



# BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

Bedford Elementary Schools Together/Parent Teacher Organization  
Providing a Forum for Communication, Enrichment, and Support  
October 2009

## Letter from the President:

It's official...the school year is underway. At our first BEST meet and greet, it was great to see both the familiar and new faces that make up the BEST team. During this kickoff meeting, someone asked the seemingly simple question "what does BEST do?" Our promotional material, while artfully drafted, doesn't quite paint the whole picture. You've all seen the flyer which provides the following description:

BEST is a 501(c)3 organization. Our funding comes largely from tax-deductible donations from Davis and Lane families and purchases of fund-raising materials such as our annual fall wrapping paper/gift sale. Corporate grants and community support are also vital to our success and assist us in reaching our goals of providing quality enrichment programs for all our elementary school children, support for our teaching staff and a school environment that is educationally strong and fun.

You can read this passage and still have lots of questions. First, what are the enrichment programs? Second, how does BEST generate these tax deductible donations, and what other fund raising programs does BEST promote? BEST funds programs for kindergarten through the fifth grade at the Davis and Lane Schools. Here are just two of the many programs that BEST funds:

- (i) The second grade trip to Drumlin Farms to observe and tag the monarch butterfly. The program allows students to take the curriculum from the classroom and relate it directly to the monarch butterfly by observing them in their natural habitat. A priceless experience for a young mind.
- (ii) The fifth graders participate in a Techsploration program that focuses on the study of electricity. The students are allowed hands on participation in answering the questions about the basic laws of electricity and magnetism.

These programs, while enriching young minds do not come cheap, which brings us to our next question about the sources of funding for these wonderful programs. We just kicked off our fall campaign with Genevieve wrapping paper, which is the single largest contributor to our annual budget, and the Lord and Taylor Benefit Bash coupon. Lord and Taylor lets BEST keep the entire \$5 from the sale of every coupon and when people use the coupons to shop, we receive a percentage of the sales. Is there no better time than now for a new fall wardrobe pick me up, a birthday gift or holiday shopping? ☺ If you visited the BEST booth on Bedford Day, you probably enjoyed a delicious slush, with all of the proceeds going to support these terrific programs. Shortly you will be receiving forms to update your contact information for the student directory that BEST will be selling next month, a must have resource for all families.

In addition, there are other ways BEST is partnering with local businesses to support our kids. For example, Whole Foods has a box in the parking lot labeled "Got Books". All you need to do is drop off your unwanted books in the box. As the Whole Foods' designated charity, we receive a

check from "Got Books" based on the weight of the books donated. A little effort goes a long way. Last year we made \$1400 from this program alone.

BEST is currently negotiating with several Bedford businesses and restaurants to arrange special "BEST Days" where your support of these participating local businesses on these special BEST Days will also support programs for our kids. Another great fundraiser is the Box Tops program. Specially marked boxes of cereal, and other popular food items have points for schools. Just by cutting your box tops and sending them via kidmail to the Davis and Lane schools helps considerably. These are simple ways people can make a difference and support BEST.

In addition to the grass roots, community based fund raising programs, BEST is active in soliciting grants from charitable foundations and corporate sponsors and supporters. This year BEST will be actively looking for grant money to fund existing programs and looking to expand the programming we offer. Given the current economic climate, we realize the importance of looking outside the immediate Davis and Lane communities to help in deferring the cost of these programs. We hope to be able to identify a number of institutional level funding sources to ease the financial strain of maintaining and expanding our vital and robust programming.

If you have fundraising ideas or want to get involved, please contact us. Remember, Bedford Elementary Schools Together means together, we can reach our goal of a fully funded series of enrichment programs for all our elementary students.

Warmest Regards,

Lyn Kapilian  
BEST President

### October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Lord & Taylor Bash	7 Fall fundraiser due	8	9	10
11	12 Schools Closed	13	14	15	16	17 Sibling Picture Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Box tops due	31

### In the Schools

There will be a sibling photo day on October 17 at Lane School, from 9am to 12noon. To reserve a time slot, email Kristin Ferrari [kferrari@comcast.net](mailto:kferrari@comcast.net). The form with information about this is coming home this week via Kidmail.

## Support Your Schools

**Box Tops:** 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 next deadline is Friday October 30th - so please send in your summer clippings via Kid Mail. We have set the goal for \$2000 this school year. Keep clipping!



**Fall Fundraiser (ends October 7):** By now, you have received the beautiful Genevieve catalog...our biggest fundraising effort of the year has begun! Orders are due via Kid Mail by Wednesday, October 7. In this tough economic climate, we're hoping to help fund various student enrichment projects throughout the year with the proceeds. As always, thanks for helping to enrich the lives of our children. If you need additional order forms or have questions regarding this fundraiser, please contact Cindy Fissette, 781-687-9577, [fnasinsam@verizon.net](mailto:fnasinsam@verizon.net) for Davis School or Monica Bou, 781-687-8841, [Monica.Bou@comcast.net](mailto:Monica.Bou@comcast.net) for Lane School.

**Lord & Taylor Burlington Benefit Bash (October 6):** All ticket proceeds *plus* a portion of your purchases go to BEST-PTO. This is a great deal for shoppers *and* our school enrichment programs. You can even pre-select your purchases this week! See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

**BEST Shopping Night (December 3):** There will be a BEST shopping night Thursday, Dec 3 from 6:30-9:30 pm at the John Glen Middle School. Please contact Kristin Ferrari at [kferrari@comcast.net](mailto:kferrari@comcast.net) if interested in being a vendor at this event.

## Volunteer Opportunities:

**Davis and Lane School Hospitality Committees:** Members of the Hospitality Committee will be providing lunches for the teachers and staff at Davis and Lane Schools on October 7. If you are able to help provide food for this event, it is not too late to join the Hospitality Committee! Donations needed include: paper goods, fresh fruit, chips, salads, cold sandwiches, soup, and desserts. If you are unable to assist us in October, there will be several more opportunities throughout the year, including a few more lunches and possibly a special event or two. As a member of this committee, you will receive an email from the Hospitality Committee chairwoman at least one week in advance of an event detailing the food items needed and you can sign up for your desired item through email. For more information, or to join the Hospitality Committee, please email Dawn Kociubes for Davis School at [kociubes@comcast.net](mailto:kociubes@comcast.net) or Carla Bradford for Lane School at [carlajbradford@yahoo.com](mailto:carlajbradford@yahoo.com). If you have already signed up through Kid Mail, Thank You! We couldn't show our appreciation for our school staff without you!

**Davis Art Room:** If you haven't yet sent in your art room volunteer form and would like to volunteer, it's not too late! We are still looking for volunteers for all classes. Please return the form via Kid Mail to "Davis Art Room" as soon as possible. Ms. Frazier has some fun projects scheduled and any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated. You can also e-mail us at [davisartroom@yahoo.com](mailto:davisartroom@yahoo.com) (please let us know your child's teacher and your availability) or phone the Davis Art Room Coordinators—Paula Driscoll 781-275-1028 and Kerry Rackey 781-275-7242.



**Davis Library Volunteering:** Volunteering for the Davis library is a great way to spend quality time at the school and see your kids with their classmates. Although many generous parents have already signed up, we are in need of volunteers for Monday and Friday classes especially. Time commitments vary, but in general, volunteers work one morning or afternoon shift per month during their child's class time. Please contact Jennifer Lo at [jennifernmba@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifernmba@yahoo.com)

## **It's Easy Being Green:** Submitted by Peter Ricci for the Green Committee



**Got Books** has a drop off box located in The Whole Foods parking lot in Bedford. It is a great way to recycle your books that you no longer want which helps you, helps the environment and helps your school. The BEST /PTO is the recipient of funds generated by this container and last year, proceeds from the Bedford Got Books container funded enrichment programs for Davis and Lane schools. Also, coming soon, look for Terracycle collection boxes in the schools. The Terracycle program recycles Capri Sun juice "bags" and other wrappers such as ClifBars. At no cost to us BEST/PTO will receive money back for each item returned.

The recycled juice "bags" and other accepted wrappers reused to create products such as backpacks and pencil cases. Watch for more details to come.

Next time you go to the store, consider buying a refill bottle of glass cleaner or soap, instead of buying a brand new sprayer/dispenser bottle. Often, the refills are more economical and it reduces the use of packaging.

**This month's tip:** Prescription pill bottles are usually recyclable – peel off the label and toss it in your recycling bin.

### **Community Corner:**

**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 SEPAC Parent Survey:** The Bedford Special Education Advisory Council (SEPAC) is asking for input on possible presentation topics for the 2009-2011 timeframe. We are looking for ideas from all parents. What topic areas would you be interested in learning more about? By whom would you be interested in hearing a presentation? You DO NOT have to be the parent of a child with special needs to participate.

*The survey is anonymous and will provide us with information that will help us better serve the needs of our community.* Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the Parent SEPAC Survey 2009-2010, which can be found the Bedford Public Schools website [www.bedford.k12.ma.us](http://www.bedford.k12.ma.us) under Current News/News and Information or by navigating to Special Education → Director's Notes. The survey can also be accessed directly at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oJlfSfx5ncMkShASV3Przg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oJlfSfx5ncMkShASV3Przg_3d_3d).

**Bedford SEPAC Parent Coffee, Friday, Oct. 23, 8-10 AM at Whole Foods Café:** Parents and guardians of children with special needs are invited to attend a coffee on Friday, October 23, 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 8-10 AM, at Whole Foods Café, 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 SEPAC Hosts "Meet the Special Education Director", Wed. Oct. 14:** On Wednesday October 14, 2009, Bedford Special Education Parents' Advisory Council (SEPAC) will host a "Meet the Director Night". Our new director, Cyndy Taymore, will provide an overview of special

education in Bedford including a discussion of new programs and initiatives and will answer audience questions. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Taymore and learn about what is currently happening in special education. All are welcome. The meeting will take place in the multipurpose room at the Lt. Job Lane Elementary School, 66 Sweetwater Ave., Bedford between 7-9 PM. For more information, contact Dana Fine at danafine@verizon.net or (781)-275-4464.

**Bedford SEPAC Fundraiser Book Raffle:** Support Bedford SEPAC and play to win a copy of acclaimed author Dr. Ross Greene's latest book, "Lost at School: Why Our Kids with Behavioral Challenges are Falling Through the Cracks and How We Can Help Them". Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. Make checks payable to "Bedford SEPAC" and mail to Gail Valbona, 3 Donovan Drive, Bedford, MA 01730. All entries must be received by Oct. 15. All proceeds to go to support SEPAC's activities and events.

For questions or for more information, contact Gail Valbona at gval@comcast.net .

**Bedford Education Foundation:** Save the date! Tuesday, November 3rd. Flatbread Fundraiser to benefit the Bedford Education Foundation! Find out more about us at [BedfordEducation.org](http://BedfordEducation.org)

**Bedford Angels Volunteer Network:** We are pleased to announce Bedford Angels, a group of volunteers supporting our community's families in crisis. This volunteer model started in Wayland and has been operating successfully since its inception in 2003 with over 400 volunteers. We are excited to bring the Angel's Network to Bedford and hope you will join this new volunteer network.

Families face significant challenges when tragedy unexpectedly strikes. The impact on household routines often makes life seem unbearable. Having volunteers delivering meals, running errands or offering a simple act of kindness is worth more than words can say. Recipients of care include people in a temporary crisis such as illness, major surgery or sudden tragedy or accident.

Non-medical services consist of, but are not limited to:

- delivering meals
- running errands
- driving patients to and from medical appointments.

There is no minimum requirement to how often a volunteer helps out. Sign up to fill a need only when it works with your schedule! All residents are welcome to join in this community network of volunteers. To join the Bedford Angels visit <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/610954/login/>. To find out how the Bedford Angels can help you or someone you know or to contact the coordinator, email [bedfordangels@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordangels@gmail.com).

#### **2009-2010 BEST/PTO Officers**

**President: Lyn Kapilian**  
[lynkapilian@comcast.net](mailto:lynkapilian@comcast.net)  
**Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci**  
[bedfordriccis@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordriccis@verizon.net)  
**Vice President (Lane): Susan Miele**  
[susananmiele@gmail.com](mailto:susananmiele@gmail.com)  
**Secretary: Kristin Ferrari**  
[kferrari@comcast.net](mailto:kferrari@comcast.net)  
**Treasurer: Diane Bernstein**  
[dgm.bernstein@verizon.net](mailto:dgm.bernstein@verizon.net)

#### **BEST Committee Chair Open Positions BEST Committee Chair Open Positions**

- Green committee
- Parent Advisory Council
- Transportation Safety Committee

BEST PTO invites you to

Lord & Taylor's  
**BURLINGTON BENEFIT BASH**  
Tuesday, October 6, 2009 – 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Lord & Taylor will be hosting the Benefit Bash – an exclusive day filled with special savings...while supporting BEST PTO

*Save on Ugg boots, fragrances, cosmetics, clothing and more!*

Buy a \$5 admission ticket to support BEST PTO and receive:

- Coupon – 20% off one sale or regular priced item (with limited exclusion)
- Savings Pass – 15% off Cosmetics and Fragrances, and all regular and sale priced items all day long
- **Buy 4 tickets, receive the 5th for free**
- Lord & Taylor cardholders will receive an additional 10% off all day long
- Pre-select your purchases starting September 26<sup>th</sup>, then come by and pick them up that day
- Opportunity to win great prices

To order tickets:

Fill out the order blank below and mail with check payable to **BEST PTO**  
to: Kristin Ferrari, 24 Pine Street, Bedford, MA 01730 or send via kidmail  
c/o Emma Ferrari, Lane School

-----  
Ticket Order Form

**Tickets - \$5 each OR \$20 for 5 (buy four get one FREE!)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$: \_\_\_\_\_