



The Lion's Den

Bethesda Elementary School & Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Newsletter

Issue 4

October 20, 2011

Principally Speaking...

Dear Families-

Bethesda Elementary is ready for some Fall fun!! We are also about to embark on uncharted territory. What am I talking about? Well, I am frequently asked to identify areas where B.E. parents can volunteer to help the school. I recently worked with the staff to generate a list of general school volunteer opportunities, for example: recess support, media center support and office support to name a few. For the extended list, please see pages 2 and 3 of this issue of the Den. An immediate need is for recess. We are attempting to have three focus areas added to recess as a way to get students to engage in non-typical recess activities: art, science, team building games, and cycling. These activities would not negate the other recess games and options students are used to, but will enhance the recess experience. Without recess volunteers we will not be able to provide these new opportunities, so we need your help. Starting in November we are *rolling out* Wheel Days. On Tuesdays, students in grades 2 and 4 will be able to ride their bikes and scooters during recess. On Fridays, students in grades 3 and 5 will be able to ride their bikes and scooters. Helmets are a must and students will not be permitted to share their bikes, scooters or helmets. **Note:** student will not be permitted to bring their bikes on the bus and scooters will only be allowed on the bus as long as they fold, do not take up a seat space and do not result in reports from the drivers that they are a disturbance. If you are available and interested in being a part of this *recess pilot*, please complete the tear-off on page 12 and return it to school. We are looking forward to offering these additional opportunities during recess, but can only do it with your support!

A few final reminders as we near the end of October:

Principal's Coffee: *October 25th 8:15 AM- 8:45 AM Media Center*

LAST PAPER COPY of the LION'S DEN! Starting in November, we will be online. Please complete the attached form if you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the Lion's Den.

Lost and Found: Please check the Lost and Found. Items will be donated on November 1st.

Lisa Seymour



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Important Dates:

- October 21, 2011
NO SCHOOL
- October 25, 2011
Principal's Coffee (8:15 AM)
- October 28, 2011
Halloween Parade (1:45 PM)
- October 28, 2011
Dance Night! (6-8 pm)
- October 31, 2011
NO SCHOOL for students

BE Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Area	Time	Day(s)	Description
Main Office Support	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Monday- Friday	Answering the phone, taking phone messages and opening the front door. On-site training is required.
Main Office Support	11:30-12:30 a.m.	Monday- Friday	Answering the phone, taking phone messages and opening the front door. On-site training is required.
Media	Two mornings a week	Flexible days	Shelving books
Media	Two afternoons a week	Flexible days	Shelving books
Recess	Shifts: 12:00-12:30p.m. 12:30-1:40p.m.	Tuesdays (2 nd /4 th) and Fridays (3 rd /5 th)	Monitoring "Wheels Day" Students who ride their bikes or scooters can ride them in the bus area on the blacktop. The individual on the first shift sets up the cones and the person on the last shift puts away the cones.
Recess	Shifts: 11:20a.m. -12:00p.m. 12:00-12:30p.m. 12:30-1:40p.m.	Monday-Friday	*Monitor the Exploration and Drawing stations. *Monitor students using these two stations and keeping track of the materials. *Take out the Exploration cart (located in the front office and return the cart to the main office.
Recess	Shifts: 11:20a.m. -12:00p.m. 12:00-12:30p.m. 12:30-1:40p.m.	Tuesdays and Fridays	Field group games: Parachute, Scarf tag, No trash in my back yard, Walk a mile
Staff Development Teacher	Material Pick up Time 2:00-3:00pm (Time can be flexible)	Flexible	Helping with preparing materials for class centers, instruction, projects, etc. Materials can be picked up at school and completed at your home.

BE Volunteer Opportunities

Please indicate your interest in volunteering at Bethesda ES by detaching the form below and returning it with your child. Please notice that this is only an interest form, and that we will confirm your final volunteer placement.

Thank you,

Jessica Nicholson

301-657-4979

Jessica.L.Nicholson@mcpsmd.org

Return to Jessica Nicholson, School Counselor

Volunteer's Name: _____ Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in volunteering for the following: (check all that apply)

_____ Main Office Support 9:30-10:30

_____ Main Office Support 11:30-12:30

_____ Media Center – shelving books

_____ Monitoring Wheels Day

_____ Field Group Game Organizer

_____ Staff Development Project Specialist

_____ Monitoring the Exploration and Drawing Stations

Please indicate the day(s) and time(s) you are available to volunteer.

Parent Volunteers Wanted!

Please consider lending a helping hand to our students and teachers.

On October 26th from 9:00-10:00 am, there will be an information and training session in the All Purpose Room for anyone who is a **new parent** interested in volunteering in the classroom. Attendance in the training is encouraged before you begin working in the classroom.

Please RSVP to Jessica Nicholson by phone or email.

Jessica Nicholson 301-657-4979

or email Jessica L Nicholson@mcpsmd.org

Thank you for considering our children and providing the gift of your time.

See following page in Lion's Den for Volunteer Opportunities!

**If you cannot attend this meeting, please be sure to review our Volunteer Guidelines on our school website. If you plan to volunteer this year, please download a copy of the guidelines, sign the form, and return it to your child's classroom teacher before you begin to help in the classroom. Thank you.*

A Reminder from the BE **GREEN TEAM...**

Just a reminder for you and your family to check out the Green Team's **Cycles of Nature Trail** located on BE's school grounds. Each grade at BE takes care of one part of the trail. Kindergarten maintains a bird observation area. First grade takes care of the composting bin used to compost some lunch room waste. Second grade takes care of the butterfly garden with plants that attract butterflies. Third grade maintains the pollinator garden. Fourth grade takes care of the rain garden. Fifth grade works to identify and label native trees around the nature trail. Please walk around the school grounds and look for the signs to learn more about each part of the nature trail.



Attention Parents of Grade 3 Students!

Application Information

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the Highly Gifted (HGC) were recently mailed directly to all parents for grade 3 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). **This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by November 7, 2011, to:** HGC Application

Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services

11721 Kemp Mill Road

Silver Spring, MD 20902

If for some reason you did not receive an application in the mail, and are interested in the program, contact the school or access it from the website- www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/. The packet is also available in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Middle School Magnet Program Information: Attention fifth grade families!

The application materials for the middle school magnet programs at Takoma Park Middle School and Eastern Middle School will be available online by October at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special_programs. **All fifth graders are eligible to apply.** These are exciting opportunities for interesting and challenging experiences in middle school. The program at Takoma Park Middle School focuses on math, science, and computer science. The program at Eastern Middle School focuses on humanities and communication arts. Some important dates to remember:

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m.	Eastern Magnet meeting at Eastern MS
Thursday, October 27, 2011, 7:00 p.m.	Application Workshop at Quince Orchard HS
Thursday, November 3, 2011, 7:00 p.m.	Application Workshop at Wheaton HS
Monday, November 7, 2011	Application deadline, postmarked or delivered

Please also visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special_programs for information about the Middle School Magnet Consortium programs at Argyle Middle School, Loiederman Middle School, and Parkland Middle School. **The Choice Form is due November 7, 2011.** Information meetings and Open Houses are as follows:

Wednesday, October 26, 2011	7:00 p.m.	Parkland Magnet Middle School for <i>Aerospace Technology Open House</i>
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Halloween Celebrations

WHEN: Friday October 28th

SCHOOL WIDE PARADE: 1:45 PM



The parade (and/or non-participatory activity) will begin at 1:45 and classroom celebrations will begin at 2:05. Due to activities and limited space, **only party coordinators** are invited to the classroom celebrations. **All parents and guests are invited to join us outside for the parade from 1:45-2:05.** Please check classroom newsletters for specific grade level and parent volunteer information regarding classroom and/or grade level celebrations. *If you would like to request that your child not participate in the Halloween activities, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Nicholson.*

Group Counseling with Mrs. Nicholson



Group Counseling: Addition to Group Sign-up

Thank you to those who submitted participation sign-up forms for group counseling this year. In addition to the groups being offered, I am also planning to have a group for students who have siblings with special needs. I would like to offer these students a chance to come together and “chew and chat” with other students who have siblings with special needs. If you are interested please contact me Jessica_L_Nicholson@mcpsmd.org or 301-657-4979.

Assembly: Taking Care

On October 11th we had an assembly called *Taking Care*. It is the follow-up assembly to *Everyone Belongs* that we had last year with Paul Hadfield who created the program called, *The Bully Plan*. *Taking Care* reinforced familiar concepts, including the 4 rules to reduce bullying, bystander skills, and the importance of empathy while addressing more specific issues: peer aggression, teasing, rumors, cyber-bullying, and “doing the right thing when no one is watching.”

If you would like further information on this performance, the website is, <http://thebullyplan.com/index.html> and it provides all the information about the two programs *Everyone Belongs* and *Taking Care*. There is also a teacher’s guide on-line which provides follow-up exercises and discussions that can take place. I plan to use some of the ideas and discussions from this performance in my classroom guidance lessons this year. The staff and students have all raved about this follow-up assembly and are already asking if there will be a 3rd performance! I would like to thank the following 5th grade students who volunteered to be participants in our assembly, Abigail McEwen, Kai Fukuda, Wakana Terabe, Ryan Gick, Ava Parsa, and Cole Killian. Also a great big thank you to our wonderful PTA for making it possible to have this amazing assembly!

Jessica Nicholson

Red Ribbon Week:



We will be celebrating Red Ribbon week from October 24th to October 28th. Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated at schools across the nation to demonstrate a commitment to a healthy and drug-free life. Let's work together to encourage students to be safe, healthy and responsible. At Bethesda, students and staff will be participating in theme days, activities and announcements in order to learn ways to stay healthy. During my classroom guidance lessons, students have been learning how to stay healthy and how to make good choices. I encourage you to take some time during Red Ribbon Week to talk to your children about taking care of their bodies and the need to make good choices.

Each day during Red Ribbon Week students will be provided an opportunity to dress up in support of being healthy and drug-free. The following themes have been chosen; please encourage your child to dress up:

Show your school spirit and commitment to making healthy choices by participating in each day's events!

RED! Monday 10/24: "I'm Proud to be Drug Free"

Everyone dress head to toe in red.



Tuesday 10/25: "Team up against Drugs"

Everyone wear your favorite sports team apparel.



Wednesday 10/26: "Put a Cap on Drugs"

Everyone wear your favorite hat.



Thursday 10/27: "Follow Your Dreams, Don't do Drugs"

Everyone wear pajamas.



Friday 10/28: "Say Boo to Drugs"

Everyone bring a Halloween Costume to wear for the parade.

Emergency Drills and Preparedness...

You may have heard your child(ren) come home and talk about the *Tornado Drill*. This week, we practiced a Shelter/Tornado Drill at BE. In this drill, students exit the classroom and report to a designated space in the hallways. Everyone sits down, facing the wall, and assumes a protected position, see below. Also listed below is a reminder of the drills that we practice here in Montgomery County Public Schools, and where you can locate additional information. As a reminder, if you arrive to the building in the middle of a drill, you will notice a large **RED** sign will be posted in the window of the front office. This is an indication that we are in a drill and you will be admitted to the building when the drill is completed. If you are in the building during the drill, you will participate in the drill and be directed where to go depending on the type of drill.

Evacuation: Fire Evacuation or Directed Evacuation

Shelter (formerly called CODE BLUE): Public Safety Shelter (exterior doors are locked), Severe Weather, or Outside Hazardous Materials Release

Lockdown (formerly called CODE RED): Imminent Danger in the Building or on the Campus

Additional information about MCPS Emergency Preparedness Procedures can be found online: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/>.

Another source of information regarding information in Montgomery County, is ALERT MCPS.

Alert MCPS is a way that you can receive text messages or e-mail from Montgomery County Public Schools during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Alert MCPS is administered by Montgomery County Public Schools and is part of the Montgomery County Alert System.



You can find out additional information and sign up online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx>



Reminder...the Lion's Den is going ONLINE! Beginning next month (November), the Lion's Den will ONLY be posted online at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bethesdaes/administration/>. If you would still like to receive a paper copy, please complete the information below and turn it in to the Front Office by **October 24th**.

____ Yes, I would like to receive a paper copy of the Lion's Den.

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Signature: _____

From the PTA...

DID YOU KNOW???

That your contributions to the PTA paid for....

The Recent School Assembly on Bullying?

Visiting Authors?

The Literary Magazine?

International Night?

Field Day?

Reading Curriculum Materials?

AND MUCH MORE!!!

Please Contribute To The PTA's Lion's Pride Campaign!

Reply cards were distributed in Friday Folders on September 23rd, and extra reply cards are in the school office....Or simply write a check, place it in an envelope labeled "Lion's Pride Campaign", and drop it off in the "Lion's Pride" mail box at the school office...Or donate online: [http://](http://www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com)

www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com

Thanks! Your support makes a difference!



Thank you



Mark your calendars and get ready to race! (or walk, if you prefer!)

The 2011 Edgemoor Classic 5K is happening on Sunday, November 6th at 8:30am.

Remember....run it or walk it, but definitely don't SKIP it!

This event is a great opportunity for family fun and fitness.

For more information, please go to the website at <http://www.edgemoorcitizens.org>.

ATTENTION...Classroom Box Tops competition for the Fall ends on **October 24th.**

The classroom with the most box tops per student will win an ice cream party.



Students should bring their box tops to their classroom teacher in baggies marked with their teacher's name.

Any questions, please contact Carrie Mulford at (301) 986-0177 or carrie.mulford@usdoj.gov.

From the PTA...



Don't forget to place your Nic-o-boli order by Nov. 2nd!!!!!!!

You should have received an order form last Friday.

Extra order forms are in the school office.

Nic-o-bolis will be delivered 3 to 6 weeks after the fundraiser ends.

If you have questions please email beth.sodie@gmail.com or go to www.nicolapizza.com.

Occasionally, the buses have unforeseen issues and the children are delayed in getting to their stop. BE is trying to establish a parent/caregiver notification system if there is a delay. There is no way to notify every parent when a delay occurs. The auto call system and school wide email system take at least an hour to activate, and BEPTAnet frequently has delays in posts. Therefore, the school would like to create an email system that would get the information out to the majority of parents. In order to do this, they need the email address of one parent, or caregiver, at each stop, who will receive an email about the delay and let the other parent/caregivers at the stop know about the delay.

The contact person needs to be someone who is usually at the stop and is able access their email from their phone. Please talk to the others at your stop and determine who would be the best contact person. Once you have identified one contact, please send me your email address, which color bus and the stop.

It will take a couple weeks to gather all the information. The school hopes to have the system in the place starting in November.

Patricia Brown

pw.brown@Verizon.net

LET'S DANCE!!!



The BE PTA invites you to a very scary

Halloween FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

Friday, October 28th
6:00-8:00pm
in the BE Gymnasium!

Dress in Costume

Pizza, snacks and water will be available for purchase.

IMPORTANT NOTE: No drop-offs please. This is a family dance and children (of all ages) need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.