



# BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

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## News From the President of BEST

Dear BEST families,

Do you have your running shoes on? It feels like we have run a marathon already and school has been in session for just a month! From selling slush at Bedford Day and wrapping paper at the Farmers Market to getting volunteer forms out and tabulated to kicking off our fall wrapping paper fundraiser - we have been busy!!!

Fortunately, those who attended our fall general meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> got some helpful hints on getting organized from our guest speaker Karen Kenny.


Our volunteer database is now complete and committee chairs will be contacting you soon if you signed up for a specific committee. **We are still in need of chairpersons for our Events, World Language, and Enrichment Grant Writing committees.** If you are interested in any of these, please contact one of the BEST officers.

Remember to print out a copy of the newsletter to have handy so you will not miss out on any upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities. Contact Kathy Reiss at 781 275-9315 or [reissfamily5@verizon.net](mailto:reissfamily5@verizon.net) if you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter. Please keep in mind that email addresses and directory information are intended for use within the BEST community only. We will not share this information with anyone and we ask that you do the same.

Based on feedback from the survey we did last spring, we will continue distribution of "Bits from BEST", a monthly reminder of key activities and volunteer opportunities. This sheet will go home once per month in paper copy as a gentle reminder to check your newsletter for more details.

Enjoy the fall colors and Happy Halloween!  
*Marge Heckman*




**BEST Budget Meeting:** Tuesday, October 14, at 9:00pm in the Lane School Multipurpose Room





## October Calendar of Events



| Sun | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat                          |
|-----|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|
|     |   |   | 1 • <i>Early Release Day</i>  | 2  | 3 • World Language Forms EXTENDED DEADLINE<br>• Moms' Book Club   | 4                            |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8 • Principal's Coffee-Lane<br>• Walk to School!<br>• Wrapping Paper Fundraiser ENDS  | 9  | 10 • Davis Enrichment-Storytelling  | 11                           |
| 12  | 13 <i>Columbus Day-No School</i><br> | 14 • School Comm. Mtg.<br>• BEST Budget Meeting<br>• BEF Fundraiser | 15 • High School Fall Sampler Concert   | 16 • Lane Enrichment-Plymouth Visitors Gr. 3 | 17  | 18 • Sibling Photos 9am-12pm |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23   | 24 • Davis Class Photos<br>• SEPAC Coffee   | 25                           |
| 26  | 27  | 28 • School Comm. Mtg.  | 29 • <i>Early Release Day</i><br>• Parent Education Speaker<br>• BoxTops Deadline  | 30   | 31 <br><i>Happy Halloween!</i> | Nov. 1                       |

# Support Your Schools

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**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/Promotions/Default.aspx>. Thanks for your continuous support! Our goal for 2008-09 is \$2000. **Due date 10/29/08.**



**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.



**Fall Fundraiser, Now Through Oct. 8:** One of BEST's biggest fundraisers for 2008-09 is about to start! From **September 17 to October 8**, you'll have a chance to order wrapping paper, gifts for the holidays or yourself, coffee cakes and more through Genevieve's. Look for information coming home with your child in the next few weeks! BEST receives 50% profit on most sales and your child is eligible for prizes based on orders placed. This year we are encouraging you to take advantage of Genevieve's mail order service which ships items directly to you. All other orders will need to be picked up at the school after delivery -- no orders will be sent home with children this year.



**Save the Date--Shopping Night!** BEST is hosting a "Shopping Night" on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-9. Booths will be set up with vendors selling items from handmade scarves to headbands and jewelry. More information to follow; please contact Kristin Ferrari at [kferrari@comcast.net](mailto:kferrari@comcast.net) with any questions.

**Shop at Target? Support BEST!** For those of you who use Target charge cards when you do your shopping at Target, please remember to enroll in the Take Charge of Education program. Target will donate 1% of all your purchases to the school you select. Every little bit helps! BEST receives this money for both Davis and Lane schools. Just go to [www.target.com](http://www.target.com), select Red Card and look for the Take Charge of Education line.



**Wetlands T-Shirts:** Buy a Wetlands t-shirt to support our Davis Science Programs! We have youth sizes available for \$12. Contact Estie Altman at 275-4644 or [cr8tiv626mom@comcast.net](mailto:cr8tiv626mom@comcast.net).

## In the Schools

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**Principal's Coffee October 8<sup>th</sup> - Lane School:** Lane School principal Rob Ackerman will hold a coffee for parents on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the Lane Multipurpose Room. All parents are invited to attend. Bring your questions and comments for Mr. Ackerman. Hope to see you there!



**High School Fall Sampler Concert:** Wed., Oct, 15 at 7 PM at Bedford High School. Come enjoy a "sampling" of performances by Bedford High's choral, string and band ensembles on Oct. 15th at 7 PM. What better way to celebrate the autumn than by giving your kids a chance to see what our high school musicians have to offer? These brief performances give BEST families an opportunity to hear older Bedford students excel ... and also to hear the groups in which our younger students could participate when they're older! The concert is free and open to all.



**Time to Vote:** Lane School fifth graders will be doing their best on Polling Day, Monday November 3 as they transform the library into a presidential polling center. Twenty-four polling booths will be set up in the library so that the school population can cast their vote. Updates will be given throughout the day as to which candidate Lane likes. Every student will have the opportunity to vote and fifth graders will help to run the polling center. BEST is proud to support this event by supplying the red, white and blue decorations for the day. *BEST is asking parents to donate cookies, etc for the day. If you can donate a food item, please contact Annette Brown at [pgbanb@comcast.net](mailto:pgbanb@comcast.net).*



**World Language Program:** DUE TO DELAYS IN DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD LANGUAGE FORMS, WE HAVE EXTENDED THE DEADLINE TO RESPOND UNTIL THIS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can respond via Kidmail or via email as many parents already have. Thanks to all of our volunteers in advance!!!! Lita [lverrier@rmkb.com](mailto:lverrier@rmkb.com)



**International Walk to School Day:** Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> has been designated as International Walk to School Day. All Davis and Lane students who can safely do so are encouraged to walk or ride their bikes to school on that day. Parents can help by forming neighborhood-walking groups to assure kids arrive safely. We understand that this is not feasible for everyone and safety should be a key priority. There will be a larger community event in the spring that will give more children the opportunity to participate in walking to school.



# Community Corner

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**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](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:


**10/14:** Reading Dept.; Class size report; Discussion of enrollment and space needs; Capital budget presentation; Warrant articles.

**10/28:** MCAS report; Occupational Education; Capital budget approval.

**Bedford Education Foundation Fundraiser:** At FLATBREAD ([www.flatbreadcompany.com](http://www.flatbreadcompany.com)), Tuesday, October 14th, from 5-9pm.



What's the BEF? The Bedford Education Foundation is a new non-profit group in town, run by co-presidents Ilsa Gottlieb and Ann Marie Bernardon, and dedicated to supporting classroom creativity and innovation in the Bedford public schools. A portion of every flatbread sold, either dine-in or take-out, will be donated to the BEF. For more information about the BEF, go to [www.bedfordeducation.org](http://www.bedfordeducation.org).

**Bedford TV:** Do you want to see your kid on TV or just collect wonderful memories of them enjoying their favorite sports? Bedford TV likes to air games from all the different school and levels. Record just one game, or as many as you want. Use your own camera or we provide one for you and help you set it up. Not only are you helping your community but you will be rewarded.  Just ask us how! Contact Madeleine Altmann at Bedford TV, 781 275 5004 or email [ma@bedford.tv](mailto:ma@bedford.tv). Visit [www.bedford.tv](http://www.bedford.tv).

**Turf's Up!** The Bedford Turf Association is still working to raise the go-ahead money for the turf improvement. If turfed, the football field can be opened up daily for lacrosse, soccer, and adult-leagues. The football field 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. Consider donating \$100, or \$500, or even \$1000 to this cause. 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!!! Best regards, Bedford Turf Association: *Jim Lespasio*,



*Ron Richter, Deb Picciuto, Stacy Schalick*

**Moms' Book Club:** The Book club meets the first Friday of each month in the First Congregational Church Library located at 25 Great Road. This month we will meet on October 3rd and our selection is *I Was a Really Good Mom Before I Had Kids* by Ashworth and Nobile. During our first meeting, we will also pick books to read for the remainder of the year. Please bring your suggestions to the meeting. If you are interested in childcare, please contact Ann Guay at 781-271-9062 or Wendy Stacey 781-275-5480.



**Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee:** Friday, Oct. 24, 7:30-9:30 AM at Bruegger's Bagels. Parents and guardians of children with special needs are invited to attend a coffee on Friday, October 24, sponsored by Bedford SEPAC (Special Education Parents' Advisory Council). Come and share concerns, information and support in a relaxed, informal setting. SEPAC holds parent coffees the fourth Friday of every month from 7:30- 9:30 AM at Bruegger's Bagels, 170 Great Road, Bedford. See our web page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BedfordSEPAC> for more info and sign up to receive notices of upcoming events.



**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 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](http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html) for their newsletter and information related to resources such as the **new Fall Newsletter available online**, **new resident support**, **Bedford WIC program**, and **Bedford Housing Authority**.

**Parent Education Series:** Fall - Spring 2008-2009 brochures have been mailed out to each Bedford residence. These can also be found on our Town of Bedford, Youth & Family Services website, [www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html](http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html), as well as available in hard copy at our offices in Town Center. One October offering of interest is Dr. Richard Lerner's program on "How to Build Resilient and Successful Children", **Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7-9pm** in the Bedford Town Hall Auditorium.

**Resident Survey:** Bedford Youth and Family Services (BYFS) is undergoing a strategic planning process to best determine the focus of our resources in the future. We have developed this survey for Bedford residents in general and invite your response and input. You can find the general resident survey in hard copy form at the BYFS office at Town Center, 12 Mudge Way, or electronically on the BYFS home page accessible from the Town of Bedford website - <http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html>. Feel free to drop your completed questionnaire off or fax it to us at 781-275-7767. Please take a few moments to let YFS know what you know about them, what you value about their services, what you as a resident might need more of from them in the future. All answers will be kept confidential. We thank you for taking the time to participate and provide input.

# Volunteer Opportunities

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**Davis Art Room:** Art Room Volunteers needed! Thanks to all that have volunteered for the Art Room! We are still looking for additional volunteers, especially for Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Gallant's class visits on Monday afternoons. Volunteering in the Art Room is a great way to see the kids' creativity in action and to get to know the kids in their class! If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more about it, please e-mail Soraya Stevens or Sumiko Goldbaum at [davisartroom@yahoo.com](mailto:davisartroom@yahoo.com).



**Game to be Fit:** By now, parents and students have all received the sign up form for Game To Be Fit program. This is a unique program offered to all students in lieu of two recesses per week. Students go to the Game To Be Fit and exercise, either bike riding or dancing, while interacting in a video game. The program is always well-received by students as this is a unique way to exercise. The Game To Be Fit room is in need of parent volunteers to monitor the students in the room. You do not need to know about video games to help. Please consider coming to the room once a month to help. The room is open from 11:30 to 1:30 Monday through Friday. If you can spare 2 hours a month, contact Annette Brown at [pgbanb@comcast.net](mailto:pgbanb@comcast.net).

**Grant Writing Experience and a Bit of Time?** We are looking for someone to take on the position of Enrichment Grant Writer. This position is critical to getting additional support to fund the numerous enrichment programs we sponsor at both Davis and Lane Schools. For someone with grant writing experience, it would be a piece of cake. Even without experience, it is not a difficult job to do. If you think you might be interested in helping out, please contact Marge Heckman at [maheckman@gmail.com](mailto:maheckman@gmail.com) or 781 275-5167.



**Davis Cafeteria:** Still Room! There are still openings available for volunteers to serve as Davis lunchroom hall monitors. This short (11:30 to 12:55) once-a-month commitment allows you to see your kids, their friends and classmates in the "natural habitat" of the cafeteria. Duties involve making sure that there are no rumbles or parties occurring in "the facilities" and generally helping the children (opening thermoses, helping to zip jackets on the way to recess, etc.) and the lunchroom staff (assisting in keeping kids in line when transitioning from caf to recess, alerting custodian to spills that need attention, etc.). Contact Carla Bradford at 781-275-6395 or [carlajbradford@yahoo.com](mailto:carlajbradford@yahoo.com) ASAP if interested.



**Greeters needed for Davis School!** This is a great opportunity to provide a nice service for kids to start their day with a warm welcome and a smiling face!! If you can commit to a couple of days a week (8:45-9:10) that would be great, or if there are specific dates you would like let me know that as well. Siblings are welcome as long as they can safely be in the drop off area which is right near the entrance of the school. If you are interested please let me know ASAP by emailing me back at [dgirifalco@verizon.net](mailto:dgirifalco@verizon.net). Thanks! Daisy Girifalco



## It's Easy Being GREEN!

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Good news for those of you who have changed over to CFB's (compact fluorescent bulbs). Using these bulbs does save energy, but to complete the cycle of benefiting the environment they must be disposed of properly, because of the mercury they contain. I have mentioned before that they can be disposed of at Hazardous Materials days, but now Home Depot is collecting used CFB's. You can bring your unbroken CFB's into Home Depot's customer service area for proper disposal. This is a great option if you don't want to wait around for the next Hazardous Materials day.

I purchased a rain barrel this summer. I had wanted one for some time, but was searching for one that would look nice outside my house and had all the features I wanted. This one has a screen on top to prevent bugs and plant material from entering the barrel, and a valve at the bottom for retrieving the water for use. You can attach it to a gutter downspout, which I did. It filled to capacity after one week of rain, and we have used it to water the outside flower boxes. There are pros and cons to this. The barrel is a bit pricey, but the container is made from recycled material. Water that would normally run down your driveway or yard can be gathered for flowerbeds and gardens. Look into this and see if it would work for you. I'll let you know how my experience is going.

Tip of the Month: Some Priority Mail envelopes are made with plastic fibers. I noticed these labeled with a number 2 for recycling. Put them in with your other plastics. — *Submitted by Peter Ricci for the Green Committee*

## Kudos

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**Bedford Day: Slush a Sellout!** Our booth at Bedford Day was a great success this year. The warm weather enticed many in the large crowd to enjoy a refreshing slush resulting in a sellout before the fair was over! Proceeds from the event added \$467 to the BEST treasury. Many thanks to all who helped scoop slush at our Bedford Day booth: Kristina Philipson, Diane Bernstein, Kim Walters, Cindy Fissette, Kristin Ferrari, Lore Griffith, and Marge Heckman—and all who bought a slush!

**Farmers Market:** Thanks to those who helped staff our table at the Farmers Market: Tina Langone, Kristin Ferrari, Cynthia Brewington, Annette Brown, Jennifer Heller and Bonnie McCulloch.



**2008-2009 BEST/PTO Officers**

**Marge Heckman, President**

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**Kristin Ferrari, VP Davis**

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**Annette Brown, VP Lane**

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**Lore Griffith, Secretary**

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**Visit these websites:**

[www.BESTPTO.org](http://www.BESTPTO.org)

[www.Bedford.k12.ma.us](http://www.Bedford.k12.ma.us)

[www.bedford.tv](http://www.bedford.tv)

[www.iwalktoschool.org/](http://www.iwalktoschool.org/)

[www.genevieves.com/](http://www.genevieves.com/)

**Important BEST Board/Committee Chair  
Positions Still Open**

**Chairpersons for the following committees:**

- World Languages - Davis School
- Events - covers Lane and Davis
- Enrichment - need one additional co-chair at Davis

[www.bedford.k12.ma.us/davis/index.html](http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/davis/index.html)

[www.bedford.k12.ma.us/lane/index.html](http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us/lane/index.html)