



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

Bedford Elementary Schools Together/Parent Teacher Organization
 Providing a Forum for Communication, Enrichment, and Support
 April 2009

Dear BEST families,

Spring has finally sprung! Signs of crocus and snowdrops are evident all around town and the last icebergs of winter are melting!! Time to start thinking about ice cream and summer! Bedford Farms Ice Cream is once again running a fundraiser for the schools this year. Please check out the details elsewhere in this newsletter and stop by to purchase your gift cards, good for the entire season.

I'd like to thank Linda Roth and Nancy Richard for coordinating another very successful Celebrating Differences program last month. Our kids got to learn a bit about what it is like to live with epilepsy, a physical disability, asthma, or food allergies. We are very fortunate to have this valuable program in our schools. We also send kudos to Annette Brown and Nancy Griffiths for pulling together our first ever Get Movin' night for BEST families. Over 150 people "got moving" with some fun exercises and enjoyed making healthy snacks to end the evening. Thanks to everyone who chipped in to make this event such a success!

April looks to be another exciting month with the Lane School 5th Grade Talent Show and Opening Day at Davis. We are also looking ahead to next year and beginning to review transitions for board members and committee chairs. Watch for a list next month of positions that remain open for next year. Remember, our organization is only as good as its' volunteers. If you are particularly interested in any specific committees, please feel free to contact any board member.

Happy Spring,

Marge

April Calendar

April 2	Red Sox Opening Day at Davis	April 14	5 th Grade Talent Show - for families
April 3	Walking to Wellness, Davis 8:25-8:55	April 15	5 th Grade Talent Show and Senior luncheon
April 8	Half Day - early dismissal	April 16	5 th Grade Talent Show for Lane students
April 8	BYFS speaker Patricia Marquis, "Handling Children's Anger Constructively"	April 17	Walking to Wellness, Davis 8:25 - 8:55
April 9	Passover Begins	April 20-24	School Vacation Week
April 10	Half Day - early dismissal	April 24-26	Book Sale Bedford Public Library
April 11	Pole Capping Ceremony 10:30am	April 29	Half Day - early dismissal
April 12	Easter	April 29th	BYFS speaker Dr. Kathryn Yamartino, "HELP! How to Enjoy Living with a Preadolescent"

Looking ahead: May 28, Field Day Lane

In the Schools

[Help Save the Davis School World Language Program:](#) The World Language Program at Davis school that gives our children a basic introduction to a foreign language is in danger of being discontinued. Thanks to the extra efforts of Lita Verrier, we were able to run the program in the fall. Lita does not even have children at Davis School anymore but believes strongly in this program. Despite repeated requests for a chairperson and volunteers, no one has stepped forward to coordinate this program. Research has shown that early exposure to foreign language is extremely beneficial to young children. This has been a great program for our kids and it would be a shame to see it end. To run a spring program, we need someone to step forward immediately to coordinate the effort and also need volunteers to teach the classes. Lita is willing to help get this person started. If we cannot pull off a spring program, we will need a chair person and committee in place to reconvene the program next fall. If you are interested in keeping this program going and can help in any way, please contact Marge Heckman at maheckman@gmail.com or 781 275-5167. You may also contact Lita Verrier at LVerrier@rmkb.com if you have questions about what is involved in this commitment. Without your help, we will be forced to discontinue this valuable program.

[Teacher Appreciation Week:](#) We will be honoring our Teachers and Staff at the Davis and Lane Schools this year during the week of May 4-8. We will be providing various themed breakfasts (lunch on May 4) for Davis and Lane. We will also provide coverage for bus duty at the end of the day at Davis. We are looking for families interested in providing food donations and volunteers to assist with bus duty from 2:50-3:30 pm at Davis (Wednesday, May 6, is a half day so bus duty will be from 12-1). We know this seems as though it is far away-but we need you now! See the [VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#) section for details on how you can help! We are also looking for items to raffle for the teachers. If you have a service or an item that you would like to donate please let us know. Examples could be restaurant certificates, interior design services, personal training, yoga class certificate and anything else you might think our teachers and staff would enjoy. We appreciate your time and effort in advance. The generosity of families at Davis and Lane are what make this week possible and successful.

[The 15th Annual K-12 Art Show:](#) Mark your calendars for this year's art show featuring at least one piece of artwork from every student in the Bedford Public Schools from kindergarten through grade 8 and all high school students enrolled in art classes. The show is scheduled for Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3, at the Bedford High School. See the [VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#) section to see how you can help make the art show a success again this year!

[Fifth Grade Talent Show:](#) The fifth graders at Lane School are busy practicing for the "R.O.C.K. in the USA" Talent Show to be held on April 14, 15 and 16. Over 120 students are perfecting their routines under the guidance of Mr. John Fichera. Family members are invited to the show on Tuesday April 14 at 3:45. Many volunteers are needed to assist at all shows. Please contact Annette Brown at pgbanb@comcast.net to sign up.

Volunteer Opportunities

[Teacher Appreciation Week:](#) Please email Monica Bou at monica.bou@comcast.net if you are interested in helping with food donations at Lane (we only want to know that you are available to help during the week-not what you can bring). Please email Karen Fallon at kmfallon2@comcast.net if you are interested in helping with bus duty at Davis (include what days work best for you). Please email Lori Alper at lorialper@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping with food donations at Davis (we only want to know that you are available to help during the week-not what you can bring). Once we have our volunteers we will be sending out requests for specific food items for the week.

We are also looking for items to raffle for the teachers. If you have a service or an item that you would like to donate please let us know. Examples could be restaurant certificates, interior design services, personal training, yoga class certificate and anything else you might think our teachers and staff would enjoy.

Art Show Matting Nights At Davis: Ms. Frazier needs help with matting student art on Tuesday, April 7th and Tuesday, April 14th from 6:30-9:30, for any block of time you have available. Bring a stapler if you have one! Please email Kathy Reiss at reissfamily5@verizon.net OR the Davis art room at davisartroom@yahoo.com if you are available either night. Thanks in advance for your help!

Art Show Matting Nights At Lane: Ms. Johnstone would like to have volunteers for matting and wrapping student art on Tuesday, April 7th and Tuesday, April 14th from 7-9pm. No experience is necessary. Ideally, we would like to have 5-6 volunteers each night. Please call or email Kristin Rubin if you are available either night. 781-275-1669 or kristin_rubin@verizon.net

The 15th Annual K-12 Art Show: We need your help to make the art show a success again this year! Please contact Donna Hayes at dmh555@gmail.com if you can help at all for the following: **Setup Helpers** Friday, May 1st 8:30 am to around 1 pm (any amount of time during that duration...1 or 2 hours is great); **Staffing:** 2 hour blocks during show hours (2 per shift); **Take down:** Sunday, May 3rd 3 pm for around 1 hour. Thanks!

It's Easy Being Green!

Spring is here! On a nice day, try walking to do some local errands. If it's not possible to walk from your residence, try to plan your errands so you can park at one store and walk down the street to another. Not only does this save on gasoline usage, it's good exercise. Don't forget to bring your reusable bags! As the weather gets warmer, you may be able to also save on fuel consumption in your home by adjusting your thermostat. ♦ Spring also puts us in the mood to clean out the house - you may find toys that your children have outgrown and other items you no longer need. Instead of putting them in the trash, pass them on to a younger neighbor, donate them to an organization that takes such items, or even put them out on the curb with a "FREE" sign - one person's junk is another person's treasure. ♦ As you collect your recyclables each week, put aside paper towel and toilet paper tubes. Some of the school classrooms have pet gerbils and the teachers are always looking for cardboard tubes for the gerbils to munch and crawl through. ***Tip of Month:*** Participating in skating, soccer, or another activity at The Edge? Look for their recycling bins for paper and plastic and use them! *Submitted by Peter Ricci for the Green Committee*

Student Activities

Enrollment Open for MCC Summer Camps: Middlesex Community College is now accepting enrollments for its **2009 Summer Camps**. Designed to actively engage students, ages 8 to 15, in an exciting learning environment, MCC's Summer Camps are scheduled to run July 6 through Aug. 13 in Bedford and Lowell. More than 30 one- and two- and three-week camps will be offered, exploring the fields of design, science, technology and the arts. Most camps run Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. An optional *After Camps Program*, for on-campus camps, provides campers with stimulating activities from 4:30 to 6pm. For more Middlesex Summer Camps information, visit our website: www.middlesex.mass.edu/CareerTraining/youth/summercamps.htm or call 978-656-3215. To register directly for MCC's Summer Camps, call 1-800-818-3434.

Kids Summer Book Group: Registration is underway for Kids Book Groups. Groups are offered throughout the summer in 2-week sessions. Using quality literature, hands-on projects, and outdoor activities, Kids Book Group aims to improve vocabulary, reading fluency, phonemic awareness, reading aloud, spelling and comprehension of text. For schedule and rates, email kidsbookgroup@verizon.net or call Pam Williams (who has been serving students in classrooms at Davis for many years) at (781) 248-1782.

Nashoba Brooks School – Discount for Bedford Families: Nashoba Brooks School on Strawberry Hill Rd, Concord is offering a full array of affordable summer programming for 2-12 year olds. Information about Theater Camp, Preschool and Toddler Programs and Day Camp with such offerings as Robotics, Sculpture, Astronomy, Playwriting and Lacrosse can be found at www.nashobabrooks.org or by calling 978 3694591 x 193. Davis and Lane School families may access a 10% discount on all fees for June 22-26.

Support Your Schools

Box Tops for Education: Clip - Clip Box Tops from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. Check out this web site for huge savings and more \$\$ for the school <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Promotions/Default.aspx> Thanks for your continuous support! We just submitted \$800 worth of Box Tops. Keep clipping it does add up!

CC Ca\$h: New recycling program available at Davis and Lane Schools. By each office area, there is one recycle box for Cell Phones. Cartridge World (right here in Bedford) is handling the recycling for the all inkjet cartridges. Boxes are located by the office area at both schools.

Bedford Farms Fundraiser – Get Your Cards Now! Bedford Farms Ice Cream will once again run a fundraiser for the Bedford schools during the month of April. Stop by anytime during the month and ask to purchase a Bedford School Gift Card. You can load it with any amount and the cards are good anytime during the summer season. Stock up now on gifts for coaches, teachers, babysitters, and graduates. At the end of the month, Bedford Farms will donate 20% of all gift card purchases to the four Bedford Schools. Last year, BEST received a total of \$1200 for Davis and Lane Schools. How sweet it is!!! Cards may only be purchased at the Bedford location only.

Kudos

Davis Hospitality: BEST wishes to thank the Davis Hospitality Committee for their support of and contributions to the successful and well-appreciated teacher/staff luncheon held on the early-release day in March. The following committee members provided delicious food and/or time to the event: Carla Baer, Carla Bradford, Julie Capone, Beth Doyle, Maureen Eliason, Cindy Fissette, Breena Gordon, Deb Griffin, Lisa Hafer, Janel Halupowski, Dawn Kociubes, Debbie Kostas, Sandy Morvillo, Lisa O'Brien, Sue Parenti, Carolee Parsons, Dori Pulizzi, Karen Shamon, Jayme Szymczak, and Beth Venuti.

Lane Hospitality: BIG THANKS to the following Lane Hospitality Committee Members for a fabulous luncheon given to the Lane Teachers and Support Staff on Wednesday, March 4th: Lisa Hafer, Cindy Bosco, Christine Speciale, Cynthia Brewington, Venus Ho Barber, Andrea Hayes, Karen Fallon, Cindy Fissette, Jill Scanlon, Stephanie Kriesberg, Linda Roth, Anna Wallace, Paula Driscoll, Francesca Locati, Beth Doyle, Carol Wait, Deb Kostas. The teachers truly appreciate all of your hard work and contributions!

Get Movin' Night: Over 150 students and their parents came to the first Get Movin' night at Lane School on March 20. The kids exercised and had fun moving through five different zones of activity in the gym.

Then the students went into the multipurpose room to make healthy snacks and drinks to enjoy. They even did a tennis ball craft. Many thanks to Callahan's Karate and Summit Health and Fitness for their support. The event was a true success because of the hard work of Nancy Griffiths, "Body Jams for Kids" who co-chaired the event with Annette Brown. Nancy ran the dance funk zone in the gym and organized all the other activities in the gym. Many thanks to all parent volunteers: Annette and Peter Brown, Norm Heckman, Liz Criostin, Lexi Kidd, Susan Frazier, Nancy and Jim Griffiths, Carolyn Martin, Christine Pinney, Theresa Meuse and Deb Ricci

Community Corner

Bedford School Committee: Meetings will be held at 7:30pm in the Bedford High School Multipurpose Room unless otherwise noted. All agendas include a regular "Comments from the Public" item. Full agendas are available 48 hours prior to each meeting at www.bedford.k12.ma.us and at the Bedford Public Library. All are welcome to attend, and meetings are taped and shown on channel 10. Check the BCAT website at www.bedford.tv/schedule or the Bedford Minuteman for the schedule. Topics scheduled for upcoming school committee meetings are:

April 14th: Presentation: Metco Program; Presentation: SEPAC (Special Education Parents Advisory Council); Contract Approval: Davis School Flooring

April 28th: Presentation: Acceptable Use Policy for Students; Presentation: Web Page Policy; Presentation: Mathematics Textbooks; Presentation: Textbook for Personal Finance Course; Presentation: Bridges Mathematics; Appointment: Director of Special Education

PMC Kids Ride Bedford: Registration is now open online (<http://kids.pmc.org/bedford>) for the Bedford PMC Kids Ride to be held June 13th at the John Glenn Middle School. We are hoping for our biggest turnout ever and really need your support! Volunteers can register as well. Please contact Amy Mason at a.mason10@verizon.net with any questions and we look forward to seeing you at the ride!

Girl Scout Troop 7206 needs your help! As a Junior Bronze Award project, Troop 7206 is collecting pet supplies for an MSPCA animal shelter in Methuen, called Nevins Farm. They house a wide variety of rescue pets, from dogs and rabbits to horses and sheep! Some things that they could use are: cat and dog toys, cat litter, duct tape, UNSCENTED hand sanitizer, hand and dish soap, laundry detergent, "Carefresh" bedding or "Yesterday's News" bedding, "Totally Ferret" ferret food, "Kaytee Complete" rabbit and guinea pig food, "Mazuri" hamster and gerbil food. During the month of April, collection boxes will be available around town, including places like Lane School and Chip-In-Farm.

Moms' Book Club: Hello Everyone! We will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 3, 2009, in the First Congregational Church Library located at 25 Great Road. Our April selection is *Kinky Gazpacho* by Lori Tharps. If you are interested in childcare, please contact Ann Guay at 781-271-9062 or Wendy Stacey at 781-275-5480. Our future selections are: May 1st—*Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan; June 5th—*Wild Trees* by Richard Preston.

Bedford Kids: Visit www.bedfordkids.com <<http://www.bedfordkids.com>>, a web site for families with children ages 0-18 in Bedford, Massachusetts, and surrounding communities. You'll find a local calendar of events; things to do (activities, classes, sports, clubs, camps, museums, zoos, farms, playgrounds, story times, family-friendly restaurants); information on the Bedford Family Connection (a local group for families with children ages 0-5); preschool & childcare options; information on Bedford Public Schools (K-12); local and statewide parent resources (support groups; health + wellness; job search); a Welcome to Bedford guide; Bedford + Neighbors community links; and an active site-related Yahoo email discussion group. www.bedfordkids.com

Recreation Upcoming Events and Programs: The Spring and Summer Recreation Brochures are now

available and registrations are being accepted. Springs Brook brochure available in mid-May. Check out the website for details: <http://www.bedfordrecreation.org/> Not only do we have lots of youth programs, check out the expanded adult programs. If you have any ideas or would like to teach with us, please contact the Recreation Dpt.

Bedford SEPAC To Hold Executive Function Forum: On Monday April 13, Bedford SEPAC will be holding an executive function (EF) forum. If you have a child with executive function or organizational difficulties who is struggling in school and feel he/she could be doing better with the right supports, we would like to hear from you. Would daily online posting of homework by all teachers be helpful? Would a late acceptance policy for homework that gets done but left on the kitchen table relieve some stress (for you and your child!)? What are your child's teachers doing that is working well for your child? Any and all feedback will be valuable in providing guidance for us as we move forward. The forum will be open to all parents of children with organizational difficulties whether or not they receive special education services. Your voice can be an important part in helping to create a school environment that can benefit all learning styles. The forum will also provide an opportunity for parent networking, to share information, and meet others who are dealing with the same challenges you are. Executive function information and resources will be available and light refreshments will be served. This event will take place on Monday April 13 from 7-9 PM in the multipurpose room at the Lt. Job Lane School, 66 Sweetwater Ave., Bedford. If you feel strongly about this issue and would like to play a more active role, please consider joining the executive function subcommittee. You can find out more about EF subcommittee membership at the forum on April 13 or contact committee chairperson, Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net. For those who would like to participate but cannot attend the forum, send your comments to Berni Vatcher at berni_v@verizon.net. For information on upcoming Bedford SEPAC activities, events or membership, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BedfordSEPAC>.

Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee: Friday April 24. Parents and guardians of children with special needs are invited to attend a coffee sponsored by Bedford SEPAC (Special Education Parents' Advisory Council) on Friday April 24 at Whole Foods Café, 170 Great Road, Bedford. Come and share concerns, information and support in a relaxed, informal setting. SEPAC holds monthly parent coffees the fourth Friday of every month. For more info about Bedford SEPAC, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BedfordSEPAC> and sign up to receive notices of upcoming events.

Parent Education Series: Fall - Spring 2008-2009 brochures have been mailed out to each Bedford residence. These can also be found on our Town of Bedford, Youth & Family Services website, www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html as well as available in hard copy at our offices in Town Center. Save the dates:

April 8, 2009, Patricia Marquis, HANDLING CHILDREN'S ANGER CONSTRUCTIVELY

April 29, 2009, Kathryn Yamartino, HELP! HOW TO ENJOY LIVING WITH A PRE-ADOLESCENT

Check out Bedford Youth & Family Services new Spring 2009 Newsletter available on line at www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html or in hard copy at our Town Center offices!

Welcome New Residents! Bedford Youth & Family Services, a Town of Bedford department, welcomes contact from new residents to Bedford to provide information on the resources for which new residents may be interested. Our role in the community is to support and nurture the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children, youth, adults and families in Bedford and foster a healthy community. Contact 781-275-7727. We look forward to hearing from you.

WIC Is in Bedford! The WIC Nutrition Program is at the Bedford Town Center (the yellow building), 12 Mudge Way, Rm. 210, 2nd floor, every second Wednesday of the month 8:30 a.m. to noon. WIC information 1-617/666-5059 Other questions, please call 781-275-7727

2008-2009 BEST/PTO Officers

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