



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Wonderful BEST families,

Wow - what a year it has been! All of the BEST officers would like to express our deep appreciation for the many contributions you have made to help create a fun and exciting year for our children and for the staff at Davis and Lane schools. This is truly a wonderful and committed community!

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as a BEST officer for the past three years. I will be stepping down as President and want to express my special thanks to all of you for your many kind words of appreciation and encouragement during this time. Your trust and support helped make the job a lot easier along the way! It has been my privilege to serve with a great group of officers and we even managed to make it fun!

Looking ahead to next year, there will be some new faces and some familiar ones among the new BEST officers. They will continue to provide outstanding leadership to guide BEST through another great year. There will be many new and exciting opportunities for you to get involved and support this outstanding leadership team!

Lastly, I wish you all a fun and safe summer with your families. Spend time together and have a ball!

With warmest regards,

Marge

June Calendar

June 3	Walk to School Day - Lane Early Release Day	June 11	BEST Nomination/Election Meeting 10am Lane School
June 4	Davis School Field Day (rain date June 5)	June 12	Grade 5 Challenge day and Picnic
June 5	Grade 3 Colonial Day Concert Bedford Womenade Event Moms' Book Club	June 13	Bedford PMC Kids' Ride
June 8	Grade 4 Foreign Language Concert @ JGMS SEPAC End Of Year Social	June 15	Farmers' Market Opening Day SEPAC Panel
June 9	Grade 5 Foreign Language Concert School Committee Meeting	June 16	Last Day of School for Kindergarten School Committee Meeting SEPAC Farewell Tea
June 10	Farewell reception for Jenny Brown	June 19	Last Day of School, Early Release SEPAC Parent Coffee

In the Schools

Davis School Physical Education Field Day: Thursday, June 4th (raindate Friday, June 5th). Our field day will provide students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun activities that promote health and fitness. Each grade level will be participating during different time blocks throughout the day. The schedule will be as follows: Kindergarten, 9:30-10:30am; Second Grade, 10:50-11:50am; First Grade, 1:30-2:30pm. Thank you in advance to all the volunteers! With appreciation, Angela Venezia - Health and Physical Educator ☺

Lane School Challenge Day: The fifth graders will finish their Project Adventure journey with Challenge Day on Friday June 12. Parents can watch their child at various elements on the Project Adventure course. A picnic follows that evening in the fields behind Lane School. Great job fifth graders!!

Farewell Reception for Jenny Brown: Please join us at the Davis School Cafeteria on June 10th from 4-6 PM as we bid a fond farewell to outgoing Davis School Principal Jenny Brown. There will be make-your-own sundaes with Bedford Farms Ice Cream along with some farewell words and gifts for Mrs. Brown. Hope to see you there!

Volunteer Opportunities

Davis Art Room-Bagging Art Work: We'll be bagging artwork in the yellow pod through June 15. Cooperative younger children are welcome. AM sessions are from 9:15am-12pm; PM sessions are 1pm-3pm. If you can stay only part of the time listed, come anyway! Contact Kathy Reiss at reissfamily5@verizon.net if you can help. Thanks!

Know a Good Accountant??? BEST is hoping to find a new accountant to handle our yearly taxes and hopefully decrease our administrative costs. If you are an accountant or know of a good accountant who may be interested, please contact Diane Bernstein, BEST treasurer at: ddm.bernstein@verizon.net.

It's Easy Being Green!

Coming into the summer we have the age-old question of opening your car windows vs. turning on the a/c while driving to save gas. Now I'm a guy that likes to feel the rush of the wind through his hair (what little I have left) but there are some studies that show that open windows create an aerodynamic drag. Most of these studies, including ones done by Consumer Reports, show that it is only about a mile per gallon loss, but with today's gas pricing, it could add up. So basically, if you are on the highway at higher speeds, close your windows and use the a/c. If you are doing errands around town, open up the windows and wave at your friends. And remember, it's also that time of year that you can saddle up on your bike or walk for a few quick errands. A walk under a mile distance isn't so bad, and I have had some great conversations with the kids when I bring them along for a walk. Bike racks spotted recently: Outside CVS and next to Whole Foods

Lapels Dry Cleaning has started to use a completely recyclable hanger on most clothes. It's a combination of cardboard and plastic, and owner Paul Sickorez says it can be put in your regular recycling bins. He also still takes back the old wire hangers to recycle as well. *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-4:30pm. An optional *After Camps Program*, for on-campus camps, provides campers with stimulating activities from 4:30-6pm.

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.

Bedford Recreation KIDS' CLUB - Summer Fun 2009 and School Year 2009-2010: The Summer Fun program at Bedford Recreation KIDS' CLUB begins the day after Bedford Schools end and continues until Friday, September 4, 2008. The program is for children entering Grades 1- 8 in September 2009 and children will be grouped according to grade. During the full day program (7:30 am - 6:00 pm), children choose among several developmentally appropriate and fun choices in our classrooms and outside in our play yard, water play area, and the town fields. Daily activities may include arts and crafts, cooking, indoor fitness fun, indoor and outdoor games, and theme days. In addition, the Summer Fun program will include some special visitors to the program such as the New England Aquarium and the Lowell Spinners. Registration for Summer Fun 2009 and School Year 2009-2010 is currently open. Please note that School Year programs beginning in September 2009 will be for children entering Grades K-5. For more information on our programs and registration, please call 781-275-5427 or visit bedfordrecreation.org and click on the KIDS' CLUB link.

Library Summer Program: The Bedford Free Public Library launches its summer program for children the third week in June. Watch for details of the Starship Adventure Summer Reading Club --- (Did you know that reading just six books over the summer will keep a child's reading skills from the dreaded "Summer Vacation Backslide"?) We've also planned a full schedule of events designed to call forth kids' creativity, imagination, curiosity and sense of fun! Watch for the calendar to come home from school or check the library website at bedfordlibrary.net. We hope to see your whole family soon! Sharon McDonald and Nancy Tegeler, Children's Librarians

Kids Summer Book Group: Now's your chance to register 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 in a FUN environment with peers. 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.

Kudos

Teacher Appreciation Week: We would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the families that volunteered their time and baking/cooking skills to make Teacher Appreciation Week a tremendous success. We were amazed at how quickly everyone signed up to contribute. The teachers were very appreciative and thankful for all the delicious food and for not having bus duty. There were well over 100 volunteers who helped to make this week incredibly special for the teachers and staff and Davis and Lane schools. While we would like to thank each of you individually, there are too many of you to name. You know who you are and please know that without each and every one of you this week would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank the individuals and corporations who donated towards the raffle: Sandy Morvillo, Jennifer Buckley, Amy Lloyd, Lore Griffith, Christine Bennett, Janel Halupowski, The DeBaryshe Family, Bedford Farms, Ginger Japanese Restaurant, Organix Spa and Salon, Brueggers Bagels, Papa Gino's, Domino's, Starbucks, Stop & Shop, Summit Health and Fitness, New England Nurseries, Asiana Bistro, Bedford Car Wash and Bedford Florist.

We are truly fortunate to live in such a supportive and devoted community. Thank you for all you do. BEST Teacher Appreciation Week Committee: Lori Alper, Monica Bou, Karen Fallon, Caren Venuti

Teacher Appreciation Week: Many thanks to Monica Bou, Caren Venuti, Lori Alper and Karen Fallon for the fabulous job they did coordinating Teacher Appreciation Week in May. We have received numerous notes of thanks from both Davis and Lane school staff for the outstanding efforts of all who helped make the week so special.

BEST wishes to thank the following volunteers for their service and commitment on these committees:

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS: Michelle Adams, Christine Anderson, Kelly Anderson, Estie Altman, Han Bae, Melinda Ballou, Annmarie Bland, Renu Bostwick, Carla Bradford, Jennifer Buckley, Pauline Cahill, Virginia Canciello, Lyn Castriotta, Jiyhung Choi, Denise Cohen, Janet Connell, Teddy Chuang, Jill Davis, Karen DeRosas, Denise Devellis, Judi Deware, Betty Doubek, Paula Driscoll, Natalie Dussault, Adriana Ferreria, Becky Garofalo, Paula Gilarde, Dana Gordon, Karen Guetersloh, Lisa Hafer, Lynn

Harrison, Sonia Holley, Brenda Kenahan, Sharon Kiel, Vanessa Kirchner-Leida, Dawn Kociubes, Nancy Kolb, Jennifer Lo, Jennifer Lydon, Linda Milano, Julie Mann-Dooks, Karine Marino, Melissa Mathey, Bonnie McCulloch, Maryann Murphy, Patrick Oates, Susan O'Dell, Deneen Pelletier-Mascoli, Shanling Peng, Astrid Reischwitz, Kathy Reiss, Becky Ricci, Nancy Richard, Amy Signorello, Lorene Simoneau, Gina Stephan, Linette Stevens, Tanuja Sud, Zarouhi Suggs, Laurie Sukoff, Bryan Tonini, Joan Turnberg, Bianca Valentine, Beth Venuti, Gretta Venuti, Lori Vitale, Lisa Warhover, Alexis Weisz, Jean Wilson, Cheri Winkler, Marten Wolckenhaar, and Judy Wright.

LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS: Christine Bennett, Monica Bou, Carla Bradford, Patty Carluccio, Jiyhung Choi, Susan Federico, Adriana Ferreria, Linda Gibbons, Deb Griffin, Karen Guetersloh, Sandy Morvillo, Lisa O'Brien, Annmarie Seldon, Deb Smith, Jessica Tonini, Annmarie Vaughan, Lisa Warhover, and Alexis Weisz.

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS: Lori Alper, Carla Baer, Carla Bradford, Julie Capone, Jiyhung Choi, Sara Cottman, Beth Doyle, Maureen Eliason, Lourdes Engel, Kristin Ferrari, Cindy Fissette, Breena Gordon, Sabine Gossart, Deb Griffin, Lisa Hafer, Janel Halupowski, Venus Ho-Barber, Dawn Kociubes, Debbie Kostas, Sandy Morvillo, Maryann Murphy, Tina Nappi, Lisa O'Brien, Sue Parenti, Caroley Parsons, Christine Portlock, Dori Pulizzi, Kathy Reiss, Karen Shamon, Christine Speciale, Jayme Szymczak, Jessica Tonini, and Beth Venuti.

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:

June 9: BHS School Improvement Plan; Space Planning/Enrollment Study; Textbook Presentation (Law Course)

June 16: School Committee Reorganization; Superintendent's Goals - End of Year Report; Textbook Adoption; School Security Report

Celebrate Bedford's 5th PMC Kids Ride on June 13th: Less than 2 weeks away! Visit <http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/> for more information and to register (be sure to check out our new video)! All donations go to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute helping those with cancer including this year's Pedal Partner 4 year old Matthew Langone of Bedford currently undergoing cancer treatments. Join us for a wonderful community event - kids can make a difference too!

Bedford Womenade: You are invited to an upcoming Bedford Womenade gathering: Friday, June 5th at 7:30p.m., 2 Crestview Road, Bedford. For those of you who may not be familiar with Bedford Womenade, it was started four years ago as a way for Bedford women to provide emotional and financial support to local families in need. Women in town take turns hosting Bedford Womenade at their homes. Annette Brown has graciously offered to host our June event on Friday, June 5th at her home on Crestview.

At each Bedford Womenade event, we begin with a potluck dinner. Guests are asked to bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert to share with other attendees. (See list below) Those who attend are also encouraged to bring a gift card from a local store such as Stop & Shop, Whole Foods, Market Basket, CVS, Marshalls, TJ Maxx or any other local business. The cards will be collected and given to families facing difficult times. We suggest a gift card in the amount of \$35 but understand some may choose to give less.

Bedford Womenade's June Event: Helping Two Bedford Families Facing Difficult Times: We have learned of two families who could really benefit from our support. One mother recently lost her husband and is battling illness. Another family is helping a child cope with kidney disease. As we plan for our dinner, we wanted to suggest what you could bring. If your last name starts with...please bring: A-G: dessert; H-M: wine or other beverage; N-S: appetizer; T-Z: main dish.

*If you'd like to contribute to our brand new **Bedford Womenade Cookbook**, bring your favorite recipe or the recipe for what you bring to our event. Hope you can join us. Spread the word and bring a friend.*

RSVP with Ann Guay: mguay70046@aol.com or 781-271-9062.

Organic Vegetable CSA: Heavens Harvest Farm provides a weekly delivery of local organic fruits and vegetables to Bedford. Deliveries begin in mid-June and continue for 15 weeks. Check out www.heavensharvest.com <<http://www.heavensharvest.com/>> for additional details. Contact Diane Bernstein, ddm.bernstein@verizon.net for more information.

Moms' Book Club: We will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5th, in the First Congregational Church Library located at 25 Great Road. Our June selection is *Wild Trees* by Richard Preston. If you are interested in childcare, please contact Ann Guay at 781-271-9062 or Wendy Stacey at 781-275-5480

Bedford Turf Association: The Bedford Turf Association (www.bedfordturf.org) still needs a few thousand more dollars to close out the design round. The Liang family has just put forth a generous pledge to match the next \$4000! Can you help out? We need to improve our fields so we can accommodate all of our soccer and lacrosse players. Please see our new website for information on how to donate.

Bedford Farmers' Market: Opening Day is **Monday, June 15!** Fresh local produce will be waiting for you. Fabulous locally grown veggies and fruits, fresh fish, grass-fed meat, delicious baked goods, scrumptious specialty foods, community, local artisans, and terrific entertainment. We have many family friendly events scheduled throughout the season, including Green Day, Bike to the Market Iron Chef Bedford, Locally Grown Literature, Veggie Decorating and much, much more. Check out the website for information for the calendar of events, <http://www.bedfordmarket.org/calendar.php>. On Opening Day, we will have a Plant a Seed event. The Harris Seed Company has provided flower seeds and we have the rest of the fixings to plant them. The Girl Scouts will help with planting. Starting June 15, **Monday is Market Day.** Mondays 2:00 - 6:30 (rain or shine) June 15 through October 19. Depot Park, corner of Railroad Ave, South Road, and Loomis Street. Hope to see you there. For more information on the market, visit our website <http://www.bedfordmarket.org/>

News from the Bedford Education Foundation: The newly formed Bedford Education Foundation would like to thank all of our community supporters this year. With your help, the BEF raised over \$20,000 to fund teacher grants in the Bedford Public Schools this past year. Utilizing the BEF grant application process, all Bedford Public School teachers were encouraged to identify projects that were creative and innovative. From the over fifty grant applications received, the BEF grant giving committee supported projects in all four Bedford Public Schools across a variety of curricula. Davis School received the following items: a wireless hub, cables, and a technology storage cart that allows students to utilize technology while doing outdoor investigative lab work in Cattail Corner; funding for an Audubon guide; and Word Work materials which will be used to encourage reading fluency for Davis students. Responding to grant requests from the Lane School faculty, awards were made that funded an Infocus projector that will be utilized to enhance the interactive music curriculum, world and U.S. maps, video cameras, funding for a 4th grade postcard project that encouraged students to communicate with far away peers, Study Island math software that enhances opportunities for individualized learning and practice, heart monitors, GPS units, and a SMARTBoard that will be installed in one of our 3rd grade classrooms. The Bedford Education Foundation is your organization. We encourage you to participate by volunteering and/or donating. We are actively seeking new board members. Volunteers are needed to assist with publicity, PR, fundraising, grant writing, events, and Bedford Day. Please visit us at <http://www.bedfordeducation.org/>. We encourage you to contact us at <http://www.bedfordeducation.org/>, Ilsa@bedfordeducation.org, or anmmarie@bedfordeducation.org.

Bedford SEPAC End-of-Year Social: Border Café, Monday June 8. Join us for an informal evening out to celebrate the end of another school year! Festivities begin at 6:30 PM at the Border Café, 128 Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington. For more information, contact Irene Gravina at (781) 275-6535 or igravina@yahoo.com

Open House Farewell Tea for Mary Koert: Tuesday, June 16. Please join us for an informal farewell tea for special education director, Mary Koert, who will be retiring at the end of the current school year. All are welcome. Drop in any time between 4-6 PM at the JGMS library. Tea, coffee and other light refreshments will be served.

Student Panel to Discuss Organizational and Other Learning Challenges: On June 15, Bedford High School, with SEPAC's support, will sponsor a student panel that will present a variety of student experiences and perspectives regarding their challenges as learners with executive function and/or related issues. These student alumni, either just graduated or out of school for three to five years, will have the advantage that time and distance bring to their reflections, and we look forward to the informative exchange. The administration will also strive to answer any unanswered questions from the SEPAC forum held on May 19. **Student Voices on organization and other learning challenges will take place** in the high school's Multi-purpose Room, at 7:00PM, on June 15. We look forward to seeing a large turn-out of interested parents, grades K-12.

Parent Coffee at Whole Foods Café: Friday, June 19. Parents and guardians of children with special needs are invited to attend a coffee sponsored by Bedford SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) on Friday June 19 at Whole Foods Café, 170 Great Road, Bedford from 8:00-10:00 AM. 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

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!

Youth Available to Work: Do you need an occasional babysitter? Help with yardwork? Odd jobs? Bedford Youth & Family Services (BYFS) may be able to help with its Job Match Program. Bedford Middle and High School students who are interested in working at jobs like these enroll with us. After learning your requirements we are able to match your request with an available teen. Right now BYFS has several youth looking for work. If you think you might need some help this spring or summer, give us a call at 781/275-7727. We will be glad to talk to you and help match you with a youth.

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.

BEST Notes

Warm Thanks: It is with sadness in my heart that I bid farewell to you as vice-president of BEST/ PTO. It has been a wonderful three year journey working with all the parent volunteers and staff at Lane School. I have gotten to know so many wonderful women through the process. I'd like to thank Marge Heckman for her solid leadership over the last two years. Also, many thanks to the rest of the board, Kristin Ferrari, Lore Griffith, and Diane Bernstein. You are truly the B.E.S.T. Annette Brown, BEST/PTO vice-president

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