



# BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

Dear BEST families,

WOW! Spring has suddenly sprung! It was amazing to watch last weekend as all of the trees and flowering bushes seemed to blossom instantly! What a welcome sight! I hope you all enjoyed a well deserved vacation and were able to fit in both some fun and relaxation.

The year has flown by and we are facing the final two months of the school year already. It hardly seems possible! So much has happened this year and we still have much to look forward to before that final day of school. Just before vacation, Lane School fifth graders wowed their audiences as Mr. John Fichera directed his 36<sup>th</sup> and final Fifth Grade Talent Show. Mr. Fichera will be retiring at the end of the school year. On behalf of the BEST community, we presented Mr. Fichera with his own "Emmy" honoring his many years of dedication to this special Lane School tradition.

The annual K-12 Art Exhibition takes place May 1-3, and May 4-8 we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week with lots of special treats and surprises for our dedicated teaching staff. There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved over the remaining weeks as we look forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Walk of Bedford, Lane School Baseball Day, Field Days for both schools, Kindergarten ponding program at Davis and Fifth Grade Challenge Day. Check out notices elsewhere in this newsletter for specifics on how to volunteer to help with any of these programs. Also, mark Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendar to join BEST as we sadly bid farewell to Davis School principal Jenny Brown who will be relocating at the end of this year. There will be an ice cream party at Davis School to give Mrs. Brown a great sendoff.

The BEST officers have been looking ahead and have been busy planning for officer and committee chairperson transitions for next year. If you have any interest in serving as a committee chair next year, please see the list in this newsletter that outlines positions that still need to be filled. We would like to have as many positions as possible filled prior to the summer break so the new officers will be ready to hit the ground running in September! Many thanks to all those who have already stepped forward - we appreciate your willingness to serve. We also are very interested in any new ideas you may have for how BEST can be even better. Please contact any member of the board if you have thoughts to share with us. We especially welcome new parents to join us and say thank you again to all those who have contributed in so many ways to making this a fantastic year for our children and our schools.

Fondly,

Marge

## May Calendar

<b>May 1</b>	Lane School Baseball Day Pizzeria Uno "Dough" raiser-Burlington Mall	<b>May 7, 8</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Walk of Bedford
<b>May 3</b>	Pizzeria Uno "Dough" raiser-Burlington Mall	<b>May 13, 14, 15</b>	Davis School Spring Concerts
<b>May 4-8</b>	Teacher Appreciation Week		
<b>May 5</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Job Lane House Tour	<b>May 18, 19</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Walk of Bedford
<b>May 6</b>	Walk/Bike to School Day Half Day - early dismissal Pizzeria Uno "Dough" raiser-Burlington Mall	<b>May 22</b>	Walking Club Finale at Davis School
<b>May 7</b>	Fifth Grade Class Pictures	<b>May 28</b>	Lane School Field Day Grades 3 & 4 (Rain Date May 29)

## In the Schools

**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 15<sup>th</sup> Annual K-12 Art Show:** Don't forget to visit this year's art show featuring at least one piece of artwork from every student in the Bedford Public School system from kindergarten through grade 8 and all high school students enrolled in art classes. The festival is scheduled for Friday, May 1st from 6-9pm, Saturday, May 2nd from 10am-4pm, and Sunday, May 3rd from 11am-3pm at Bedford High School. See the [VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#) section to see how you can STILL help make the art show a success again this year!

**Memories of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Fifth Grade Talent Show:** If you happened to forget your camera at home, no worries!! Copies of the photographs are available on-line at <http://share.shutterfly.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=7e4ed55257609130&sid=0AcNGzhw0cN2LHWg>. A DVD copy is available for \$15 through Bedford TV. Buying a DVD is a great way to support out local television studio and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Lane School. Make your check payable to Bedford TV and submit via kidmail to Annette Brown by May 15.

**Davis School Physical Education Field Day:** Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> (raindate Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>). Our field day will provide students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun activities that promote health and fitness. **The only way to ensure the success of this day of fitness and fun is with your help!** Each grade level will be participating during different time blocks throughout the day. The schedule will be as follows (Parents are asked to arrive approximately a half hour early for explanation/assignment of a station.):

Kindergarten: 9:30-10:30 a.m. (arrival time 9:00 a.m.)

Second Grade: 10:50-11:50 p.m. (arrival time 10:30 a.m.)

First Grade: 1:30-2:30 p.m. (arrival time 1:00 p.m.)

**We will need a minimum of 25 adult volunteers, PER grade level time slot, to assist us.** The responsibility of the adult volunteer will be to supervise and run a particular activity during their assigned time. **I am also looking for volunteers who would be willing to arrive at 8:15 am on the morning of field day to assist with event set up.** Your help is greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to volunteer for the set up and/or the events, kindly email Lisa Hafer @ [lisa.hafer@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.hafer@comcast.net), as soon as possible. Thank you in advance to all the volunteers!

With appreciation,

Angela Venezia - Health and Physical Educator ☺

**Celebrating Differences - a huge success!** The goal of the Celebrating Differences Program is to help students gain an understanding of people with differences and realize that they can lead rewarding and productive lives.

The Celebrating Differences Program was held at both Davis and Lane Schools during February and March. This year the focus was on Physical Disabilities, Epilepsy, Asthma and Food Allergies. Visitors with physical disabilities came to both Lane and Davis Schools. Students listened as visitors talked about their challenges, adaptations and accomplishments. Students met and interacted with residents of Bedford (Elmer Bartels, Tom Wilga), a resident of Burlington (Mike Moschella), former students of the Bedford Schools (Josh Montgomery, Tom Wilga), as well as two people who work at Easter Seals (Dan Harris and Joe Bellil). The students were curious and asked many good questions.

During Challenge Days, Lane School students watched a video about epilepsy, learned how to read food labels to detect food allergens, used adaptive devices that help people with physical disabilities with daily living, and studied accessible building design. All of the students had the opportunity to try out a wheelchair.

See the KUDOS Section so that the numerous volunteers who helped during this program can be recognized!

Nancy Richard and Linda Roth, Celebrating Differences Co-Chairpersons

**Save the Date!! Farewell to Mrs. Brown:** On Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-6, BEST will sponsor an ice cream party reception to bid farewell to Davis School principal, Jenny Brown. Mrs. Brown will be relocating at the end of the school year. We will miss her greatly and wish her only the best in her new endeavors. Come join us to make your own sundaes and share your parting wishes with Mrs. Brown. Hope to see you there!

**Bedford Reading Specialists Talk on Reading and Literacy Development, Grades K-12:** On Monday May 11, the Bedford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will host a presentation by Dr. Susan Rozen and Andrea Salipante on reading and literacy development in children from elementary through high school. Ms. Salipante will discuss development of the reading process from grades K-2 and Dr. Rozen will follow up with a discussion of reading and literacy development in grades 3-12. This will be the first of a two-part series on reading.

Dr. Rozen is the K-12 Director of Reading and Literacy for the Bedford Public Schools. Ms. Salipante has been a reading specialist at both the John Glenn Middle School and Davis Elementary School and is currently the assistant principal at the Davis School.

The presentation will take place in the multipurpose room at the Lt. Job Lane Elementary School, 66 Sweetwater Ave., Bedford from 7-9 PM. All are welcome. For more information, contact Irene Gravina at [igravina@yahoo.com](mailto:igravina@yahoo.com) or (781) 275-6535.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** Please email Monica Bou at [monica.bou@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**BEST Open Committee Chairperson Positions 2009-2010:** If you have been thinking about getting more involved in BEST next year, think about becoming chairperson of one of our exciting committees. After hearing from most current committee chairs, it appears that a number of committees will need a new chairperson(s) next year including:

- Celebrating Differences - usually 2 people co-chair
- Green Committee - can be 2 co-chairs
- Enrichment Grant Writer(s) - 1 or 2 people
- Fifth Grade Coordinator - 1 or 2 people
- Gardens - 1 or 2 people
- Room Parents Davis - 2
- Volunteer Coordinator 1
- Wetlands -1
- Art room coordinators - 2

We have found two people to chair the World Languages program so it will start up again in the fall! Thanks for all the interest in keeping this program running. If you are interested in possibly chairing any of these committees, please contact one of the board members (contact info on last page) for more information.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual K-12 Art Show:** More volunteers are still needed for the show. No art talent or experience is necessary. Contact Donna Hayes at 781-271-0522 or [dmh.555@gmail.com](mailto:dmh.555@gmail.com). We especially need assistance hanging art work at BHS on this Friday, May 1st. Even one hour of volunteer time is greatly appreciated. We also could use help taking down artwork on Sunday at 3:00 pm. If this doesn't work for your schedule this year, we would appreciate non-refrigerated baked goods for Friday night's senior students' reception. This can be dropped off anytime during the day on Friday near the main office. Thank you!

**Third and Fourth Grade Field Day:** Field day is scheduled for Thursday, May 28. Third graders will be "fielding" from 9:15 to 11:15. Fourth graders will be fielding from 12:15 to 2:15. **Many parent volunteers are needed** to make this a successful and fun day. Please contact Annette Brown at [pghanb@comcast.net](mailto:pghanb@comcast.net) if you are able to help. There will be a "surprise station" this year, a first for field day. Look for more information in your child's backpack.

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## It's Easy Being Green!

Hand dryers seem to be the bane of everybody's existence. I admit myself that I feel it takes too long sometimes, and often look for a paper towel. But in truth, it takes much less energy for a blower to dry your hands than to manufacture, transport and dispose of paper towels. There could be hope yet. Recently I was at an airport and the restroom was equipped with a new hand dryer, manufactured by Dyson. This dryer takes 12 seconds to dry your hands with high pressure, low temperature air. According to Dyson, this unit is 80% more efficient than traditional hand dryers. I hope to see these installed in more public restrooms. But in the meantime, any hand dryer is still better for the environment than the use of paper towels.

***Community Spotlight:*** Auntie Erl's, located on the Great Road in Bedford, is a children's resale boutique, which opened in 2005. Owner Elizabeth Nemirovsky buys quality used goods for resale, finding new life for gently used clothing, toys, sporting equipment, shoes, books, and videos. This is a great way to help the environment by reusing, reducing and recycling your children's outgrown possessions. What is a burden to you is a boon to others - Reusing: getting more life from clothing and products; Reducing: goods staying out of the landfill longer; Recycling: finding new uses for older goods, or making a costume or decorative items from used products. Stop by Auntie Erl's to get some great deals and be a part of this circle of saving, both money and materials. -- Submitted by Peter Ricci for the Green Committee

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## 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](http://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.

**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](http://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.

**Community-wide Walk/Bike-to-School Day, Wednesday May 6 (early release day):** Wednesday is Bedford Walk/Bike to School day. Please consider walking or biking your child to school that day. If your child attends Job Lane School, there is a special opportunity to walk or bike even if you don't live within walking/biking distance of the school. There will be supervised walking and biking groups on the Narrow Gauge rail trail that morning and afternoon. Parents can bring kids to one of two supervised drop-off areas: bikers will leave the back corner of the Marshall's parking lot at 7:45, with return pick up at 12:40. Walkers will leave from the back of the Middlesex Community College over-flow lot on Springs Road at 8:00 with return pick up at 12:30. Adult riders and walkers will be on the trail, as will members of the Bedford Police Department, and there will be controls at the two street crossings for both the before- and after-school walk or ride. Parents, grandparents, and younger siblings are encouraged to join the group to walk or ride. For more details, see Principal Ackerman's recent newsletter.

**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](http://bedfordrecreation.org) and click on the KIDS' CLUB link.

**Bedford Recreation First Week of Summer Activities:** Winter is officially gone, and spring is here! Before we know it school will be out! Bedford's last day of school is June 19<sup>th</sup> and summer vacation officially begins on June 22!!! But, don't go crazy around the house this summer. Leave the fun planning to us and get your children involved in some of the awesome programs we have to offer. Check out these early summer activities that will kick start your child towards a healthy, active and fun summer with their friends! Here's a quick preview:

**All Star Basketball \* KA Youth Tennis with USTA Pro Kyle Anderson \*  
Thundercat Kiddie Cat Jam \* Champion Non-Contact Football \***

Keep your kids active and happy this summer! We have more sessions and many, many more programs that the kids will love in our summer brochures. Pick them up at the Recreation Office or check them out online. You can also call with any questions you might have. We hope to hear from you! For more information call 781-275-1392, or check us out online at [www.bedfordrecreation.org](http://www.bedfordrecreation.org) Registrations can be mailed, dropped off at the office, faxed, or conducted via our online registration feature.

**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](mailto:kidsbookgroup@verizon.net) or call Pam Williams (who has been serving students in classrooms at Davis for many years) at (781) 248-1782.

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## Support Your Schools

**Boxtops For Education:** Check out this web site for huge savings and more \$\$ for the schools: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Promotions/Default.aspx>. Thanks for your continuous support! We submitted over \$1600 worth of Box Tops this year! Keep clipping over the summer, 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 Education Foundation favorite Teacher Raffle:** The Bedford Education Foundation (BEF) is offering students and parents the chance to take a specific teacher out for ice cream or dinner. Alumni, high school students, and middle school students can have a reunion with a favorite teacher and three friends! Buy a raffle ticket(s) priced at \$5 each and assign each ticket toward any participating teacher(s). The BEF will draw 25 winning tickets. The winner arranges with the teacher a time and place to treat the teacher to ice cream or dinner. This is a great chance to spend some more time with a teacher you really admire, whose company you enjoy, or haven't seen in many years! All proceeds benefit the Bedford Public Schools through grants funded by the BEF. Winning tickets will be drawn May 20th. Tickets may be purchased online at [bedfordeducation.org](http://bedfordeducation.org) or at Lane, Davis, Rec Department, and Bedford Farms.

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## Kudos

**Celebrating Differences:** Many thanks go to our visitors for so generously sharing their time and their lives with the students. Thanks also to the people who escorted the visitors: Carrie Larson, Lisa Hafer, Max McGregor, Lori Alper and Lisa Felice. Thanks also to the following for volunteering during Challenge Days: Judy Kelly, MaryBeth Klein, Diane Hughes, Cindy Fiset, Joyce Battaglia, Francesca Locati, Raelene Houck, Lisa Hafer, Sue Parenti, Lori Shah, Laryssa Calhoun, Marge

Heckman, Ekta Malrani, Marie Taras Liang, Audra Hamilton, Darshana Merchant, Barbara Kelly, Hillary DeMello, Judy Kravitz, Lynn Dresel, Patrick Towle, Nancy Salem, Demetria Johnson, Stephanie Kriesberg, Sheila Keyes, Ron Presti and Liz Cowles.

Special thanks to Nancy Richard, and Annmarie Vaughan for developing the Food Allergy station for Challenge Days and to Debbie Kostas for putting up posters at Davis School. In addition, many thanks for the support of Lane and Davis administration: Jennifer Brown, Ellen Tate, Rob Ackerman and Karen Lua.

**Fifth Grade Talent Show:** The 34th annual fifth grade Talent Show proved to be the B.E.S.T. and a final farewell to our beloved creator and director, John Fichera. Three shows were preformed by the talented acts. The first after-school show was for the parents and siblings of the performers. The crowd favorite was Joe Ivers who donned an Elvis wig and costume and lip sang to "Viva Las Vegas" as a tribute to his teacher and Elvis fan, Mr. Fichera. Over 70 senior citizens and grandparents came to see the April 15 show and enjoy a luncheon with their fifth grade chaperones. On April 16, the entire school was treated to a performance. Check out the photos on display at Lane. The shows and luncheon could not have been possible without the tireless help of many volunteers who assisted backstage, in the MP room and for the luncheon. A round of applause to Susan Adamik, Nancy Anderson, Annette Brown, Emma Buckmire, Kathleen Clark, Jean Gaylor, Nancy Griffiths, Ann Hamel, Marge Heckman, Diane Hughes, Sarah Ivers, Elizabeth Prodromou Kyrou, Nancy Latady, Phyllis Linnehan, Kerri Meyer, Linda Milano, Sara Miller, Christine Pare, Jim Petipas, Leslie Ringette, Madeline Sanabria, Wendy Stacey, Joyce Towle, Caren Venuti and Susan Werrick. A special thank you to Laurie Walsh who provided make-up for all the acts on Tuesday and Wednesday. That's a lot of blush!! A special thank you to Kevin Latady who took all of the beautiful photos from the show.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.bedford.tv/schedule) or the Bedford Minuteman for the schedule. Topics scheduled for upcoming school committee meetings are:

May 12th: Presentation: BHS Student Handbook; JGMS School Improvement Plan and Handbook; Vote on School Choice; Approval of Acceptable Use Policy for Students; Approval of Web Page Policy; Adoption of Math Textbooks; Adoption of Bridges Program; Robotics Presentation

May 26: Lane School Improvement Plan; Davis School Improvement plan

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bedford PMC Kids Ride:** Hey kids - grab your bikes and your friends and get ready for the Bedford PMC Kids Ride on June 13! Start selling lemonade, doing extra chores or asking friends and family for donations - you can make a difference in the lives of those with cancer. Raise \$250 and be entered for a chance to win a \$250 gift card to the Simon Mall! There are lots of opportunities for volunteers too at <http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/>. Also, please mark your calendar with the following dates (look for more details in the coming weeks):

**May 9th 11am-2pm - Pizza for a Purpose.** Stop by Whole Foods Market parking lot on your way to the game where they'll be grilling your lunch! Enjoy a slice of delicious pizza, a drink and apple or cookie & more for \$5!

**May 30th 5:30-8:30pm, Kids Night Out at the Edge Sports Center.** Drop your kids off for an awesome night with everyone's favorite Peter Laskaris and Sandy Morvillo!

**May 30 - June 13, Jimmies for the Jimmy Fund at Bedford Farms.** Enjoy your Bedford Farm's ice cream and be sure to top it off with Jimmies to help support the PMC.

Proceeds from these events will benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. For any questions please contact Amy Mason at [a.mason10@verizon.net](mailto:a.mason10@verizon.net).

**Attention Parents of 5th grade students!!! Sign Up For Bedford's SAFE HOMES:** Through Safe Homes, we are encouraging parents of Bedford 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 childrens' 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.

This year we have made it possible for parents to sign up on line and are trying to get the word out earlier. You can sign up online for Safe Homes by going to our website: [www.town.bedford.ma.us](http://www.town.bedford.ma.us) <<http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/>> Click on Youth and Family and click on "Join" by the Safe Homes logo on the Homepage. You can also download the Safe Homes flyer and pledge form <<http://cafy.net/safehomesbrochureandform.pdf>> and mail it to Bedford Youth & Family Services, Town Center, 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730 For more information or questions about Safe Homes Program please call Jessica Santos at 781-275-7727 ext. 262.

Let's join together to keep all our youth healthy and safe.

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

**Bedford SEPAC Executive Function Forum- An Evening with the Principals, Tuesday May 19:** In recognition of the overwhelmingly positive response it has received from its April forum on executive function, the Bedford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is planning a follow-up forum on executive function on Tuesday May 19. Principals from all four of the Bedford Public Schools will be available to answer your questions about what accommodations or practices are currently being used in schools to help students with weak executive function skills and to listen to your concerns, ideas and suggestions as to what the school and parents can do collaboratively to improve support for these struggling students.

In order to make this meeting productive as possible, we are asking parents to submit some of their questions or comments in advance. All questions/comments are welcome even if you are not planning on attending the May 19 meeting. Names will be kept confidential. To submit, contact Berni Vatcher at [berni\\_v@verizon.net](mailto:berni_v@verizon.net). This is your opportunity to provide valuable feedback to our school administrators to assist them in creating a supportive learning environment that can benefit all types of learners.

The forum will take place in the multipurpose room at the Job Lane Elementary School, 66 Sweetwater Ave. Bedford from 7-9 PM. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or would like further information about the forum, please contact Berni Vatcher at [berni\\_v@verizon.net](mailto:berni_v@verizon.net) (phone 781-275-2030) or Dana Fine at [danafine@verizon.net](mailto:danafine@verizon.net) (phone 781-275- 4464).

**Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee: Friday May 22, 8-10am.** 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 May 22 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.

**Check out Bedford Youth & Family Services new Spring 2009 Newsletter available on line at [www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html](http://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.

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**2008-2009 BEST/PTO Officers**

**Marge Heckman, President**

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