



# BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

## Letter from the President:

April was a busy month with kindergarten screening and the fifth grade talent show. Dedicated volunteers helped to make both run smoothly.

Thank you to Bedford Farms and the community for making the gift card fundraiser a success. Both the Davis and Lane schools will receive \$862!!

As the end of the school year approaches, nomination forms and information about open positions will be distributed within the next few weeks. Please consider being a part of BEST/PTO, no commitment is too small. It is a great opportunity to share in your child's school experience.

Keep the box tops coming. Amazing how quickly they add up!!

Lyn Kapilian  
President BEST/PTO

## In The Schools



[massculturalcouncil.org](http://massculturalcouncil.org)

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!

**Box Tops 2009-10:** Check out this web site for huge savings and more \$\$ for the school <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Promotions/Default.aspx> Thanks for your continuous support! Keep sending in your clippings via Kid Mail!

We have reached \$1600 for this year!!! Keep clipping all summer long.

**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 May 3-May 7:** THANK YOU to all of you who signed up so quickly to help out with Teacher Appreciation Week. Your response is once again a confirmation that we live in such a supportive and caring community.

Please refer to the Center'd sites for food drop off instructions.

LANE:

<http://www.centerd.com/events/?id=p/1/89081D22DD4F994A9D36ED0B1D8621D4/I/2521320651975171249>

DAVIS:

<http://www.centerd.com/events/?id=p/1/2D420A31280684F321F72B7FFEB85564/I/2521318080571964999>

If you have any questions please let us know.

Davis School Coordinators

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**Lane School Enrichment Notes – May:** B.E.S.T is sponsoring these enrichment activities for the Lane School students for May and June.

#### Walk of Bedford

Every spring, the Lane School 3rd graders are treated to a walking tour of Historical Bedford. This year's tour is scheduled for May 6th and 7th and June 7th and 8th (rain date: June 11th). On the tour, the children visit:

- The Fitch Tavern
- the Penniman Stearns House
- the Library (home of the Bedford flag)
- the Bedford Historical Museum
- the Bedford Common (for lunch)
- the First Parish Church
- The Old Burying Ground.

The Walk of Bedford would not be possible without the hospitality and support from the generous hosts who open their homes to the children and the volunteers from the Historical Society.

#### Audubon Ark Outreach

Teacher naturalists from the Audubon Ark will visit the 4th grade classes on June 3rd, and they will bring with them some very special visitors: a barred owl and a great-horned owl. Part of the 4th grade science curriculum is a study of the food chain. Observing a live animal is much more exciting than to looking at photographs in a text book.

#### Cross Cultural Tales: France and Mexico

Susan Thompson returns on June 9th to deliver her one-woman performance of interactive stories from Mexico and France to the 4th graders. After studying foreign language for two years, the students truly enjoy listening to stories from other lands in the native language. Ms. Thompson uses basic vocabulary from both French and Spanish and performs her stories with masks and other props.

#### Lane Enrichment Chair for 2010-11 Needed!

After scheduling enrichment for the Lane School for the past two years, I need to pass the baton to a new enrichment chair. June is the ideal time to bring in a new volunteer since planning and some scheduling is done in the summer. If interested, please contact me at [bethscott2003@yahoo.com](mailto:bethscott2003@yahoo.com). Thank you! Beth Scott

**Changes to Food Service Accounts at Davis:** The Food Service Department recently evaluated many different computerized Point of Sale (POS) systems to replace our current system in the cafeteria. After reviewing several systems a decision has been made to purchase the NUTRIKIDS® POS software program. We are currently preparing to implement this new system in the Davis School with a launch date of May 13, 2010.

Students will use their same cards to access the lunch line; there will be very little if any changes to the student routine. Every student at the Davis School will be entered into the computerized system; we understand not every student will use this system. All current account balances will also be transferred to the NUTRIKIDS® system for use on the first day.

If you have any questions please call Ken Whittier at 781-275-9129.

**Green Committee:** It looks like spring is here. Of course now that I have said that, watch us get a freak Massachusetts snow storm, and everyone will blame me. So, all at once now, knock on wood. Thanks. Since I brought up wood, let's talk a little about environmentally good practices with wood, when doing those spring repairs and improvements around the house.

1. Only try to buy as much as you need for each project. Carefully plan cut off use. You would be amazed at how little can be left as scrap when you draw out a plan.
2. Instead of throwing unused wood in the trash, find a friend or neighbor who can use it for a project. Or you can list it on Internet sites as a free give away.

Having a spring clean out? Instead of throwing things in the trash, plan that yard sale, or donate it to one of the many charities that pick up good castoffs. Remember when cleaning out the house to look at the recyclable possibilities of items. Put what you can in the recycling bin instead of the trash can. It's one bucket or another! Choose the one that can help our environment.

If you are interested in chairing or being on the green committee please contact me. Educating our children and families on helping the environment is a very important role.

This month's recycling tip: Buying a pair of shoes? You can recycle the paper that is in the toes to keep form, and the latest trend is to put plastic forms in ... many are marked with a 3 for recycling. Look before you throw! Submitted by Peter Ricci for the Green Committee

## **Community Corner:**

**BCA Screens Classic Silent Film with Live Accompaniment by Alloy Orchestra:** Bedford Center for the Arts will host a special family-friendly screening of the silent-film classic "The Black Pirate," starring Douglas Fairbanks, accompanied live by the Boston techno-music trio Alloy Orchestra at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 21, in the Bedford High School Auditorium, 9 Mudge Way.

Using electronic synthesizers and its famous found-percussion "rack of junk," Alloy Orchestra can create any sound imaginable. Credited with reviving some of the great movies of the silent era, the ensemble can make the audience feel like it's being attacked by tigers, contacted by radio signals from Mars, or swept up in the Russian Revolution.

Alloy Orchestra also will screen and accompany a short, contemporary silent film, "Dragonflies, The Baby Cries," by award-winning filmmaker Jane Gillooly. The trio's accompaniment brings to life the deep forest and a blurring of fantasy and reality.

Both films are suitable for children and BCA encourages kids (and adults) to arrive dressed in pirate or fairy costumes. Between screenings a Costume Parade will be held. At the end of the evening, the audience is invited to try out Alloy Orchestra's "rack of junk."

Tickets to "The Black Pirate" and Alloy Orchestra are \$15 for BCA members, seniors and children. Adults who are not BCA members are \$20. (There is a family maximum of \$50.)

Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the following Bedford locations: Auntie Erl's Exchange (119 Great Road, 781-275-1093), Bedford Florist (315 Great Road, 781-275-7905) and Chip-In Farm (201 Hartwell Road, 781-275-2545). For more information or to reserve tickets by phone, call 781-541-0748.

**Bedford SEPAC Board Elections, Wed. May 5:** Bedford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will be holding elections for executive board positions for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year at an open board meeting on Wednesday, May 5. 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!

The meeting will take place at the Lane School in the Multipurpose Room at 7 PM. 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 .

**Bedford SEPAC Invites You to Our End-of-Year Dinner Social, Wed. May 26:** Save the date! On Wed. May 26, Bedford SEPAC will hold its annual end-of-year dinner social. This year's event will be held at 6:30 PM at Margaritas Mexican Restaurant and Watering Hole, conveniently located at 438 Bedford St. in Lexington. Parents of children with special needs or learning challenges as well as anyone with an interest in special education or helping to support Bedford SEPAC are welcome. Come and enjoy an evening of good food and good company in a casual setting close to home.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net and let her know how many in your party will attend.

**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](http://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](http://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.

**Bedford Angels Volunteer Network:** Bedford Angels is a group of volunteers supporting Bedford families in crisis. Families, large and small, face significant challenges when tragedy unexpectedly strikes. The impact on household routines often makes life seem unbearable. Having volunteers delivering meals, going to the grocery store, driving an ill family member to the hospital, or offering a simple act of kindness is worth more than words can say. As a volunteer, you can sign up to fill a need only when it works with your schedule. While some families in need have a close network of friends and family and/or are affiliated with a church or temple, others may not. And even those who do often find that after time and with busy

schedules these resources become exhausted. The Bedford Angels is a great resource for these situations as well as a supplement to a group already in place. Recipients of Care include people in a temporary crisis such as serious illness, major surgery, a tragic event or accident, or a debilitating, late stage terminal illness; and people challenged with day-to-day non-medical tasks.

All Bedford residents are welcome to join this community network of volunteers (a referral may be necessary). To become a Bedford Angel visit <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/610954/>. To find out how the Bedford Angels can help you or someone you know or for more information, email [bedfordangels@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordangels@gmail.com).

**Donate to the Bedford Public Library:** Spring Cleaning? Donate your gently used books, DVDs, VHS movies, and CDs to the Bedford Public Library. All proceeds from sales of these items go to pay for special programming including the summer children's programs, movies, and special acquisitions. Following the recent Spring Book Sale, they are particularly low on books for children and teens. Keep an eye out for the summer program for your kids on the Library website: <http://www.bedfordlibrary.net/>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bedfordpmckidsride@gmail.com)

**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](http://bedfordrecreation.org) or call Raeann Gembis, Adult Coordinator, Bedford Recreation Department, 781-275-1392 ext. 355.

**2009-2010 BEST/PTO Officers**

**President: Lyn Kapilian**

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**BEST Committee Chair Open Positions**

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Green committee
- Celebrating Differences
- Parent Advisory Council
- Transportation Safety Committee