



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

Bedford Elementary Schools Together/Parent Teacher Organization
 Providing a Forum for Communication, Enrichment, and Support
 December 2008

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News From the President of BEST

To all the B.E.S.T families,

Thanks to all the families who turned out for our recent Family Movie Night to enjoy *Alvin and the Chipmunks* and their wild and crazy antics! Intermission was filled with popcorn, drinks and socializing - all in all a very fun evening. It was a great lead-in to the Thanksgiving holiday when many of us had the chance to catch up with family and friends and enjoy a bit of relaxation.

November was another busy month for the BEST community. Genevieve's orders were delivered on the 13th. We would like to thank all who helped the distribution process go smoothly from those who helped sort all of the orders to all the parents who obliged by picking up orders at the school promptly. Given that this was the first year of a new distribution system, we feel it went pretty well. We will tweak the process for next year to make it even smoother!

Our Bedford Spiritwear sale last month was again a big success. We exceeded our sales from last year and will have a better sense of our profit once all orders are processed. Delivery is scheduled for December 15th. Coming up on Dec. 4th is our holiday shopping night. Over 27 vendors will have their wares available for your perusal and purchase and there will be food and music as well! Hope many of you can make it!

By now you should have received a flyer explaining our Sponsor-a-Class fund for this year. Please take the time to read about the changes we have made this year. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Remember to send in your donations to the annual Lane School Clothing Drive running from December 1st through the 19th. Donations of clothing, shoes, toiletries, and diapers may be sent in with your child or dropped at the large collection boxes in the Lane School lobby.





Have a wonderful holiday season!

Warmly,
 Marge



December Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Dec 1	2 • School Comm. Mtg.	3 • <i>Early Release Day</i>	4 • BEST Shopping Night	5	6
7 • Breakfast with Santa	8	9 • School Comm. Mtg. 	10	11	12	13
14	15 • Bedford Spiritwear delivery	16	17	18	19	20
21 • Hannukkah Begins 	22	23 • <i>Early Release Day; Vacation Begins</i>	24	25 	26 • Kwanzaa Begins 	27
28	29 • Hannukkah Ends	30	31	Jan 1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> • Kwanzaa Ends	2	3

Support Your Schools

Box Tops 2008 - 2009: 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/AboutBoxTops/>. In addition to soups and cereals, look for Box Tops to clip from Ziploc and Hefty brands, as well as numerous diapers and paper products. Thanks for your continuous support!



CC Ca\$h: 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 all inkjet cartridges. Boxes are located by the office area at both schools.



BEST Holiday Shopping Night: Thursday, December 4, 7-9pm, Davis School. Come shop for holiday gifts from a variety of vendors, and enjoy live music, snacks, and beverages. There's a raffle, too!

Update on BEST Fall Campaign and Sponsor-a-Class: The BEST officers would like to thank all those who have contributed to our annual fall campaign. If you have not yet sent in your contribution, it is not too late to help us reach our budget goal. Send your donation (suggestion is \$25/child) to Diane Bernstein, BEST treasurer via Kidmail.

You should have received a flyer outlining our newly revised Sponsor-a-Class program within the last week. We have made some changes to the process to decrease the workload for our volunteers and make it more efficient. All donations will be gratefully appreciated. Send any contributions to Lori Shah via Kidmail. *At the end of the newsletter, please be sure to read quotes from some of the thank you notes we receive from staff after receiving their Sponsor-a-Class checks.*

Volunteer Opportunities

Davis Art Room: Support our Little Artists! Someone once said, "The artist does not see things as they are, but as he is." This is so true of our young artists! Volunteer in your child's art class and learn more about your child through his or her creations! Those who have already volunteered for the Art Room, know, that watching the children explore who they are through their art is delightful and enlightening! Won't you join us in supporting the Art Room and our little artists this winter? We are always looking for additional volunteers! Each Art class lasts about 45 minutes and Art Room volunteers do not need any special artistic talent - just encouragement for the children and help with setting up and putting away art projects. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Soraya Stevens or Sumiko Goldbaum at davisart-room@yahoo.com. To those who have supported Mrs. Frazier and the creativity that takes place in the Art room at Davis, we thank you so much! Your presence is appreciated more than you know by Mrs. Frazier AND the children. They love having you in the room with them!



Kudos

World Language Program: The fall session of the Davis School World Language program has been successfully completed. A big thank you to Lita Verrier for organizing this program and to the generous teacher volunteers for their time, effort and dedication: Lourdes Engel, Deborah Griffin, Shaheen Bossi, Ilham Loughman, Melinda Ballou, Melinda Lopez, Mayu Dyer and Ruth Ann Valentine. If your child did not get selected in the lottery for fall classes, you will have another chance in the spring. We do hope for a successful Spring Session, so keep your eyes open for the enrollment forms next year. We still need someone to take over as chairperson of this committee. If you want to see this program continue, please consider helping to organize it. Contact Marge Heckman or Lita Verrier for further information.



Polling Day at Lane: Monday November 3 was a very presidential day at Lane School as the 24 polls opened just after the bell. The fifth grade students did a wonderful job registering voters, manning the polls, collecting and sorting ballots and giving loudspeaker updates throughout the day. And the winner was..... Barack Obama!! Many thanks to all the parents who baked treats for the voters to enjoy as they exited the polls. BEST/ PTO would like to thank Lauren Bartkus, Renu Kurien Bostwick, Annette Brown, Andrea Hayes, Marge Heckman, Judy Kravitz, Elizabeth Kyrou, Carolyn Martin, Flavia Radavitsky, Lisa Shaeffer and Christine Speciale.



Community Corner

Bedford School Committee: New Location! 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:

12/2: Budget presentation

12/9: Budget Discussion

Turf's Up! We're almost there! The Bedford Turf Association needs only a *few more* donations to reach it's goal of raising \$37,500 for turf design. Once turfed, our football field can be opened up daily for lacrosse, soccer, and adult-leagues. It has the most infrastructure (lights, stands, scoreboard) so we want to see it used a lot. Turf allows for endless play! Help us prove that Bedford families care about fields. Please make your tax-deductible gift or pledge today to: **Bedford Turf Association**, c/o Recreation Department, 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730. Every donation is like a vote in favor of *all* fields, not just this one. Thank you to the hundreds of families who have already given! Best regards, Bedford Turf Association: *Jim Lespasio, Ron Richter, Deb Picciuto, Stacy Schalick*

Breakfast With Santa: 22nd Annual **Breakfast with Santa** and Mrs. Claus. **Sunday, December 7, 2007**, 8am- 12:00pm at LANE School. \$6 per person. Again This Year- FREE professional photos with Santa! Silent Auction - Gifts* One-of-a-kind Services* Toys* Surprises. All proceeds to benefit annual programs. Presented by The Rotary Club of Bedford. www.RotaryMaBedford.org



Moms' Book Club: We hope you had a great Thanksgiving. **The Book Club does not meet in December.** We will meet again on Friday, January 9, 2009, in the First Congregational Church Library located at 25 Great Road. Our January selection is *The Middle Years* by Kelly Corrigan. If you are interested in childcare, please contact Ann Guay at 781-271-9062 or Wendy Stacey 781-275-5480. For those who like to read ahead, our February Selection is *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. A complete list of books to be read for the remainder of the year will appear in the January newsletter. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.



Bedford Youth and Family Services: The BYFS is here to support and nurture the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children, youth, adults and families in Bedford. The BYFS offices of are located on the 2nd floor of the Town Center Building. Office hours are 8am-4pm Monday-Friday, with late afternoon and evening appointments available as schedules permit. Appointments can also be arranged for other town or school locations or at the Community Agencies Building in Concord, MA next to Emerson Hospital. Please call 781-275-7727 for more information or to make an appointment or visit the BYFS website at www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html for their newsletter and information related to resources such as the **BYFS Newsletter available online**, **new resident support**, **Bedford WIC program**, and **Bedford Housing Authority**. And be sure to look for information in Fuel/Home Heating assistance if you could use some help with your home heating bills this winter. You can find out if you qualify and apply for the Fuel assistance Program through Bedford Youth and Family Services.



Bedford Recreation... It's not just for kids! The Town of Bedford Recreation Department is pleased to announce expanded adult programming. In an ongoing effort to meet the needs of the community, we are increasing the number and variety of adult programs offered.

Public Celebrations: Several years ago, Bedford's Recreation staff became the administrators for the Public Ceremonies Committee. It was determined that daily availability of a municipal liaison would add efficiency to contracting, inter-departmental communication, bills payments and communications with the residents. The events that are now carried out under the Recreation/Public Ceremonies umbrella include Bedford Day, Concerts on the Common, July 4th Celebration and Tree Lighting. These activities are structured for the adults and children in our community.

New Adult Programs: More recently, a slowly growing collection of adult programs has taken off and inquiries for more have risen. We will be rolling out several new programs and activities this winter. Program details will be available on our website (www.bedfordrecreation.org) and in our Winter Activities Brochure (mailed to all Bedford residences in early December).

Many of our programs and events begin as ideas or requests from residents. Please feel free to share yours with us!

Support Your Schools (continued)

Excerpts from Staff Thank You Notes for Sponsor-a-Class

"Several weeks ago I sat quietly and made a small wish list of a few items that "would be nice to have" in Occupational Therapy. Once again, you've made my wish come true and I will be ordering those items today. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of children and for your generous gift recognizing the work I do." -- *Pam Turner, Occupational Therapist*

"...With your contribution, I am able to give each of my students the phonics practice work that they need. They are able to use their bookmarks, word sorts, and fluency sheets to develop their skills all year." -- *Ann Hamel, Special Educator*

"... Thank you so much for the generous Sponsor-a-Class donation. This will help cover the cost of supplies such as reading boxes, portfolio materials, and manipulatives for math. Your donation is greatly appreciated." -- *Kathryn Holmes, 3rd Grade teacher*

"... Because of contributions like these, classroom teachers are able to purchase some of the extra items to enhance the curriculum that we otherwise would not be able to have. A purchase I look forward to making is a set of new thermometers for teaching our science unit on weather. Our old set was so inaccurate that the students could easily have a dozen different measures of temperature for the same location! Your check also helped defray the cost of spray paints and other items for making our volcanoes." -- *Gwenyth E. Oien, 5th Grade teacher*

"...Thanks to the money given by BEST, I was able to purchase materials to be used schoolwide to increase social skills awareness, as well as materials for small groups. I have worked in Bedford for 33 years. When I speak to professionals from other districts, my appreciation for all of you and for Bedford's commitment to education is always increased." -- *Bette Jervinis, Davis School Counselor*

"... A Reading Specialist needs books on many levels and the check allows me to purchase multiple copies of books at different levels for my students to read independently as well as in small groups. Having been a parent of BEST when it first organized, I understand the commitment involved to all the committees and activities. Thank you for taking the time to make the teachers of Davis and Lane feel special." -- *Linda Volpicelli, Lane School Reading Specialist*

"What a special treat it was to open my mail and receive the Sponsor-a-Class check. I intend to use the money to purchase literacy materials to enhance our literacy center and Writer's Workshop. ... The support of Bedford families and the entire Bedford community is such a blessing to those of us who teach here. I feel very grateful to be a part of this exceptional leaning environment." -- *Joyce Ryder, Kindergarten teacher*

2008-2009 BEST/PTO Officers

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Visit these websites:

www.BESTPTO.org

www.Bedford.k12.ma.us

www.bedford.tv

www.bedford.k12.ma.us/davis/index.html

www.bedford.k12.ma.us/lane/index.html

www.genevieves.com/