



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

Bedford Elementary Schools Together/Parent Teacher Organization
Providing a Forum for Communication, Enrichment and Support
April 2011

Letter from the President:

There are no final numbers, but all indications are that the circus was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the event. The circus committee worked tirelessly to put a fun family event and it was great to see everyone having a great time.

Spring is here! While the weather is still cool it won't be long before the outdoor sports start. BEST is offering a wonderful "Bedford" chair. Just right for spring sports and summer outdoor parties!! Get yours now. For more details contact Peter Ricci, bedfordriccis@verizon.net >Get one while supplies last.

Lastly, a reminder that the information in the student directory is not to be used for any commercial purposes. "Use of the information, including email addresses, is ONLY for classroom and BEST activities. It would be inappropriate to use the emails for any commercial/business activity or non-BEST fundraiser activity."

Happy spring!
Lyn Kapilian

In the Schools

A Few Volunteer Slots Left for Davis School Opening Day. We are in need of five more parent volunteers to pitch to the children in the gym from 11:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Opening Day. The number of volunteers is limited so as soon as these slots fill up, we will close the sign up. We won't hold try-outs, so anyone who can toss a ball underhand is absolutely hired!! We'll bring in the relief pitchers if necessary.

If you are interested in volunteering kindly email BOTH Sandy Morvillo (sandymorvillo@gmail.com) & Susan DiGangi (susan.digangi@comcast.net).

On April 7th all Davis School students are invited to participate in Opening Day during lunch recess. There will be opportunity to buy a hot dog lunch or a snack only option (soft pretzel for .50 cents) with a Davis lunch card.



Who: All Davis students

What: Opening Day-come "bat some balls"

When: Thursday, April 7, 2011

Where: Davis School gymnasium during lunch recess

Why: For great fun and lots of wonderful exercise!

Reminder: Wear your Red Sox/baseball apparel. Hats are allowed. Sneakers please! No cleats!

If you have questions about the event please contact Ms. Venezia at Davis School.

FIELD DAY AT LANE!

Mrs. Post (Lane School Health and Physical Education teacher) will be looking for parent volunteers interested in helping with the third and fourth grade Field Day. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th with a rain date of Friday, May 27th. Please look for parent volunteer forms to go home with your children after April vacation.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK COMING UP: MAY 2-6, 2011

For Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW), we thank our teachers by doing something special for them each day of the week. We are only able to do this with the support of parent volunteers at Davis and Lane. Chris Anderson and Laurie Sukoff will be organizing TAW for teachers at Davis School, and Lisa Hafer will be organizing TAW for teachers at Lane School. We will be requesting food items such as breakfast, coffee, lunch, fruit, drinks and cookies. You will be able to sign up on-line and choose the item(s) that you wish to contribute (see links below).

We will also need volunteers to assist with morning set-up and afternoon clean-up each day at both schools. Furthermore, Davis School will need people to do Bus Duty for the teachers all week during afternoon dismissal.

Please consider contributing in some way so we can ensure yet another WONDERFUL and SUCCESSFUL week for our terrific teachers!!

Sign-up for TAW begins now. Please go to the following links to donate items/volunteer:

www2.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=davistaw2011 – for Davis School items

www2.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=lanetaw2011 – for Lane School items

Support Your Schools

April is "Bedford School Month" at Bedford Farms Ice Cream! Anytime in April, stop by Bedford Farms Ice Cream, located at 18 North Road in Bedford. Tell the server that you would like to purchase a "Bedford School Gift Card" (or cards) and place a monetary amount on the card(s). Use the gift card to purchase any retail item (tasty treats, hats, t-shirts). The gift card does not expire and may be used anytime. At the end of April, Bedford Farms will give 20% of the total dollar amount of cards purchased back to Bedford's public schools.

This is a great opportunity to plan ahead and load up for the summer months while benefiting the Bedford school system. Use this chance to purchase small tokens of appreciation for coaches, teachers, birthdays and babysitters or whoever might deserve a tasty treat.

THANK YOU BEDFORD FARMS!!!

Super Easy and FREE ways to earn BEST money that goes directly to our elementary schools.

Attention Target Card holders:

Target Credit Card gives back 1% to a local school. Just sign up!

1. Go to Target.com
2. Click on the words Red Card saves you %5 everyday
3. Scroll down a little and there is a box that says "Take Charge of Education" click on that and follow the directions.

You can put Bedford schools like Davis or Lane as recipients!!

Box Tops!

They can be found on several food products, just look for them (they are a little sneaky) they can be found often on the bottom or top, sometimes items have DOUBLE tops! Cut them out and send them to BEST via Kidmail. We earn 10 cents per top!

April Green Tip

THINK CARPOOL this spring!

With all the spring activities beginning, now is your opportunity to connect with others and set up a carpool. Reasons to carpool:

- Less stress.
- Save \$\$ on gas.
- Reduces need for parking
- Increases free time for you and your family.
- Reduces pollution due to auto emissions.

April Challenge: Set up a carpool/rideshare system for at least one of your children's activities.

Community Corner:

Bedford Japan Fair Please come and experience the Japanese culture and help raise funds for the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. There will be an origami workshop, face-painting of Japanese characters, taking photos in kimono (bring your own camera), tea ceremony demonstration, a Japanese crafts sale, a bake sale, a children's clothing sale and more.

Our goal is to make 1,000 origami paper cranes. One thousand cranes symbolize the wishes for recovery. So please join us! All the proceeds go to the JAPANESE DISASTER RELIEF FUND.
(<http://www.tbf.org/giving/givingdetail.aspx?id=17890>)

As part of its community service outreach mission, the Bedford Family Connection will be sponsoring a Children's Clothing and Gear Tag Sale, with 100% of the proceeds being donated to the above Japanese relief fund. The BFC is looking for volunteers to help with the children's clothing & gear sale by assisting with sorting clothing donations in advance, and with staffing the tables and helping at check out on the day of the event. If you'd like to help, please contact BFC Director Niki Curry at currymn@comcast.net or call 781-710-4754. All volunteers should be age 14 or older. Additional details will be forthcoming regarding guidelines for clothing and gear donations as well as collection/drop-off dates and locations.

Event Date: Apr. 10 (Sun)

Time: 11am – 3 pm

Location: Bedford High School

Free admission. More information or other questions? Contact Keiko Iseda-Brown at kiseda@yahoo.com or at 781-275-7414.

This event is organized by a group of Japanese moms in Bedford and Lexington in cooperation with the Bedford Family Connection (BFC), the Bedford Elementary Schools Together (BEST) and the Bedford Education Foundation (BEF).

PMC Bedford Kids Ride: Online registration is now open <http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/> for the 7th annual PMC Bedford Kids Ride to be held June 11th from 9am-1pm at John Glenn Middle School. We are once again looking forward to an incredible ride and really need your support!

Last year the Bedford ride raised over \$140,000 and we would love to do the same this year - we can only do this with everyone's participation. Once again, the PMC is continuing its Heavy Hitter program for kids who raise at least \$250. 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 PMC Bedford Ride will be having a special Heavy Hitters' raffle where we will be raffling off an iPad! We are encouraging all riders to take part in this challenge and become a Heavy Hitter. Last year our ride had 45 Heavy Hitters - let's see if we can double that!

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. Please visit the PMC Bedford web page to register as a volunteer or contact eva.naldini@gmail.com. Don't forget to look for us on Facebook as well. We look forward to seeing you at the ride!

PMC Bedford Kids Ride KIDS NIGHT OUT. This popular event will be held on May 21st from 5.30-8.30 pm at the Edge Sports Center. Come join in the fun with Sandy Morvillo, Peter Laskaris, Nancy Griffiths and Callahan Karate for crackabout, mat ball, dancing, obstacle courses, karate moves and more. Open to kids K through 5th grade. The cost is \$25 per child (siblings pay \$10) and includes pizza and Bedford Farms ice cream! All proceeds benefit the PMC Bedford Kids Ride in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Space is limited. For reservations or information contact: bedfordpmckidsride@gmail.com

Bedford Youth & Family Services Spring newsletter is available on line at <http://www.bedfordma.gov/youth> or in hard copy at our Town Center offices.

Bedford Youth and Family Services Job Match

Students from middle and high school interested in working at jobs such as child care, yard work, snow shoveling or odd jobs may find a great job match with Bedford Youth and Family Services (BYFS).

Young people, who for a variety of reasons, including an after school commitment to sports, music or other school activity may not be able to work in the stores or private industry.

Bedford youth may register with Job Match. While some may be inexperienced, many are not. The younger youth want a little extra spending money and this opportunity gives them practice for the world of work to come. The older youth may enjoy the flexibility.

BYFS matches the student with an available job. We give residents who call us the names of a few students who are a good match considering the resident's expectations and the youth's skills and time. The resident and the youth negotiate the rate of pay, depending on the job. Odd jobs have included helping out at home parties, light office work, and light house work.

Young people can download an application at www.bedfordma.gov/youth.html under Job Match or pick one up at our Town Center office.

Residents with a job can call our office at 781/275-7727 to be matched to students or email frans@bedfordma.gov with questions.

Enrollment Open for MCC Summer Camps

Middlesex Community College is now accepting enrollments for its 2011 Summer Camps. Designed to actively engage students ages 8 to 15 in an exciting learning environment, MCC's Summer Camps run July 11 through Aug. 19. More than 30 one- and two- and three-week camps will be offered, exploring the fields of design, science, technology, fashion and the arts. Most camps run 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more MCC Summer Camps information, visit our website:

<http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/sucamps2011/> or call 978-656-3215. To register directly for MCC's Summer Camps, call 1-800-818-3434.

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.

Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee at Whole Foods Café, Fri. April 29.

Parents and guardians of children with learning challenges or special needs on IEPs or 504 plans are invited to attend a coffee on Friday April 29, 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. If you have concerns about a child who is struggling in school but not on an IEP or 504 plan, come and talk to us. SEPAC generally holds parent coffees the 4th Friday of every month at Whole Foods Café, 170 Great Road, Bedford.

Questions? Contact Irene Gravina at igravina@yahoo.com or (781) 275-6535.

Bedford SEPAC Volunteers Needed!

At the conclusion of the current academic year, several key members of the SEPAC executive board who have graduating seniors will be leaving. SEPAC needs parents of children in special education, on IEPs or 504 plans who are interested in being active members and can volunteer at least 2-4 hours each month on a regular basis.

We are currently seeking volunteers to fill the positions of treasurer, publicity coordinator and school liaisons beginning in June/July 2011 for the 2011-2012 academic year. Elections will occur in early May. If you are interested, please contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net for more information. Please consider coming to one of our open board meetings (next scheduled meeting April 6) or one of our parent coffees to learn more about what we do.

2010-2011 BEST/PTO Officers

President: Lyn Kapilian

lynkapilian@comcast.net

Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci

bedfordriccis@verizon.net

Vice President (Lane): Kristin Ferrari

kferrari@comcast.net

Secretary: Caroline Fedele

Caroline.fedele@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diane Bernstein

dgm.bernstein@verizon.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

- Transportation Safety Committee