



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

Bedford Elementary Schools Together/Parent Teacher Organization
Providing a Forum for Communication, Enrichment, and Support
April 2010

Letter from the President:

I knew that the amount of planning that went in to the Circus/Carnival was extensive, but I realized just how much on the Sunday after the event when my incoming emails went from 25 down to 5. The efforts of the committee made the event a success. Their hard work and diligence to make it a wonderful day for the families of the BEST/PTO community was a commitment that was shared not only by them but their families as many long hours were needed to plan the day.

Peter Ricci, builder extraordinaire, planned all the games for the carnival; working with him was Lisa Warhover, ordering and organizing all the prizes for the games. Susan Miele found the wonderful face painter, my son John is still talking about his pirate face! Kristin Ferrari secured the wonderful prizes for the raffle, and Caroline Fedele masterfully recruited and scheduled all the volunteers while assembling food vendors. Diane Bernstein secured prizes for the raffle and maintained our financial focus throughout the planning stages. Julie Phyllis was responsible for all the advertising far and wide that secured a sell out for all three Circus shows.

Bravo to everyone who worked so tirelessly. It was an honor and privilege to work with such a phenomenal group.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention all the local businesses that stepped up and offered their financial and or product support for the day. It is due to these generous donations that we were able to make \$7500. When you patronize these businesses remember they were an integral part in our fundraising efforts.

Game Sponsors: Leary Auto Repair, Garrison Knight Financial Planning, Lexington Lock, Chip In Farm, Bedford Jewelers, David W. Dillen Tree Service and Lester's Roadside BBQ (Billerica). Premier Sponsors; Moison Ace Hardware and The Higgins Group Realty. Area Sponsors; Patriot Landscaping and New England Nurseries. Product Sponsors: Whole Foods Market (Bedford), CVS Pharmacy, Trader Joe's, Welch's, The 99 Restaurant (Billerica) and School House Ice Cream (Burlington), McDonalds (Bedford) . Raffle Sponsors: Organix Spa, Bedford Farms, Palio's Restaurant, Café Luigi's, Staples, The Lynagh family, Kristin Ferrari and Susan Miele, Jennifer Buckley – Silpada, Liquid Pixels, Caroline Fedele – Sprint, Massage Envy and Bedford Car Wash.

A thank you to the community of volunteers and families that participated in the day and to the maintenance staff at Bedford High School for all their help in making the day run so smoothly!

See you under the Big Top next year!!!

Lyn Kapilian
President BEST/PTO

In The Schools

The Lane school has been awarded a grant from the Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This grant will help offset funds for the 5th grade April/May field trip to participate in "The Road to Revolution " and "Rebels, Redcoats and Homespun Heroes" Programs and the 5th grade field trip, also in April, to visit Lowell National Historical Park and the Mills Museum. Thank you to the Bedford Cultural Council for their support!

Lane School Hospitality Committee: BEST wishes to thank the following people for their generous donations of delicious food, supplies, and time that made the Lane teacher/staff luncheon on the Mar. 3 early-release day such a resounding success:

Monica Bou, Carla Bradford, Jean Doherty, Beth Doyle, Cindy Fissette, Sabine Gossart, Venus Ho-Barber, Marybeth Klein, Debbie Kostas, Stephanie Kriesberg, Sue Parenti, Lisa Sackett, Jill Scanlon, Christine Speciale, and Caren Venuti.

Our next luncheon (the last of the school year) takes place on Wed. June 2. Its not too late to join in and help to show our appreciation for all the wonderful things that the Lane faculty and staff do for our kids. Contact Carla Bradford at carlajbradford@yahoo.com or 781-275-6395 to volunteer to contribute to the June event.

Davis School Hospitality Committees: Teacher Appreciation Week Coming Up: May 3-7
For Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW), we thank our teachers by doing something special for them each day of TAW. We are only able to do this with the help of parent volunteers at Davis and Lane. Sandy Morvillo and Chris Anderson will be organizing TAW for teachers at Davis School. Lori Alper and Karen Fallon will be organizing TAW for teachers at Lane School. In the next couple of weeks, we will be sending out requests for food items such as breakfast, coffee, fruit and cookies. Also, for Davis, we will need volunteers to help with morning set up and bus duty in the afternoon. We are also accepting any corporate donations at this time. If you know of any, please contact Karen Fallon at kmfallon2@comcast.net.

We hope that you will be able to contribute in some way and make this another successful week for our wonderful teachers! Thank you for your help in advance. Sandy Morvillo, Chris Anderson, Lori Alper and Karen Fallon

Lane School Talent Show: Thanks to all of you who have volunteered for the Talent Show. It is fast approaching on April 13th, 14th and 15th at 3:30, noon and 9:00 respectively. The 13th is the dress rehearsal is open to parents. The 14th is the Senior Luncheon and the 15th is the performance for the Lane School. We still need additional volunteers on the 13th to ensure a successful performance. Please email Susan Miele at susanannmiele@gmail.com if you are able to help out. The time commitment will be approximately 3 hours, starting a half hour before the show begins. We greatly appreciate your support!

Green Committee: Spring is nearly here. My wife says in New England you can't be sure until May 1st, and always points out that we have had Mother's Day snowstorms, but I'll try to stay positive. Anyway, with spring in our area comes many things that you can do "green." Start a garden, vegetable or flower, and you can create your own compost to help support this project, keep more waste out of landfills, and reduce methane build up. Doing a spring clean out? Try to give away, donate, or have a yard sale, rather than throw out items that still have life in them. Reminder: BEST/PTO receives money from books given to the GOT BOOKS bin in the Whole Foods parking lot. And, as always, the warmer weather makes it easier to walk or bike to your errands, rather than taking the car.

This month's tip: I know we are all pretty fed up with rain right now, but look into a rain barrel to collect water to use in gardens this summer. I installed one 2 years ago at my house, and it has been very effective.

Please contact me if you are interested in chairing or being on the Green Committee. There are many small focuses that could help our community and schools be more earth friendly, and help to instill a green mind in our students. I would like to see this committee continue.

Submitted by Peter Ricci for the Green Committee

Community Corner:

Barnes and Noble Benefit for the Bedford Public Schools - BEF, BEST, MSPA, BHSPA& SEPAC: Barnes and Noble Bookfair, Thursday & Friday, April 29-30, 2010, 9 am to 11 pm at Barnes & Noble, Burlington, MA. JUST SAY BEDFORD WHEN YOU CHECK OUT OR ORDER ONLINE.

- Thursday, April 29 from 3:30-4:30 former Poet Laureate Louise Gluck will be signing her newest book, A Village Life
- Thursday, April 29 Bedford High School Student Poetry Slam
- Friday, April 30 Speaker Martha Zeigler, founder of the Federation for Children with Special Needs and parent of a 46 year old child with ASD
- Friday, April 30 Anne Larkin

April is BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL MONTH at BEDFORD FARMS ICE CREAM! Stop by Bedford Farms Ice Cream during the month of April. Tell the scooper that you would like to purchase a "Bedford School Gift Card(s)". Bedford Farms will donate 20% of the amount placed on the gift card(s) to the Bedford Public Schools (equally divided among Davis, Lane, JGMS, and BHS). Use the gift card at either of the Bedford Farms Ice Cream locations (18 North Rd, Bedford, and 68 Thoreau St, Concord). The gift card does not expire and may be used anytime. You can "reload" your gift card or purchase additional cards at anytime throughout the month and it will count toward the donation. Bedford store hours for the month of April are 11am - 9pm.

This is a great opportunity to think ahead and load up for the summer months while benefiting the Bedford school system. Use this chance to purchase small tokens of appreciation for coaches, teachers, birthdays and babysitters or whomever might deserve a tasty treat.

Bedford TV, "The Best Show In Town": Check out the new **Bedford Community Calendar** (<http://www.bedford.tv/calendar>). This is a great way for you to find out what's going on around town or to promote your own community event.

Please take our online survey to help us improve our service. Visit our website at www.bedford.tv and follow the link to take the 1-minute survey and you could win a Bedford TV t-shirt!

BedfordKids.com Visit 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); 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.

Spring Book Sale at the Bedford Public Library: The Friends of the Bedford Library are holding a three day Spring Book Sale. The sale begins Friday, April 9, from 12:00-5:00 and continues Saturday the 10th from 9:00 to 4:00. On Sunday the 11th from noon to 3:00 there will be a Bag Sale and a half price sale. The Book Sale is held rain or shine at the library located at 7 Mudge Way in Bedford, MA.

Thanks to the quantity and quality of book donations, there will be thousands of books offered in three different rooms. Books on sale in the Meeting Room include mostly fiction such as science fiction, romance, thrillers, poetry, plays and classics plus videos, dvds and cds. Children's books will fill the story hour room adjoining the Meeting Room. Down the hall past the circulation desk

are non-fiction books, including art, cookbooks, foreign languages, business, history, science, textbooks, and more.

Most children's and adult's books are fifty cents for paperbacks and \$1.00 for hardcovers. Larger paperbacks are \$1.00. Some collectibles and choice gift books are specially priced. Proceeds from book sales help underwrite library programs and services, including lecture and film series, additions to the library collection and museum passes.

The Friends of the Bedford Free Public Library is a non-profit organization that sponsors library programs, augments library services and facilities, and supports requests for additional collection acquisitions through grant requests from the Library Director.

Donations of books, audio books, CDs, DVDs can be dropped off on the donation desk during regular library hours prior to the sale.

PMC Bedford Kids Ride: Online registration is now open (<http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/>) for the PMC Bedford Kids Ride to be held June 19th from 9am-1pm at John Glenn Middle School. We are looking forward to an incredible ride and really need your support! This year the PMC is initiating a Heavy Hitters program for kids who raise at least \$250. These PMC Kids Heavy Hitters will be recognized with a special PMC Kids Heavy Hitter baseball hat and other items to distinguish their achievement. We are encouraging all riders to take part in this challenge and become a Heavy Hitter. For information or questions about the ride contact Amy Mason at a.mason10@verizon.net. We'd also like to remind the parents that in order to make this event a success we are in need of volunteers as well. Please visit the PMC Bedford web page to register as a volunteer or contact eva_naldini@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you at the ride!

PMC Bedford Kids Ride KIDS NIGHT OUT. This popular event will be held on May 15th from 5.30-8.30 pm at the Edge Sports Center. Come join in the fun with Sandy Morvillo, Peter Laskaris and Nancy Griffiths for crackabout, mat ball, dancing, obstacle courses and more. Open to kids K through 5th grade. The cost is \$25 per child (siblings pay \$10) and includes pizza and ice cream. All proceeds benefit the PMC Bedford Kids Ride in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For reservations or information contact: bedfordpmckidsride@gmail.com

Bedford Education Foundation: The Bedford Education Foundation wishes to thank all of the Bedford families, teachers and administrators who attended our recent fundraiser at Palio's. The evening was a huge success! More than \$7,000 was raised to benefit the Bedford Schools. We especially want to thank those families and businesses that donated items for our Silent Auction and Raffle:

Ann Marie and Ed Bernardon, Diane and Tom Busa, Michael Feinstein and Denise Waldron, Scott and Lore Griffith, Michelle and Charlie Matteo, Bedford Florist, Busa Liquors, Dalya's Restaurant, Liquid Pixels, Inc., Middlesex Community College, Palio's Restaurant and Patriot Landscaping

Thanks to everyone for your continued support. To learn more about the Bedford Education Foundation, please visit our web site at www.bedfordeducation.org.

Join A Book Club: This monthly book discussion group welcomes new members! We meet at 10am the first Friday of each month in the library of the Congregational Church, 25 Great Road. If you are interested in childcare while at the meeting, please arrange in advance with Wendy Stacey 781-275 5480 or Ann Guay 781-271-9062. This Friday, April 2nd we will talk about, "Unaccustomed Earth" by Jhumpa Lahiri. Feel free to join us.

Here are our book selections for the upcoming months:

May 7 th	The Help by Kathryn Stockett
June 4 th	The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

Happy Reading!

Kids' Club Summer Fun: KIDS' CLUB (KC) is a child care program licensed by the Massachusetts Office of Early Education and Care. During the school year, KC offers Before School, After School, and School Vacation care options. During the summer KC offers Summer Fun, open weekdays 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM, for children entering Grades 1 - 6. Summer Fun offers children a mix of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities throughout the day. Summer Fun 2010 events include visits from Mad Science and the New England Aquarium, and performances by Pumpernickel Puppets and the Hamstead Stage Company. Planned fieldtrips include Southwick's Zoo and Cosmic Bowling at Brunswick Lanes, Lowell. A complete Summer Fun 2010 calendar of themes and events can be found at www.bedfordma.gov/kidsclub.

As renovations take place in the KIDS' CLUB building, KC's Summer Fun program will be using spaces in the Town Center building during the month of June (Summer Fun Weeks 1&2). Summer Fun Weeks 3-11 will operate at the Lane School. For more information regarding programming, fees, and registration contact:

Nancy Cormier, Kids' Club Director
Becky Ricci & Alan Pedersen, Kids' Club Assistant Directors
781-275-5427

Bedford Recreation Department Expands Adult and Family Programs. The Bedford Rec. department wants you to know that they now offer a variety of program for adults, not just sports and fitness. New family programs have been announced, such as Kayaking and Geocaching, Whale Watches and (free) Star Gazing Parties. Visit bedfordrecreation.org or call Raeann Gembis, Adult Coordinator, Bedford Recreation Department, 781-275-1392 ext. 355.

Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee, Friday April 30, 26, 8:30-10:30 AM at Whole Foods Café: Parents and guardians of children with special needs or learning challenges are invited to attend a coffee on Friday, April 30, sponsored by Bedford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Parent coffees are a great way to connect with others who may be facing some of the same challenges that you are. Drop in any time from 8:30am-10:30am to share concerns, information and support in a relaxed, informal setting. SEPAC generally holds parent coffees the 4th Friday of every month at Whole Foods Café, 170 Great Road, Bedford. Contact Irene Gravina at igravina@yahoo.com or (781) 275-6535. For information about Bedford SEPAC events, activities or membership, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BedfordSEPAC> and sign up to receive notices of upcoming events.

Bedford SEPAC Board Elections, Wed. May 5: Bedford SEPAC will be holding elections for executive board positions for the 2010-2011 school year at an open board meeting on Wednesday, May 5 at 7pm in the Multipurpose Room, Lane School. We are currently seeking volunteers to fill vacancies for Liaison to Davis School and Liaison for our out-of-district population. Preliminary planning for next year's activities has begun and will be discussed. If you have been thinking about getting involved with SEPAC, this is the time!

All parents or guardians of children with special needs or learning challenges attending Bedford Public Schools and/or are residents of Bedford are invited to attend and participate. SEPAC can be a strong voice for children with special needs, but only with your help. For more information, contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net.

2009-2010 BEST/PTO Officers

President: Lyn Kapilian

lynkapilian@comcast.net

Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci

bedfordriccis@verizon.net

Vice President (Lane): Susan Miele

susananmiele@gmail.com

Secretary: Kristin Ferrari

kferrari@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diane Bernstein

dgm.bernstein@verizon.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

- 5th grade
- Green committee
- Celebrating Differences
- Parent Advisory Council
- Transportation Safety Committee