



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from the President:

I did a great deal of thinking over the summer months about my first message as BEST President and all of the witty and insightful anecdotes I could use to excite everyone about the upcoming school year. As August draws to a close, I realize that the best thing to say is a simple WELCOME!

As the parent organization whose primary function is to raise money for the enrichment programs for our students at the Davis and Lane schools, we invite returning and new families to participate in the process through the many volunteer opportunities available. The BEST Informational Packet that will be sent home the first week of school outlines many of these opportunities. It is with the help of volunteers that allows BEST to offer fun, family events that help us raise money.

Over the next few weeks and months we will all be inundated with requests for our time and money and it isn't always easy with all the directions in which we are pulled to make a significant commitment. Any commitment to BEST is one worth making no matter how big or small. I know I speak for the Board when I say we are all looking forward to the upcoming year and getting to know people as we all work together to make our children's school experience fun, exciting, and memorable.

Lyn Kapilian
 BEST President

September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Fall Fundraiser begins	17	18 Volunteer forms due	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Bedford Day
27	28	29	30			

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: Our biggest fundraising effort of the year begins September 16th. We've again partnered with the Genevieve Company, makers of quality wrapping paper and fine gifts. In this tough economic climate, we're hoping to help fund various student enrichment projects throughout the year. Please be on the lookout for more information within the next week. As always, thanks in advance for helping to enrich the lives of our children. If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser, please do not hesitate to contact either Cindy Fisetta at 781-687-9577 / fisasinsam@verizon.net for the Davis School or Monica Bou at 781-687-8841 / Monica.Bou@comcast.net for the Lane School.

BEST Shopping Night: There will be a BEST shopping night once again in early December. Date, place and time will be coming soon. Please contact Kristin Ferrari at kferrari@comcast.net if interested in being a vendor at this event.

Student Activities:

Time to join Girl Scouts! Girl Scouts is not just about the three C's (cookies, camping and crafts), now we are developing girls of courage, confidence and character. Take the time to talk to Girl Scout leaders about the current program and how you and your daughter can become involved in a troop. Girl Scouts is open to girls ages 5-17. There are two opportunities to learn more and sign up:

- **Saturday, Sept 12th 9am-2pm** - Lawn by the town playground (inside the Police Station if it is raining)
- **Bedford Day - 11am-2pm** – check out our booth at the town fair!

If you miss these events and still want to join, please call Andrea at 781-996-4256 or visit <http://www.bedfordhanscomgs.org/>.

In the Schools:

Watch Kid Mail for a flyer from BEST with details of the first BEST/PTO meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Davis Cafeteria Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to help during lunchtime at the Davis School Cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to spend some time at school and to see your children and their friends in a relaxed setting. Volunteers are responsible for monitoring students as they line up for the bathrooms. They also assist the students at the tables by zipping up coats and opening lunchboxes! Any commitment - once a week, once a month, or once a year - is greatly appreciated by the cafeteria staff. Please contact Deborah Griffin at deborahgriffin@comcast.net or 781-275-0972 for more information or to volunteer.

Lane Library Volunteering: Volunteering for the Lane library is a great way to spend some quality time at the school and see your kids and their friends in action in a stimulating learning environment. Time commitment is generally one whole morning or whole afternoon shift per

month (scheduled when your kids' classes are at the library), although we'll be happy to schedule you in more or less frequently as desired; as well as a training session early in the school year for those volunteers who have not yet been trained for the Lane library. Duties include checking in and out books, shelving returned books, and other functions at the request and direction of the librarians. To volunteer, please fill out the Lane Library Volunteer Form included in the BEST Volunteer Packet and return it to the school. Contact Carla Bradford at carlajbradford@yahoo.com or 781-275-6395 with any questions.

Davis Library Volunteering: Get to know Davis School, observe your child's class and have fun volunteering at the Davis School library! Generally, library volunteers work one morning or afternoon shift per month during their child's class time, but we are flexible. Duties include checking in and out, shelving, or other activities directed by the librarians. You will be trained on these activities at the start of the school year. To volunteer, please fill out the Davis Library Volunteer Form included in the BEST Volunteer Packet and return it to the school. Contact Jennifer Lo at jennifernmba@yahoo.com with any questions or to get involved.

Davis and Lane School Hospitality Committees: This committee is a great option for time-strapped parents to help show our appreciation for the great teachers and staff at the both Lane and Davis schools. Hospitality's main function is to provide them with yummy lunches approximately 4 times a year on early-release Wednesdays, and to respond to BEST's needs for refreshments for special events such as fundraisers. Duties include responding to the chairperson's requests for food items and supplies when these events are about to occur, dropping your contributions at school early on the day of the event, and returning sometime afterwards to collect any personal serveware you might have presented food on. To volunteer, please check the "Hospitality Committee" line on the checklist included in the BEST Volunteer Packet and return the form to the school. Contact Carla Bradford for Lane (carlajbradford@yahoo.com or 781-275-6395) or Dawn Kociubes for Davis (kociubes@comcast.net or 781-690-1876) with any questions.

World Language Program: Please consider being a parent volunteer to teach a class of your special language. BEST supports a before-school language program where a parent volunteer enriches 1st and 2nd graders' experiences by sharing your love of a language. Classes are held one morning per week in the Davis School gym for a six week session. BEST offers two sessions - Fall and Spring. Don't be nervous about class management, there are only 6 students per class (including your child if interested). Past years, BEST volunteers have shared their knowledge of many languages including some of the following: sign language, Chinese, Spanish, French, German and several others. You tell us what language you'd like to teach for the World Language Program. The World Language Program Coordinators will provide a sample syllabus and assistance getting started with your classes. If you'd like to be a volunteer language teacher or have questions regarding this program, please contact Paula Driscoll driscoll.paula@verizon.net and Robin Mason, rlcww@comcast.net.

Davis Art Room: We are currently scheduling Art Room volunteers! Your presence in the Art Room greatly improves the children's experience as it frees our Art teacher, Jill Frazier, to spend more time helping the children with their projects. No artistic ability is necessary to help with setup, supplies, putting names on artwork, and cleanup (plus a little reminding, suggesting, and praising for the children!). Take this opportunity to see your child and his/her classmates in action!

We GREATLY APPRECIATE any help you can provide! Please e-mail or phone the Davis Art Room Coordinators—Paula Driscoll 781-275-1028 and Kerry Rackey 781-275-7242 at davisartroom@yahoo.com.



Room Parents: Please consider volunteering to be your child's room parent. If interested, please note on the checklist of volunteer activities that will be sent home by BEST. Deadline to sign up is September 18th.

It's Easy Being Green:

Green Committee: Welcome to new students and families, and welcome back to returning students and families. The Green Committee has a mission to provide environmentally friendly information, encourage environmentally friendly practices, and identify areas at the schools where improvements can be made to make our planet a better place. As school begins, there are a few easy things you can do to guide children into reducing, reusing and recycling:

- Use reusable containers and utensils in lunch bags.
- Recycle school papers brought home after use.
- Use the bus, as much as possible. Get together with others and carpool for after school activities. Many times kids are going the same place.
- Talk to your child about the difference in trash and reusable resources (recyclables). Encourage them to use the recycling bin at home.
- Look for more tips from the Green Committee in coming newsletters!



Community Corner:

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.

News from Bedford Turf Association: Our fundraising is almost complete! We have only a few hundred dollars left to go. If you want to help us close it out, make a check out to Bedford Turf Association and mail it to the Rec. Office (12 Mudge Way). We aim to complete the design over the winter, and have a full proposal at Annual Town Meeting this spring. Come see us at Bedford Day, September 26! Also see our new website at www.bedfordturf.org for more information about this project.

Bedford Education Foundation: Do you like to shop at Lord & Taylor? Would you like a 20% off coupon for one item, or a 15% off coupon for a total purchase? How about both? Buy a \$5 ticket to support the Bedford Education Foundation, and you can get both coupons, support a local charity, and save big at Lord & Taylor's charity benefit.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 6, 9am-10pm

WHERE: at the Burlington Mall

OR

PRE-SELECT your purchases starting September 26, and stop by and ring them up on Tuesday, October 6. Stock up for the holidays or purchase the special occasion dress, coat, fragrance, jewelry and SUPPORT THE BEF. To order tickets contact: dwalmmom@yahoo.com

Friends of the Bedford Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Bedford Library are holding a three day Spring Book Sale. The sale begins Friday, September 25, from 1:00-5:00 and continues Saturday the 26th from 9:00 to 4:00. On Sunday the 27th from noon to 3:00 there will be a Bag Sale and a half price sale. There will be thousands of books including fiction: science fiction, romance, thrillers, poetry, plays and classics plus videos, DVDs and CDs; children's books; non-fiction: art, cookbooks, foreign languages, business, history, science, textbooks, and more.

Most books are fifty cents for paperbacks and \$1.00 for hardcovers. Larger paperbacks are \$1.00. Some collectibles and choice gift books are specially priced. Proceeds from book sales help underwrite library programs and services, including children's programs, lecture and film series, additions to the library collection and museum passes. The Friends of the Bedford Free Public Library is a non-profit organization.

Book Club: Several years ago, we started a book club and opened it up to interested readers. We are starting up again and wanted to let you know that new members are welcome. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 2nd, in the First Congregational Church Library located at 25 Great Road. All are welcome. In addition to discussing the book we have chosen, we will also create a list of books to read over the coming year. Please come with your suggestions. Our October selection is Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Stout. If you are interested in childcare, please contact Ann Guay at 781-271-9062 or Wendy Stacey at 781-275-5480.

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.

2009-2010 BEST/PTO Officers

President: Lyn Kapilian

lynkapilian@comcast.net

Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci

bedfordriccis@verizon.net

Vice President (Lane): Susan Miele

susanmiele@gmail.com

Secretary: Kristin Ferrari

kferrari@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diane Bernstein

dmd.bernstein@verizon.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

- 5th grade
- Green committee
- Greeters – Davis
- Celebrating Differences
- Parent Advisory Council
- Transportation Safety Committee