



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from the President:

Do you ever find yourself looking back and asking where did the time go? That was my thought when Paula Gilarde and Karen Guetersloh reminded me that my article was due for the final BEST newsletter. True to form, I pushed the deadline as long as could...still in disbelief that my first year as BEST/PTO President was coming to an end.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone that volunteered and participated in BEST/PTO this year. All the time and effort folks put in is instrumental in BEST offering wonderful programs for the students and the Davis and Lane Schools. My sincere gratitude to those people that stepped up and supported our efforts, it certainly made my year enjoyable and a lot less stressful. I am proud to be a part of a parent community that is not afraid to take on the difficult tasks. The Circus was a success and great fun for the entire community. Everyone's dedication in planning and working the event really made a difference in the level we were able to achieve in fundraising.

I look forward to working with everyone this coming fall and hope that new faces will also decide to join the group. It is a wonderful way to be involved in your child's journey through the Davis and Lane School experiences.

Have a wonderful summer...see you in September!!

Lyn Kapilian
President BEST/PTO

In The Schools

Volunteers needed for bagging art work and outlining tiles that were created in art class by our students at Davis School.

To help with outlining second grade painted tiles all you need is a steady hand! You can outline tiles in the art room anytime during the school day, or bring tiles home and outline at your leisure. If you would like to pick up tiles to take home, please email Jill Frazier (Jill_Frazier@bedford.k12.ma.us) in advance and let her know when you'll be in, so that she can have tiles ready to go for you.

To help with bagging art, see below for times you can sign up for to help bag artwork. You can bring younger siblings if babysitting is a problem. Please email Paula Driscoll (First and second

grade parents) or Kerry Rackey (Kindergarten parents) at Davisartroom@yahoo.com and let them know which time slot works for you. Thanks.

Scheduled times for bagging:

June 10 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM - 3 PM (more on next page)

June 14 9:30 AM - 12:30 pm and 1:30 - 3 pm

June 17* 9:30 AM -12:30 PM and 1:30 PM - 3 PM

*We may finish bagging before June 17th, so we will have to play it by ear.

Help the DAVIS LIBRARY close up for the summer. Volunteers are needed to help inventory, shelve and organize books during these last few weeks of school. No training or prior experience in the library required. Please come by and lend a hand any time between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday. See Assistant Librarian Deb Sullivan after you check in at the school office.

THANKS to World Language Program instructors. In 1998, the World Language Program was founded by BEST parents who wanted to provide Davis School children exposure to world languages and different cultures. It's a hugely popular program made possible by a dedicated group of volunteer instructors who share their love of language with our kids. A big thank you from the students, their parents, and the WLP coordinators go to Ana Finnegan (Spanish), Ruth Ann Valentine (German), Shaheen Bossi (sign), Anne Ferguson (French), Karen Gao (Chinese), Katherine Rivera (Spanish), Sarah Lance (Spanish), Karen Guetersloh (French), and Irina Pisman Surgay (Russian). We so appreciate you giving your time and talents. From WLP coordinators, Robin Mason and Paula Driscoll.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK was a tremendous success. Thank you to all of the families that volunteered to bring delicious food and other donations into the schools to honor our staff at Davis and Lane. There are too many to name--but you know (and we know) who you are. The teaching staff was so appreciative of your efforts. A huge thank you also to Whole Foods Market who donated eco-friendly goody bags to all the teachers and staff at both schools. We would like to thank several individuals and corporations specifically for generously donating products or services which were raffled off to a few lucky teachers:

Summit Health and Fitness, Jennifer Buckley/Silpada, the Winkler Family, Bedford Farms, Ginger, Organix, Bedford Florist, Dominos and Starbucks. Happy summer to all from Sandy Morvillo, Karen Fallon, Lori Alper, Chris Anderson (Teacher Appreciation Week Team).

Thanks Lunchroom Volunteers. A big thank you to all the wonderful lunchroom volunteers at Davis School: Lori Alper, Rachael Barr, Kelly Bauer, Christine Bennett, Monica Bou, Jennifer Buckley, Janet Chang, Susan DiGangi, Lisa Dini Rozamus, Beth Doyle, Paula Gilarde, Daisy Girifalco, Lindsey Goodhue, Karen Guetersloh, Vanessa Kirchner-Leida, Luba Kusa, Karen Lehman, Mimako Liou, Sandy Morvillo, Lisa O'Brien, Jane Patterson, Heather Patterson, Annmarie Seldon, Marion Silvestrone, Deb Smith, Laurie Sukoff, Peggy Sukoff, Marie Tedesco, Annmarie Vaughan, Beth Venuti, Jing Wang, Lisa Warhover, and Alexis Weisz. The staff sincerely appreciated your efforts this year. We hope to see you again next year!

VOTE Anti-Bullying Climbing Wall at JGMS: On behalf of JGMS, the Bedford Education Foundation has applied for a grant through Pepsi Refresh to fund a climbing wall that will teach social skills and support anti-bullying initiatives at JGMS.

To WIN the grant, we need YOU to VOTE EVERY DAY IN JUNE at <http://refresheverything.com/climbingwall>

Please HELP MAKE a JGMS teacher's dream a reality. VOTE FOR the ANTI- BULLYING CLIMBING WALL FOR JGMS!!! BY VOTING DAILY in June, you can help WIN an \$18,000 grant for JGMS!! More info at www.bedfordeducation.org

Green Committee: It's hard to believe another year has gone by. Time does fly. I just saw my neighbor's daughter dressed for a prom -- the same girl who was in kindergarten or maybe first grade when I first met her. Also in that time, we went from biweekly separated recycling in small bins to every week commingled recycling in larger bins, saving over \$120,000 in fees last year alone. Being green can make a difference!

"Recycling in Massachusetts saved over 85 TRILLION BTU's of energy last year, enough to power 820,292 homes for one year." (source Mass. DEP)

For the summer, remember to pack up your stuff at the beach, bring home any recyclables you can, or deposit them in recycling barrels that might be available.

All the major sports fields have started putting out containers for bottles and cans. The Bruins might have thrown "The Cup" possibility into the trash...but don't be like them, recycle!

When spending time with your kids this summer, remember to keep educating them about recycling, litter policing, and other ways of being good to the environment.

This month's recycling tip: Trying to be a good husband, I picked up a nice hot beverage at Dunkin Donuts for my wife. The Dunkies latte cup cover is marked with a 6 for recycling. The paper sleeve is recyclable too.

For those of you going from the elementary schools to the middle school, good luck! For those still in Davis or Lane, hope to see you in the fall.

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:

The Bedford Farmers' Market Opens on June 14!!

The Bedford Farmers' Market opens for its third season on Monday, June 14th. Located at Depot Park on the corners of South Road, Railroad Ave. and Loomis Street, the BFM will run — rain or shine --every Monday from 2 pm to 6:30 pm through October 18.

This year's market features 18 farmers and vendors offering a range of just-picked local produce and locally made products including fresh vegetables & fruits, scrumptious prepared foods, freshly baked goods, artisan cheeses, eggs, fresh squeezed lemonade, hand blended teas, fudge, jams, fresh fish, natural honey, grass-fed meat, fresh hummus, fresh pasta, jewelry and crafts.

We have three fabulous events scheduled for Opening Day- Bike to Market, Plant a Seed, and Compost Demos!! Bike to Market Day is sponsored by Charles River Wheelmen, www.crw.org. The first 50 bikers to the BFM will receive a \$2 coupon redeemable at all vendors. In addition, the Bikeway Source, www.bikewaysource.com, will give cyclists to the market 10% off parts and accessories. For the Plant a Seed event, we will have marigold and sunflower seeds. We supply the dirt, small cups, water and seeds. Children plant the seeds in a cup, watch them grow at home and then transplant them into a yard or flower box. Meighan Matthews, owner of Growing for Good, will demonstrate composting techniques at 3pm, 4pm, and 5pm and will answer your questions about building a home compost pile to improve your garden's soil.

The 2010 Bedford Famers' Market is just around the corner. For more information on the market, our vendors, and events visit our website: www.bedfordmarket.org

For Families of Incoming 6th Grade Students: Sign Up For Bedford's SAFE HOMES. The Safe Homes program is a support network for Bedford parents with children in grades 6-12 who are concerned about alcohol and drug use at pre-teen and teen parties and gatherings.

Through Safe Homes, Bedford Youth & Family Services is encouraging Bedford families with middle school and high school students to make a pledge that they will provide a safe environment for youth when they have parties or gatherings in their homes - safe from alcohol, drugs, firearms and other hazardous items.

The names of those who make the pledge will be included in the Safe Homes Directory - including the grade level of their children, address and telephone number. The Directory is mailed only to those who have made the pledge. Last year, 260 families of students in grades 6-12 signed the pledge; and we hope to double that number this year. If you made the pledge last year, your name will remain in the directory, with an update to your children's grade levels, unless you request that it be removed.

If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to join the Safe Homes Program and make it clear that you are committed to providing a safe environment for teen parties and gatherings.

You can sign up online for Safe Homes at <http://www.bedfordma.gov/youth> then go to the Prevention Services link and click on the box that says Sign-Up Online. You can also download the Safe Homes flyer and pledge form and mail it to Bedford Youth & Family Services, Town Center, 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730. Let's join together to keep all our youth healthy and safe.

For more information or questions about the Safe Homes Program please call Jessica Santos, Prevention Services Coordinator at 781-275-7727 ext. 262.

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.

PMC Bedford Kids Ride Registration and Call for Volunteers: There are just a few weeks left to sign up for the PMC Bedford Kids Ride <http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/> 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 organization 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. In addition, the Bedford PMC Ride will enter all Heavy Hitters into a raffle for a \$250 Simon Mall gift certificate. 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. We especially need parent volunteers for Green Monster. 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!

Summer Fun at the Bedford Free Public Library

The children's librarians from the Bedford Library will soon be traveling to the elementary schools to advertise their fishy plans for summer fun at the "Undersea Library"! Studies show that kids who read even six books during July/August retain their reading skills well over school vacation, and

our reading club is a non-competitive and enjoyable way to encourage them. The Library's the place for curiosity and imagination to run free --- and there are plenty of science, craft, storytelling and musical programs on our Undersea theme for kids and families to attend. For the schedule, watch for a flyer coming home from school, or check our website at bedfordlibrary.net

Sharon McDonald and Nancy Tegeler, Children's Librarians

Local, Organic Fruits and Vegetables: Heavens Harvest Farm, located in New Braintree Ma, delivers to Bedford weekly. A 15 week season of organic and IPM (integrated Pest Management) fruit and vegetables beginning in mid June thru to the end of September. Shares for this location are going fast and there is a maximum amount available for this site. For more information contact your local coordinator: Diane Bernstein, ddm.bernstein@verizon.net or 781-254-5881 or visit www.heavensharvestfarm.com.

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.

SEPAC May Election Results-

The votes are in! Bedford SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) held its annual elections for executive board members at an open board meeting on May 5. Results are as follows: Co-Chairs: Dana Fine and Berni Vatcher; Treasurer: Gail Valbona; Publicity Coordinator: Marilyn Francis; Recording Secretary: Irene Gravina; BHS Liaison: Claudia Fox-Tree; JGMS Liaison: Roy Watson; Lane School Liaison: Jackie Heller; Davis School Liaison: Vacant; Out-of-District Placements Liaison: Irene Gravina; Correspondence Secretary: Vacant; Historian: Vacant.

We thank all of the individuals who have served this year either on the board or in other capacities for their dedication and commitment to SEPAC and its goals.

A reminder to all- You don't have to hold office to be a valued member of SEPAC and to make a difference. Volunteers are always needed and welcome, whether it is on an ongoing basis, every now and then or for one-time only. Volunteers are the engine that makes us run! Upcoming opportunities to get involved include helping with the organization of SEPAC's Bedford Day activities and booth. We are also seeking someone with expertise in website creation/ maintenance for setting up (and perhaps running) a better and more user-friendly website than our current Yahoo group. If you are interested in either of these opportunities or

would like more information, contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net or Irene Gravina at igravina@verizon.net .

Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee, Fri. June 25, 8:30-10:30 AM at Whole Foods Café

Last coffee for the year! Monthly coffees will resume again in September.

Parents and guardians of children with special needs or learning challenges are invited to attend a coffee on Friday June 25, 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 between 8:30 and 10:30 AM and share concerns, information and support in a relaxed, informal setting. SEPAC generally holds parent coffees the fourth Friday of every month at Whole Foods Café, 170 Great Road, Bedford. Questions? 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.

2009-2010 BEST/PTO Officers

President: Lyn Kapilian

lynkapilian@comcast.net

Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci

bedfordriccis@verizon.net

Vice President (Lane): Susan Miele

susanannmiele@gmail.com

Secretary: Kristin Ferrari

kferrari@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diane Bernstein

dgm.bernstein@verizon.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

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