our Fall Fund-raiser. This event is our main source of income for the year.

Sounds like a lot for one month, and it is. But this does not happen because of one or two people. This is all possible because of the wonderful BW community. A diverse community filled with working professionals, educators, artists, craftsmen, and stay at home parents. You will notice that nowhere in this list does it say "professional volunteer".

I well know that some of our volunteer opportunities can at times seem intimidating, but why not start with something less involved. Test those waters. Find something you feel comfortable doing. We are looking for classroom helpers, reading helpers, library helpers, grant writers, poster makers, community activists. Do you see the theme emerging? If you have the desire, we will find a job for you. No experience necessary! Now there is your challenge. Are you going to pull those pistols or whistle Dixie?

Our first general PTA meeting is October 13th at 6:00pm. Please plan to attend and have an ice cream sundae and listen to special guest Coach Tucker talk about the value of family meetings.

Questions, comments, critiques? Feel free to email or call me regarding PTA business. Of course let me know if you caught the Clint Eastwood quote for this month, you may be this month's winner!

Derby Pattengill
284-9471

Message from the Foundation President *Drew Smith*

Is it hot or what? Wouldn't it be nice if our children could get a drink of water when they are playing on the upper playground?

The drinking fountain has been purchased and if all goes well will be installed in early October. Tile forms for the clay tiles next to the office will be sent out in October so you have the opportunity to purchase a tile for your child, favorite teacher, or staff member. Get it now so your tile can be seen all year long.

We are off to a good start with the opportunity drawing. Look for it at Benchley events and you could win ½ of the money raised. Also, Benchley t-shirts and sweatshirts are in. We will be selling them at all Benchley events.

Drew Smith
Foundation President.

Letter from the Principal

October 2009



Dear Families,

Thank you for a successful opening of school. Students have settled in nicely with their teachers and new classrooms. Hopefully, Curriculum Night answered all your questions about your child's teacher's academic expectations for the upcoming school year.

Thank you to the PTA for a wonderful book fair and back-to-school night. Once again, the book fair was a huge success and the back-to-school night was another fun-filled event with the students socializing and dancing the night away.

This year in an attempt to save on paper and copy machine expense, I will be making connect phone calls for school events and parent reminders. The school website www.sandi.net/bw/ will also have up-to-date information. If you have any questions about school events, activities or school holidays, be sure to check the school website.

Thank you to all the families who sent in all the required paperwork in their child's 2009-2010 registration packet. We understand that this is a tedious job, but it is very important that all this information is returned at the beginning of each new school year.

Since the Benchley-Weinberger Foundation will not be holding an auction this year, the PTA and Foundation presidents will be sending home information to families regarding fundraising for the 2009-2010 school year. Remember your support helps to bring the additional programs at B-W that your children enjoy and learn from.

Upcoming events for the month of October include:

- Picture Day, October 6th
- PTA/Foundation Ice Cream Social, October 13th
- Muffins with Marian (Kindergarten Parents Only), October 14
- Halloween Happening, October 24th
- Spirit Assembly, October 30th

Sincerely,

Marian K. Jacobs

Notes from the Office... *Kathy Bouman*

Parents of Bus Riders

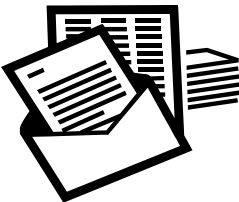
Please make sure you call the office before 12:00 p.m if your child will not be riding the bus. Please give your child's bus letter when calling.

Lost and found eye glasses

At the end of last school year, three pairs of eyeglasses were leftover in the office Lost and Found drawer. Description: 1) brown frame with blue legs, 2) pink metal frame with rhinestones and pink legs, 3) brown frame with tiger pattern legs. Please come to the office if one of these could belong to your child.

Yearly Registration packet

Please make sure you have returned your child's registration packet to the office. This information is very important as we are now updating each student's emergency contacts, etc.



Calendar

Highlights

Oct. 6—Picture Day

Oct. 13—PTA Meeting 6:00 PM

Oct. 14—Muffins with Marian (K parents only)

Oct. 21—Dine Out—Los Primos, 11 to closing

Oct. 24—Halloween Happening (3:00 start time)

Oct. 30—Spirit Assembly

Fall 2009 PTA Scholastic Book Fair was a great success!

Congratulations to Abby Williams in Room 8 and Andrew Rice in B-6, their flags were drawn out of a large pile and they won a free book from the book fair. Congratulations to Room 6, Mrs. Davis' class won the fortune cookies!!

Thank you to everyone who purchased books in the book fair this fall. We could not have raised as much money as we did without your generous support. We were able to buy \$1,080.53 worth of books for the teachers and staff. We collected \$145.00 for One-4-Books and used that money to purchase additional books for the teachers. We were able to give the PTA \$1,609.79.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped during the book fair. We can not put on spectacular Book Fairs without all these fabulous parents who give up their time to come and help us. We appreciate each and every one of you! The wonderful parents who gave of their time were: Susanne Albright, Chris Morache, Trina Maas, Cathy Monroe, Mary Rintoul, Derby Patten-gill, Stephanie Cruz, Regina Young, Debbie Zappelli, Kristin Kaufmann, Heidi Dromgoole, Zabrina Fox, Kim Fakadej, Ah Sim-mons, Tammy Winn, Lyn Adams, Deanna McDonald, Sharon Landacre and Mrs. Knight!!!

With much gratitude,

Pam Nelson, Susanne Albright, Chris Morache, Trina Maas, Book Fair Chairs

Coach Tucker To Speak at Ice Cream Social

Please join the BW PTA and Foundation on October 13 for the Ice Cream Social. Beginning at 6:00pm in the auditorium, we will serve up ice cream sundaes followed by a brief PTA and Foundation meeting. On the agenda is a brief description of the deference between PTA and Foundation, the adoption of the PTA yearly budget, principal's report and our featured speaker Steve Tucker.

An experienced father, a coach and educator, Mr. Tucker will be speaking about the benefits of family meetings and communication. In these busy, activity and school filled days, Coach Tucker will share some of his experiences as a father and husband and how he and his family were able to use weekly family meetings to stay in touch with each other and ultimately strengthen the family unit.

Miss this meeting and you will owe us 20 push ups!



Reflections Art Show & Awards Ceremony

Artwork is due Wednesday, Oct. 21st at 7:45 a.m.!

Please bring your Reflections entries to your classroom on **Wednesday, Oct 21st at 7:45 a.m.!** Be sure the entry form is attached and signed by both student and parent. We will collect the artwork from the classrooms. **Sorry, no late entries accepted.**

Remember, our theme this year is "Beauty is..." and there are extra entry forms in the office. Please contact Sarah Calbreath if you have any questions (619.255.7337 or deansarah@cox.net). Thanks and have fun!

Reflections Art Show & Awards Ceremony

Nov. 4th, 6:30 p.m.

Benchley-Weinberger Auditorium

Students and their families are highly encouraged to come to the Reflections Art Show & Awards Ceremony. Each student who participates will be recognized and all the artwork will be on display. It will be a special night full of music, art, poetry, refreshments, and fun! *Sarah Calbreath, Heidi Dromgoole and Kristin McGraw, co-chairs*

Dine Out Day

One of the easiest and tastiest ways to help raise funds for PTA programs is to participate in designated 'Dine Out Days'. This month, join us at Los Primos on Wednesday, October 21.

Fliers with more detailed information will be distributed in your child's communication folder .

Hope to see you there!

Paw Prints is edited by Jeannette Stumpf and the Benchley-Weinberger PTA

All dates and locations mentioned within articles are subject to change. Refer to fliers sent home in the communications folder for the most current information.

Next issue's deadline is October 26 for publication in the November issue.

Come Get Caught in a Web of Fun at our faBOOlous

Halloween Happening!

The 2009 Halloween Happening committee has shifted their broomsticks to warp speed to bring you another amazing carnival. Sponsored by our own B-W PTA, this event brings together several of the school's programs to give you what we hope will be the best Halloween Happening ever!

This year's carnival will be held on the B-W school grounds on Saturday, October 24th from 3-7 pm. Ticket pre-sales start Wed. 10/21, Thurs 10/22, and Fri10/23.

Anyone interested in being part of this skeleton crew and/or contributing homemade or store bought cookies, cakes or other goodies, please contact the Halloween Happening Volunteer Coordinator: Cathy Monroe- tcmonroe5@cox.net with any questions. We're haunting for you!

Come have a howlingly good time with a monstrously fun group of people!

I would like to volunteer to help with the Halloween Happening Carnival

Name : _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Child's Name and Room # _____

Set up Friday, Oct 23h Set up Sat, Oct. 24th Clean up Sat, Oct. 24th

Work at one of the booths Security

Put me where you need me, I can work at this/these times: _____

I can contribute the following item(s) for the Bake Walk: _____

www.bwhalloweenhappening.com

Everyone A Reader Program Wins Diamond Award!

Late last school year, the County Office of Education announced that the EAR program at Benchley was a recipient of their prestigious Diamond School Award for excellence in our program. Over 50 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders participated in this program that matches volunteers with struggling readers in one on one tutoring sessions. The 12 volunteers who participated in this year long program saw their students move up an average of 3 reading levels. A source within the administration, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the strong EAR program we have developed may be one of the reasons BW is now in the top 8 of the District schools in API scores.

The EAR volunteers are the real reason this program is successful. All it takes is one training session and reading in a classroom for an hour a week. With the jump in class sizes this year, volunteer readers are more important than ever. This makes a huge difference in a child's life. Are you interested in joining this award winning team? Please contact Debbie Zappelli at dzappelli@hotmail.com or 619 466-0773.