



Paw Prints

WWW.BWPTA.ORG

Letter from the PTA President *Pam Hubbell, B-W PTA president*

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2012!

The new year is here and we are looking ahead to some important PTA programs. Please read the specific articles in this edition of Paw Prints for more information on the Feb. 3rd **Multicultural Fair** and the **Variety Show** in March. I especially encourage you to sign up to help or share your heritage at the Multicultural Fair. We could really use a few extra hands on that day, so please consider making this the PTA event you support with your time.

I am sending out a BIG thank you from the PTA to all of the students and families at B-W for helping to make all that we do successful. We have had a great year so far and we thank you for your participation and support.

The proof is in the numbers:

35% of students participated in the **Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser!** That means over 180 students sold something. That's a large percentage of students getting involved and it is impressive.

Halloween Happenings was BIG this year, LOTS of families attended, and it was FUN. Looking at the numbers, the HH committee spent about as much money as they raised, which is great because we don't try to make a profit from Halloween Happenings—it is a spirit builder not a fundraiser.

Our **PTA Membership** is almost 200 strong, which represents a large body of people who have come together to show their support for the PTA. We are still accepting PTA membership envelopes, so if you haven't joined yet, please do so! With over 500 students on campus, I challenge us to go well beyond 200 members this year.

Our **"free money" fundraisers** like the Fresh & Easy receipts, Box Tops, and eScrip are providing a noticeable stream of income this year. This is amazing considering it comes from a whole bunch of little amounts. So don't ever think cutting out that box top doesn't matter. Every penny counts and it is definitely adding up!

Finally, **401 TEDDY BEARS** were donated by B-W students to the Regional Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive in December. Students, you are caring and generous and we hope you continue to come together to support important causes. Good job!

Which brings me to some important Thank Yous. The Teddy Bear Drive was coordinated by parents Scott Ybarrando and Ruby Ng. The Teddy Bear Assembly in December was very exciting with a sheriff's helicopter, police vehicles, and even Santa Claus. Thanks to Scott and Ruby, and their coworkers, for planning that. Also, I'd like to thank our Membership Chair, Robyn D'Amore for all her work logging in members, getting the dues sent in, and distributing our membership materials. Whew!

I'd also like to thank Derby Pattengill, our Parliamentarian, who has completed a much needed (and required) Bylaws update for us. By the way, Derby is now VP of Legislation for our SD Unified Council of PTAs. He served as their Secretary for a short while this year, but happily switched to the VP position because that is what he really wanted to do. Derby is also B-W's Chair of Legislation. Contact him if you want to be more informed or just have questions.

The next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7:45 a.m. in the Teacher's Lounge. We will be forming the Nominating Committee, which is an important way you could serve the PTA. The actual elections for next year's officers will be in April. If you are considering running for an office or becoming a committee chair, I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

All the best,
Pam (hubbellp@live.com or 619-787-9792)



Calendar

Highlights

Feb. 1--Yearbook price goes up to \$25

Feb. 3--Multi-Cultural Fair

Feb. 15--JOG-A-THON

Feb. 24--Spirit Assembly

Feb. TBD--Lincolns for the Library

March 16- 17--Variety Show

BUY YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

Don't wait too long to order your copy. There are a limited number of books available. Make checks payable to Benchley-Weinberger PTA. The price goes UP to \$25 per book on February 1.

Principal Patton's Perspective-At Your Service *MC Patton, principal*

Happy New Year Panda Families!

January is flying by and these are busy times at Benchley -Weinberger! Our students are growing in every way and it continues to be my pleasure to be part of their learning experience. As a staff we continue to focus on differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all students. Our teachers work very hard to collaborate with each other to plan and deliver instruction while streamlining our efforts in an environment where resources will become even more scarce. Our vision continues to evolve, always centering around preparing students with a balanced academic and creative arts program that is rigorous and fun; digital literacy and media skills embedded in each students experience.

Our after school schedule of enrichment and support classes is packed full. Due to the talents of our staff and students, we have had to offer more than one choice on any given day. Check the website and the front office for flyers and updates on dates and times for Mad Science, Writer's Corner, Art, Spanish, and more. We are doing our best to give everyone the opportunity to participate.

Our Communications Magnet Focus continues to draw potential students through Magnet Visits, the January 28th Enrollment Fair at Balboa Park, and word of mouth. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to consider joining Benchley-Weinberger at any grade level.

More exciting news, I am part of a small group of administrators who will be representing SDUSD in CHINA! Yes, I am going to China to visit schools, facilitate a global connection for our students, and connect the City of Pandas with the Benchley-Weinberger Pandas. If anyone has any ideas or input about the trip, please contact me. I leave February 13th and I will be back for our Spirit Assembly on February 24th. In my absence we will have some visiting administrators stopping by to support our community. Speaking of Pandas, please walk by our Communications Mural. It is on the large wall at the front of the school, facing Twin Lake Drive. Students assisted in painting the mural at the direction of Ms. Samantha Cerney, our art teacher. Ms. Cerney also put a lot of her own time into perfecting our "Great Wall." A big thanks to all who participated.

The not so "Happy" news of 2012 is that our district continues to face significant financial challenges resulting from a deep and prolonged state budget crisis. Over the next several weeks we will meet as a staff and as a community to make difficult decisions in order to work collaboratively and collectively to work as a team to get through the worst times in California public education. I am asking all stakeholders to help support our staff and students to stay focused on expending our best efforts to move forward with teaching and learning. We will face great uncertainty about our budget for the next several months as the state budget evolves. I am committed to providing you with complete and factual budget information. I welcome discussion or inquiries and if I do not know the answers, I will get them for you. Please call, email, or visit me with questions, concerns, or possible solutions to the challenges ahead. I am encouraging parents to get involved in our PTA, Foundation, and Site Governance Committee to be part of the decision making process at Benchley.

I have spoken to several of you about our ongoing traffic issues. That conversation will also continue. Look for more information about a Traffic Focus Group (TFG) we are creating.

Thank you for all the support you show to our students, teachers, staff, and me personally each and every day. I look forward to growing into a "mature" Panda with all of you and your children. Keep striving. Together we can accomplish anything!

JOG-A-THON! *Lou Bertsche*

The BW Foundation's JOG-A-THON will take place on school grounds on February 15, 2012. This wonderful fund raising event is loved by the kids and raises much needed funds for our school.

This year's prizes are OUTSTANDING. Our grand prizes will included a netbook computer, IPAD, 3DS, gift certificate to Toys-R-Us and much, much, more. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact Lou Bertsche. Loucor@cox.net

Legislation Update *Derby Pattengill, parliamentarian*

The PTA has been very active on the legislation and advocacy front this year. At the council level, we hold monthly meetings with the San Diego Unified Superintendent Bill Kowba. We have also been meeting with members of the board of education regularly. This is part of our commitment to have an ongoing dialogue between our members and our district leaders. Our PTA focus is not limited to San Diego Unified, however. In the last month we have met with all but one of our state representatives in San Diego County. These meetings were not only intended to remind our politicians that the PTA represents nearly 1 million people statewide, but also that we do more than bake sales. In the spirit of representing every child with one voice, the PTA is backing a proposed ballot initiative designed to raise \$10 billion for education over the next 12 years. The act we are supporting is called the **"Our Children, Our Future: Local Schools and Early Education Investment Act"**. This act proposes an income tax increase on a sliding scale that varies with taxpayers' ability to pay. The money raised would be put in a trust separate from the general fund and spent directly on local schools with administrative costs to be no more than 1% and says schools may not use these funds to increase salaries and benefits. If you would like some more information about this act, check the web: www.outchildrenourfuture2012.com or email Derby Pattengill (Cpattengill@cox.net).

Saving "Green" by Going Green *Jeannette Stumpf, editor*

For the past few years, the PTA has been looking into alternatives to printed issues of Paw Prints. Each issue of Paw Prints costs about \$150/month on average to print. Printing costs have been increasing each year, using funds that could go directly to programs that enrich our students' education.

E-blast and the BW-PTA website have been in use for over a year now. This form of communication is fast, reliable, efficient and does not add expenses. It also saves trips to the printer and reduces the time spent by staff and volunteers distributing physical copies.

By using electronic transmission to distribute the Paw Prints newsletter, we'll be able to reduce the amount of paper that goes home (especially if you have more than one child at B-W), and we'll be able to get the news to you in a more timely manner. There can be up to a 7 day delay from when an edition of Paw Prints is complete to the day it arrives home in the red communications folder!

For these reasons, we are switching to an electronic version of Paw Prints for the rest of the year. Many of us already receive an e-mail alert when the newest issue is uploaded on the website. If you aren't signed up for e-blasts, you may want to consider it. If you don't have an e-mail account, you can also visit the website at bwpta.org and view the most current issue of Paw Prints or look over the archived copies.

Of course, we also understand that not everybody has ready access to the internet or would simply prefer a physical copy. So, for the rest of this year, we will offer print copies only to those families requesting them. If you would like to receive a print copy, please return the coupon below in the red communication folder.

If we **don't** hear from you, you will **automatically** begin receiving Paw Prints via electronic transmission (as long as we have your email address). If you would like to provide a different email, or add additional email addresses, please fill out the Email Address Update coupon below. Thank you in advance for 'going green'. Every dollar we can save helps!

I would like to continue to receive printed copies of Paw Prints.

Student name: _____
Teacher: _____

Room # _____

OPTIONAL FOR UPDATING OR ADDING E-MAIL FOR NEWSLETTER ONLY

E-mail (Not for changing e-mail regarding official school business) _____

Out with the Old, In with the Willing *Mary Myers, website editor*

The BW PTA's website has new editors this Spring! The husband/wife team of Shawn and Pamela Richter, parents of a BW kindergartener, will be managing our school's online news service, bwpta.org, for the PTA, Foundation and the Library.

Shawn and Pamela both have web-publishing experience, and Pamela has contributed several items to the bwpta.org website already. They bring fresh ideas and Kinder-folk enthusiasm to the challenge. Please welcome them to the job!

Thank you, Mary, for all of your hard work and years of volunteer service in making the B-W PTA website what it is today. —The B-W PTA

Notes from Ms. Kathy *Kathy Bouman, magnet elementary school assistant*

Applications for Magnet/Enrollment Options 2012-2013 school year are now available. Please make sure you have completed a Magnet/Enrollment Options application for any siblings by February 15, 2012. If you have any friends or neighbors who would like to apply to attend Benchley-Weinberger in the fall, please let them know about the application. Applications are available online at www.sandi.net/enrollmentoptions Applications must be submitted online.

BW Annual Variety Show Dates

This Year's Theme is going to be **Musical Time Travel through the Decades (60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, etc...)**

Get your act together! 5th Grade Announcers must audition using the Theme.

AUDITIONS Jan. 17th - 20th
FRIDAY EVENING REHEARSAL Mar. 9th
WED DRESS REHEARSAL Mar. 14th
FRIDAY SCHOOL DAY SHOW Mar. 16th
SAT EVENING SHOW Mar. 17th

Questions?? Contact Debbie Zappelli at dzappelli@hotmail.com

Fresh and Easy / Free Money *Kim Hintz, Chairman*

Thanks to everyone who turned in Fresh and Easy receipts between October 1 and December 31 and to all who participated in Shop Night!! Because of you and our volunteers, we earned **\$645** in one night, bringing our grand total to **\$1245** for this year.

Special thanks to our Shop Night volunteers!!! DeAnne Amancio and daughter Heather, Cathy Monroe and daughter Whitney, Kelly Rayond and son Dustin, Deanna McDonald and son Collin, Jessica Earner, Liz Aquino, and my daughter Jillian Hintz. All your hard work paid off and we couldn't have done it without you. And thanks to those who came to support us on shop night, we had a great turn out for our first year and hope to have more next year.

2012 BW Multi-Cultural Fair

Is coming Friday, February 3rd. The kids will be making key chains with handmade paper beads from the villages of Uganda this year at the craft station, and we have a great variety of countries being represented this year: Israel, Thailand, Mexico, Cuba, Korea, Russia, England, Hungary, Somalia and Australia..... You still have time to volunteer to host a country or just help out. And if anyone is interested in being a designated photographer for the day, please let me know. Parents are welcome to attend with their children, just schedule it with your teacher. We should have a great afternoon assembly and I look forward to an adventurous day! **For questions, or to volunteer, contact Kim Hintz / kimhintz@cox.net / 619-957-3656**

"Free Money Program" *Deanna McDonald*

Our Fresh and Easy shopping night was a great success. You may be asking, how else you can continue to help Benchley Weinberger. One thing you can do, which is easy and doesn't cost anything, is to register with eScrip.com and sign up for a Target credit or debit card at Target.com and list Benchley-Weinberger as the benefitting school. With your Target card, you get a 5% discount on every purchase and B-W gets 1%. It's a win-win for everyone. I just got my mother-in-law in Florida to get a Target card and make B-W the beneficiary with very little urging.

What do Amazon.com, Shutterfly, Groupon.com, Apple iTunes, Fandango, Orbitz, and ProFlowers all have in common? These are just a few of the hundreds of on-line companies that donate a percentage of your purchase back to our school when you use a credit card registered with eScrip.com.

Additionally, there are also tons of participating restaurants here in San Diego that will give a percentage back to our school from purchases made with your credit card registered with e-scrip. Have you used a credit card at Burger Lounge lately? You could be sending a check to Benchley Weinberger every time you eat one of their juicy hamburgers. I heard of one school that makes over \$900 a month just from eScrip! Go to eScrip.com today and register those cards.

So what are you waiting for? Oh a little incentive? O.K. during the month of February we will be holding a drive to encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. to register with eScrip and make Benchley Weinberger the benefitting organization. We are also urging everyone to get a Target credit or debit card and list Benchley as the recipient school. Everyone that does any of the above, can turn in an entry form to win \$10 to Los Primos Mexican Food or a "free dozen bagels" card from Einstein Bagels. Look for the flyer with the entry forms coming home in your child's red folder early February. The drawing will be held at the February spirit assembly.