



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from the President:

The Circus is coming to town!! Come enjoy a great performance by circus professionals Bucky and Gigi under the Big Top at Bedford High School on March 19. Fun for the whole family. The prizes have been ordered and the games will all be fun. Get your tickets early through the Bedford Recreation Department website. Don't miss out!

The circus committee has worked tirelessly to bring back a great event for the community and a wonderful fundraiser for the Davis and Lane Schools. All that is left to fill in are the volunteers. I hope everyone will consider volunteering their time (no commitment is too small) on Saturday to ensure we have another successful event. Contact Caroline Fedele at caroline.fedele@comcast.net for details.

Next on our fundraising agenda...in conjunction with the high school and middle school parent / teacher organizations we are participating in a Wilson Farm shopping day on March 22. Bring in the promotional flyer (being sent via Kidmail next week) and BEST will receive a percentage of the sales that day.

Don't forget to use the Amazon link located on the Davis and Lane School websites. It runs all year and continues to raise money for all the BEST programs. Look for details in the next few months on how to order your school supplies on Amazon and avoid the hassle of trying to locate certain hard to find items.

Hope to see you all under the Big Top!!

Lyn Kapilian

In the Schools

Teacher Appreciation Week coming up: May 2-6. Every year, we honor our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW). We thank our teachers by doing something special for them each day of TAW. We are only able to do this with the help of parent volunteers at Davis and Lane. Laurie Sukoff and Christine Anderson will be organizing TAW for teachers at Davis School. Lisa Hafer will be organizing TAW for teachers at Lane School. Over the next few months, we will be sending out requests looking for volunteers to bring in breakfast items, fruit, and other food. Also, for Davis, we will need 30 volunteers for bus duty in the afternoon. We hope that you will be able to contribute in some way and make this another successful week for our wonderful teachers!!

Thank you in advance for your consideration and help.
Christine Anderson, Laurie Sukoff, and Lisa Hafer

Celebrating Differences – We Need Your Help for Challenge Days! Plans for this year's Celebrating Differences program are coming together. Both schools will welcome visitors to their

classrooms the week of March 7th. Lane School students will also participate in Challenge Days on March 14, 15, and 16th. On these days, two classes at a time get the chance to experience what it might be like to be blind or have a learning disability and learn about the devices and strategies used by someone facing this challenge. It is a powerful learning experience for students and requires a large number of volunteers to make it happen.

If we do not get sufficient volunteers, we will have to cancel the Challenge Day program. We would really hate to have that happen. Please contact Carla Bradford at carlajbradford@yahoo.com if you can help on any of the days. We would like to have our volunteer schedule set by March 9th so please contact Carla as soon as possible. Many thanks!

Support Your Schools

2011 BEST/PTO Carnival & Circus – Saturday, March 19

Bucky & Gigi and friends are back by popular demand! Circus Show Times: 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Carnival: Noon - 5pm. Circus tickets go on sale the week of February 14th.

We are looking for donations of items to raffle off this year. So far we have received some generous donations from local businesses but we are now turning to you the parents to ask if you have anything to donate such as a vacation home, tickets to an event or an item such as a new camera or iPod etc. If you or anyone else would like to donate a raffle item or service, please contact me: Kristin Ferrari at kferrari@comcast.net. All donations are tax deductible.

OR if you can volunteer for a time slot during the day of the event please contact Caroline Fedele at Caroline.Fedele@sprint.com

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

By Daisy Girifalco, Fundraising Chair Person.

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. They earn 10 cents per top!

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW. Got Books! The Got Books box has already been filled once! Thank you to all those who donated their used (but still readable) books, DVDs, CDs to the box that is located at DAVIS SCHOOL in the lower lot. Swing on by and donate any books you may find that have finished their job at your house. For more about GOT BOOKS <http://www.gotbooks.com>

BEST Fundraiser - Dining for a Cause, March 9th at the 99 Restaurant at 160 Lexington Rd., Billerica, MA 978.663.3999

March Green Tip

Use Those Plastic Baggies More Than Once: Plastic bags are made of petroleum, a plastic which is a nonrenewable resource and produces toxic emissions upon manufacture. If you are still packing your sandwiches and snacks in plastic baggies consider reusing or repurposing those Ziplocs. Plastic baggies are pretty sturdy and are generally good for multiple uses. Just rinse them out and they are good to go.

Monthly green challenge: Begin to replace your plastic baggies with reusable bags made from cloth and reuse any plastic baggies still in the rotation multiple times.

Community Corner:

Eco-Extravaganza: Sunday, March 27th, 2-4pm, Congregational Church (park in the town center lot). Ever wanted to see endangered animals or learn what you can do to help them? Well, now you can!! Learn the facts while doing cool art projects. There will be a special show from Animal Adventures where you will get to see endangered animals up close and in person. Snacks and treats will be available for a donation - all donations will go towards adopting endangered animals. This event is FREE, so bring your kids for a fun afternoon activity!! This event is sponsored by Girl Scout Junior Troop 77209. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee, Fri. March 18 at Whole Foods Café Parents and guardians of children with learning challenges or special needs on IEPs or 504 plans are invited to attend a coffee on Friday March 18, 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 fourth 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 Hosts Basic Rights Presentation, Wed. March 23 If your child is receiving special education services on an IEP (individualized education program) or accommodations on a 504 plan, you cannot afford to miss this important program!

On Wed. March 23, the Bedford Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will host parent advocate Shelly Greene and attorney Joe Seckler who will present an informational talk on basic rights and special education law. This talk will provide parents with the fundamental information they should have in order to effectively navigate the special education process. Topics to be discussed include a brief overview of special education law, how the special education process works, how eligibility is determined, evaluations, team meetings, IEPs, how parents can work cooperatively as full partners with the school to develop their child's education plan, practical strategies to overcome challenges and conflicts, what parents can do when agreement cannot be reached and more. At the conclusion, Ms. Greene and Mr. Seckler will answer your questions regarding special education.

Shelly Greene's professional career has encompassed more than twenty-five years and includes a wide range of experiences assisting parents and children maximize learning differences in a variety of settings. She holds a B.A. in psychology and a M.Ed. in counseling psychology, as well as additional graduate work in cognitive science, neuropsychology, social cognition, and psychological assessments. Ms. Greene maintains a private practice as an independent consultant serving as educational advocate, assisting parents in navigating the school system

and in working collaboratively with school district staff. She has assisted in writing hundreds of IEPs and in developing learning strategies and curricular activities for different types of learners. She currently consults with Federation for Children with Special Needs in Boston, Mass Advocates for Children in Boston, and for local Special Education Parent Advisory Councils and has provided training for more than 2,000 parents and educators on topics such as basic rights, IEP, effective communication, accessing the general curriculum, autism, discipline protections, statewide standardized testing, and maximizing special education.

Joseph A. Seckler, Esq. is a partner in the Worcester office of Morrison Mahoney LLP and has over 23 years of experience in trial practice and litigation management. Mr. Seckler's practice includes School Law, the representation of parents of children with special needs in Massachusetts. He works with families of children with special needs to obtain appropriate services for their children.

The presentation will take place in the multipurpose room at the Lane School, 66 Sweetwater Ave., Bedford from 7-9 PM. Admission is free and all are welcome. Parents of children who are struggling in school but not currently receiving special education services are particularly encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net.

Pan Mass Challenge Bedford Kids Ride Cocktail Party

Book the Babysitter! The PMC Bedford Kids Ride Committee will be hosting the 5th annual Cocktail Party & Auction to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and its Jimmy Fund. This year's event will be held on March 18th at the Doubletree Bedford Glen Hotel on Middlesex Turnpike. Our guest speaker will be Bedford's Rodney Green who was diagnosed with CLL (Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia) in November 2007. He is now doing great and even rode in the PMC for the first time last year! This evening is a great way to enjoy a night out with friends in support of a cause that touches us all, as well as have a chance to bid on exciting auction items including tickets to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, vacation rentals, spas, restaurants, sporting events and more. Admission is \$25 per person in advance (\$30 at the door) which includes hors d'oeuvres. Payment can be made in advance at <http://kids.pmc.org/bedford/>. The invitation can be viewed at <http://event.pingg.com/pmcbedfordauction>. For further questions contact Monica Bou at monica.bou@comcast.net.

BHS to Stage 'Grease' The Bedford High School Music Department will stage its spring musical, "Grease," at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, March 9, 11 and 12; and at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the BHS Auditorium. Tickets go on sale March 1.

Evening-performance tickets to "Grease" are \$15 or \$12 for seniors (age 60 and up). Matinee tickets are \$12. Tickets will be on sale at Fetch It!, the Bedford Council on Aging, and in the school offices at Davis, Lane and JGMS.

To reserve tickets via telephone, call 781-275-1700 ext. 4200 (please leave your name, phone number, and number of tickets requested for which performance). Tickets can be picked up and paid for at the Will Call table the night of the performance.

For more information about the BHS production of "Grease," contact Diane Pritchett at diane_pritchett@bedford.k12.ma.us or 781-275-1700 ext. 4200.

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.

Raising Financially Fit Children (Sponsored by Bedford Youth and Family Services)

Target Audience: Middle School Parents but open to all

SPEAKER: Lea Ann Knight, CFP

WHEN: Wednesday, March 30, 2011

TIMES: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon or
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Town Center Mudge Room



Do you recognize the money behaviors of middle school children? Learn to help your child set attainable financial goals, create allowance strategies that reinforce your money management messages and make wiser money choices.

NOTE: Sign Up Required and Space Limited. Call 781/275-7727 to register for either session.

Lea Ann Knight, CFP is the Principal of Garrison/Knight Financial Planning LLC, a financial planning firm in Bedford and has provided financial and investment advice to individuals, families and businesses. A frequent speaker and workshop facilitator on financial topics, Ms. Knight is the author of the weekly blog, Financially Fit After 40.

The Fuel Assistance Program: Could You Use Help with Home Heating Bills? The Fuel Assistance Program may be for you! The Fuel Assistance Program provides a benefit for home heating for Bedford residents of all ages who meet income guidelines.

Household Size	Yearly Gross Income
1	\$30,751
2	\$40,213
3	\$49,675
4	\$59,137
5	\$68,598
6	\$78,060



Those who enroll in the Fuel Assistance Program are also eligible for free home weatherization, free heating system repair or replacement, free energy-saving devices, and discounts on some utility bills.

To apply, Bedford residents under age 60 should call Bedford Youth and Family Services (YFS) at 275-7727 and those 60 or over should call the Bedford Council on Aging (COA) at 275-6825. Please be assured that all information will be held in the strictest confidence. Remember, your taxes paid for this program, so if you think you qualify, apply for the benefits you deserve!

Bedford High School Varsity Baseball presents: Bedford Baseball Spring Training

February 27th, March 6th, March 13th, March 20th, and March 27th

Join us to get ready for the 2011 Spring Baseball season! The season is fast approaching and there is no better way to get ready then to learn the fundamentals from experienced coaches and players.

Instructors: Varsity coach Charlie Puopolo, BHS coaches, and players on the Varsity team

Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Where: Bedford High School Gym

Ages: 3rd Grade – 8th Grade

Cost: \$15 per session / \$60 for all 5 Sessions

All proceeds will go to the Bedford High School Baseball program

- Send Payments to 9 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730 c/o Athletic Department

- All checks payable to BHS Baseball

If you would like to sign up visit <http://www.bedfordbaseballsoftball.com/> and click on the link under the Bedford Varsity Baseball Spring Training post to register.

Any questions or comments email Nicholas_Taylor-2011@bedford.k12.ma.us

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

dmd.bernstein@verizon.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

- Transportation Safety Committee