



BEST/PTO NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from the President:

As I think about writing my first article for the BEST Newsletter it can only mean one thing, summer is coming to a close. It is with mixed emotions that I think about the upcoming routines and hectic months to come. Having said that, however, I know it will be a great year.

The most asked question is "where does the money go that BEST raises throughout the school year"? Last year, BEST's fund raising efforts funded academic enrichment programs, Smart Boards for Davis School and overhead classroom projectors for the Lane classrooms. These programs and equipment totaled approximately \$40,000. The students of the Bedford Elementary Schools are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of a generous community committed to enhancing their educational experience.

I am honored to be part of an organization that is made up of volunteers working tirelessly to meet these impressive goals. Over the next week the volunteer packet will be sent home to all the students at Davis and Lane. I encourage everyone to get involved. It is a rewarding feeling to know our efforts make the educational experience fun for all the elementary school children in Bedford.

Lyn Kapilian, President
BEST/PTO

In the Schools

Room Parents: BEST is looking for two parents/guardians per classroom to volunteer to be room parents this school year. This position is a great way to get directly involved in your child's classroom. If you are interested, please look for the Room Parent Volunteer Form that will be in the BEST packet coming home via Kidmail during the start of school. Completed forms are due by Friday, September 16. Please feel free to call or e-mail the appropriate Room Parent Committee Coordinator if you have any questions. We look forward to a great year!

Davis: Lisa Warhover, 781-275-1475, LBWar@hotmail.com

Lane: Suzanne Stuzynski, 617-755-8930, stuzynski@verizon.net
Jenn Heller, 781-276-4990, jwh2244@comcast.net

Davis Library Volunteering: Join us for a year of fun at the Davis School Library. Volunteers work a one hour and 45 minute shift once per month scheduled during their child's library class time. Duties include checking in and out books, shelving returned books, and other projects directed by the librarians. A training session is required for new volunteers and a refresher session is suggested for returning volunteers. Training will be scheduled in late September or early October. Volunteering is easy and fun, and it gives you the opportunity to see your children interacting within the school environment. To volunteer, please fill out the Davis Library Volunteer Form included in the BEST Volunteer Packet and return it to the school library. Contact Brenda Kenahan at kenahans@verizon.net or 781-275-3625 with any questions.

Lane Hospitality Committee: seeks volunteers to provide food/supplies and set-up/clean-up for approximately four meals for our wonderful teachers and staff at Lane School throughout the school year (dates TBD), as well as to provide goodies for special events (fundraisers, receptions, etc.) at the request of BEST officers. Some of the meals will be breakfasts, and some will be lunches on early-dismissal Wednesdays. This is an especially attractive volunteer opportunity for those who don't have a lot of time-flexibility: you can contribute greatly by dropping food/supplies off or sending them in to school with your Lane student, while committee members who have more space in their schedules can provide the set-up, clean-up and organizing functions. Just check the "Lane Hospitality" line on the BEST volunteer checklist that will come home with your student early in the school year, return it to BEST via KidMail as soon as possible, and the coordinator will contact you. Please contact Carla Bradford, Lane Hospitality Committee Coordinator, at 781-275-6395 or at carlajbradford@yahoo.com with any questions.

Lane Library seeks volunteers to assist the library staff with circulation functions (checking materials in and out), organizing the materials (reshelving books, etc.), and occasional special projects at the librarian's request. Unlike previous years, parent volunteers can *not* be assured that their service to the library will occur while their own children are visiting the library (please see the Lane Library Volunteer sign-up form that will be included in the BEST volunteer packet that will come home with your student early in the school year for an explanation of the Library's new procedures). Nevertheless, the library depends on the continued dedication of volunteers to make the effective dispersal of valuable materials and resources go smoothly for everyone at Lane. Please consider donating a few hours of your time on a regular basis to help us in this important mission. Just fill out the Lane Library Volunteer form included in the BEST volunteer packet, return it to BEST via KidMail as soon as possible, and the coordinator will contact you. Please contact Carla Bradford, Lane Library Volunteer Coordinator, at 781-275-6395 or at carlajbradford@yahoo.com with any questions.

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 Susan DiGangi at Susan.digangi@comcast.net or (781) 275-1117 for more information or to volunteer.

Davis Hospitality Committee: Are you looking for a way to show the teachers and staff at the Davis School how much you appreciate everything they do for our children? Then the **DAVIS HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** is the group for you! On four Wednesdays throughout the 2011-2012 school year (dates TBD), the tables turn and we, the parents, nurture the teachers and staff who dedicate their time to caring for their students. How? Through a potluck-style meal! How does it work? One week prior to the event date, an on-line sign up sheet will be posted and committee members will be able to choose what item they would like to provide. Choices will include a variety of items such as sandwiches, soups, cookies, salads, fresh fruit, condiments, paper goods or beverages. Everything can be dropped off the day before or the morning of the event. *Note: Hospitality Committee volunteers need not be present at the four events, so if you are unable to volunteer in other ways at Davis due to work or family constraints, the Hospitality Committee just might be the perfect solution for you!* But, if you do have a little flexibility in your schedule, help with set-up and clean-up is always appreciated! Be sure to check off "Davis Hospitality" on the BEST volunteer checklist this month and return it to BEST via KidMail. If you have any questions, please contact Davis Hospitality Coordinators Dawn Kociubes and Audrey Gould at dawn.kociubes@gmail.com or audreygould@yahoo.com.

Greeters for Davis School: The greeter job is a nice service that parent volunteers provide to the children and families of Davis School. The job is quick, typically running from 8:50 - 9:15 and it is a nice way to start your morning! Greeters "greet" students by opening the car doors for them and helping them with their backpacks as they are being dropped off at school. Greeters also gently help keep traffic flow moving so that children can be dropped off safely and parents can more quickly get to their next destination. We would appreciate any kind of help you can give: once a month, once a year, etc. Contact Patty Carluccio at Patricia.Carluccio@verizon.net or 617-549-7948 for more information or to sign up to be a greeter.

Tips or "etiquette" for morning drop off: The purpose is to help keep our kids safe and keep the traffic flow moving along in the morning.

1. Doors to the school will open at 9:00. Please do not drop off your child before 9:00.
2. If at all possible, please make sure that your child is on the passenger side of the car to get out. This is a safety issue as we prefer children get out of the car on the curb-side.
3. Once you are waiting in the queue, it is ok for your child to unbuckle and be READY to get out of the car, including all the hugs and kisses. We have had back-ups waiting for kids who are nowhere near ready to get out.
4. Please stay in the right hand lane. The left hand lane is for through traffic.
5. Pull up as far as possible. We recommend the first car pulling up to just before the ramp near the front door. It is OK to let your child out of the passenger side door without the greeter ONLY if you are parallel to the curb.
6. Under no circumstances should the parent get out of the car. Parents should wait for the greeter for help open the door if needed (ie - if the door has a child lock on it). It is safer that way, and prevents a back-up.
7. Wait your turn. Please do not pass cars that are letting children out. Everyone is in a hurry.
8. Once your child is heading to the door, please move along! Others are waiting. You do not need to wait until they are actually in the door.
9. The left lane should remain clear for thru traffic.

Support Your Schools

Annual Fall Fundraiser This year, BEST is partnering with Meadow Farms Fundraising for our annual fall fundraiser. Gift items, personalized items, frozen gourmet foods, and more – Meadow Farms has something for everyone. Our fall fundraiser is very important, as it's our largest money-raising event of the year. Proceeds from this sale will fund enrichment programs in Davis and Lane schools all year long. We appreciate your participation in this event and encourage you and your child to show the catalogs to neighbors, friends, and family. Your child's packet will also contain information for online ordering - you can email the details to friends and family and even post it on your Facebook page.

- Fundraising packets will be sent home **Monday, September 12** (Tuesday, September 13 for Kindergarten) and **orders will be due back to the school on Monday, September 26.**
- Checks for fundraiser orders should be made out to **BEST/PTO.**
- **Delivery of fundraiser orders will be Tuesday, November 8th.** If your order contains frozen food product, you must pick it up on Tuesday, November 8th after school (more details to follow on pick up times).
- Students who sell \$100 or more will be entered into a **raffle for a Nintendo 3DS paired with a gift card to GameStop!** There will be one drawing at each school.

Questions regarding the fundraiser can be directed towards the Fundraising Coordinators:

Davis School - Julie Phylis at 781-275-2398 / Japhylis@verizon.net

Lane School - Becky Ricci at 781-275-7635 / bedfordriccis@verizon.net

Box Tops: We are expanding our Box Tops for Education (BTFE) program at Davis and Lane! Box Tops can be found on hundreds of products and are worth 10 cents each when we redeem them. All you have to do is clip the Box Tops coupon from any participating product and send them to school with your child to put in their classroom's collection jar. (A giant thank you to The Great Wall Restaurant for donating the collection jars.) Each month, the class that submits the most Box Tops will receive the coveted Box Tops Trophy! The class that brings in the most Box Tops for the school year will win an even bigger reward! Our first collection date is September 30. Who will be the first class to receive the brand new Box Tops Trophy?

Another way to raise money for our schools is by earning eBoxTops! Most of the major online retailers offer a certain number of eBoxTops per \$10 spent if you first log in at www.bffe.com, select the "Earn" tab and click "Shop Marketplace." Choose the store in which you want to shop and the donation will automatically go into the school's account. Just a few of the over 100 participating online retailers are Target, Barnes & Noble, Old Navy, Gap, Best Buy, Nordstrom, Toys R Us, and Macy's.

Our Box Tops goal for this year is to raise over \$2000! Look for our flyer being sent home in your child's backpack for more information or contact Meg McAllister (Davis School Box Tops Coordinator) at mwmcallister@yahoo.com or Jenn Goldman (Lane School Box Tops Coordinator) at jenn96@gmail.com.

Community Corner:

Pan Mass Challenge Bedford Kids Ride Parade Float: Hey PMC Kids and Teens! Grab your bikes or join us on our float (space limited) in the Bedford Day Parade, Sept. 17th at 10:00am. All riders must wear a helmet and all participants are asked to wear their PMC Kids Ride shirt. If you are interested in joining in the fun, please contact Amy Mason at a.mason10@verizon.net. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Friends of the Bedford Library Book Sale: The Friends of the Bedford Library will hold a three day Book Sale - Friday, September 16th, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Saturday, September 17th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sunday, September 18th, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. A huge quantity of quality books on sale - fiction, romance, thrillers, poetry, plays, opera and classics plus videos, dvds and cds; children's books; non-fiction - including art, cookbooks, foreign languages, business, history, science, textbooks, and more. Most children's and adult's 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. All proceeds help pay for children's programs, lectures, museum passes and more.

Join Girl Scouts: Bedford/Hanscom Girl Scouts are pleased to announce their annual membership drive will take place at their booth at Bedford Day on 9/17. Local girls and their families are invited to come talk to leaders and find out how much fun it is to be a Girl Scout. Girl Scouts is available to all girls ages 5-17 and is flexible to meet girls and volunteer's schedules through a variety of pathways such as camp, troops, and a series of activities. If you miss them at Bedford Day, come to an informational meeting on Monday, September 26th at 7pm at the Scout House (282 Wood Street, Lexington, MA). If people would like additional information or can't make one of our events, they can contact our Service Unit Registrar, Andrea Mutz-Mercier at 781-996-4256 or amutzmercier@gmail.com.

Bedford Cub Scout Pack 194 Invites YOU to JOIN CUB SCOUTS! Cub Scouts is for boys in grades 1 through 5. We have lots of fun while developing self-confidence, citizenship, and connection to family. We have awesome field trips, help our community, and enjoy the great outdoors!

Some things our Scouts do: Build and launch model rockets, Build and race Pinewood Derby cars, Boston's Museum of Science sleepover, USS Massachusetts at Battleship Cove, Food collection for

Bedford Food Pantry, Tour police and fire stations, Midwinter swim party, Cub Scout Olympics, Family camping, Safety and first aid, Citizenship, Flag ceremonies, Sing, tell jokes, and put on skits, Knights and armor museum, Nature hikes...and much more!

- **New Scout Parents' Sign-up:** 6:30pm Thursday September 22 at John Glenn Middle School cafeteria (99 McMahon Rd).
- **Join the fun at our first Pack Meeting:** 6:30pm Monday September 26 at John Glenn Middle School auditorium.
- **Build and fly a rocket at our October Sky event!** 12 to 3pm Sunday October 2 at John Glenn Middle School sports fields.

If you have any questions or cannot attend, please contact
David Southard (cubmaster) cubmaster@pack194.net 781-275-1473
Marsha Barnes (membership) mgmb5@hotmail.com 781-275-0570

BYFS Fall Newsletter: Check out Bedford Youth & Family Services new Fall Newsletter available on line at www.town.bedford.ma.us/youth/youthindex.html or in hard copy at our Town Center offices!

BYFS Parenting Calendars Available: Bedford Youth and Family Services (BYFS) is pleased to announce the availability of their Celebrating Parenting Weekly Engagement Calendars at their offices at Bedford Town Center. Published every other year, the parenting calendar offers helpful suggestions and information to parents of children of all ages alongside a weekly appointment schedule. The calendars run from September 2011 through August of 2012.

Paid for by Town funds, the calendars are available on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last to Bedford residents, one per family.

A municipal department and a resource for the community, Bedford Youth and Family Services strives to identify and address the social, emotional, and developmental needs of the children, youth, adults, and families in Bedford through programs and services that support and nurture. Working in partnership with all citizens, community organizations, and other Town and School departments, Bedford Youth and Family Services works to foster a healthy community and enhance the quality of life in Bedford. The department offers supportive counseling, community education, resource and referral, and youth empowerment and support.

BYFS welcomes residents to drop by to pick up a calendar at the BYFS office space on the second floor of Town Center, 12 Mudge Way – the 'yellow building' behind Town Hall. The calendars will also be available at school open houses and upcoming parent education events. For more information please contact Sue Baldauf, Director, at 781-275-7727 or email at sueb@bedfordma.gov

Bedford in Motion to be Launched! The Bedford Youth Task Force has been awarded a 2011-2012 MiniGrant of \$6000 from the Northwest Suburban Health Alliance (CHNA 15) for the project "Bedford in Motion." "Bedford in Motion" is a wellness initiative tied in with new statewide data collection of BMI (Body Mass Index) rates for school children and proposes to establish an ongoing means of communicating with community members, adults, and children relative to this issue. The grant award letter noted that the Bedford proposal "reflected a significant concern in society today" and recommended funding without reservations.

The grant application noted that the 2010-11 school year is the first year the Bedford Public Schools are collecting BMI data for grades 1, 4, 7 and 10 in response to the new state regulation. Even given the access to school sporting programs, a robust Recreation Department docket, the presence of walking trails and a bike path, two grocery stores and a summer farmers' market selling healthy fruits and vegetables, and an educated population as a whole, the preliminary BMI data from Bedford looks to

be in line with past statewide data showing over 20% of our students with a BMI reflective of being overweight or obese.

Through this grant the Youth Task Force is looking to impact these results by establishing a website that will be a repository of information and ideas for improving health and wellness, promoting physical activity, and educating on healthy eating and exercise. The hope is to make this a website that Bedford community members and members of surrounding cities and towns can access to learn about healthful activities available in their own backyards. In addition, the program would also provide periodic tips on health improvement measures using interactive social media outlets and texting to reach our community and particularly our youth via a preferred method of dialoguing for this new generation.

A subcommittee of the Bedford Community Partnership, the Youth Task Force is linked to the 5 promises communities make to their youth to be successful and is comprised of town representatives from those key promise areas – Caring Adults (Youth & Family Services), Safe Places (Police), a Healthy Start (Board of Health), Effective Education (Bedford Public Schools), and Opportunities to Help Others (Recreation Department). Youth and Family Services will provide administrative oversight for the grant in conjunction with the Board of Health and will be working closely with the Bedford Public Schools and school nurses as well as local pediatricians. For more information about the grant please contact Safe Routes to School Coordinator Carla Baer at 781-275-7727 or saferoutes@bedfordma.gov. Watch for more updates later in the summer!

Parent Networking prior to SEPAC Board Meeting: Bedford SEPAC will now have on the first Wednesday night of every month an hour of parent networking from 7-8 pm in the Whole Foods Meeting Room. The SEPAC Board meeting will occur immediately afterward at 8-9pm. This gives parents who cannot attend the third Friday morning coffees a chance to meet board members and each other, ask questions, express concerns, ask about speakers, indicate topics of interest etc. Since the entire board will be present for a board meeting to be held from 8-9 pm, you will have a chance to meet the board and ask questions. If you are interested in seeing how we plan for the coming year, please attend the board meeting as well. All of our board meetings are public meetings.

Jonathon Mooney DVD and Discussion: On Monday September 12, Bedford SEPAC will hold a meeting to view and discuss the movie "What the Silenced Say: An Evening With Jonathan Mooney" Jonathan Mooney, a foremost leader in alternative education, speaks honestly about his experience as a dyslexic and hyperactive student who did not learn to read until he was twelve. He talks openly about how he was able to overcome his feelings of being "stupid and crazy" to ultimately graduate with a 4.0 in English literature from Brown. The ultimate message of the film is one of hope and empowerment. It is a film that should be seen by anyone concerned about cognitive diversity and how we can best serve the needs of kids with all types of learning differences. Time 7pm-9pm, place to be determined. Check the SEPAC News & Events website (<http://www.bedfordsepac.com/News.html>) for final location.

SEPAC Parent Coffee: On Friday September 16, Bedford SEPAC will hold its monthly Parent Coffee at Whole Foods from 8:30am – 10:30am. Please come and network, chat and discuss our children with learning challenges. Parent coffees are held the third Friday morning of every month. SEPAC board members will be present to facilitate.

Basic Rights Presentation at Minuteman High School: On Thursday October 13, the Lexington and Bedford SEPACs will hold a presentation on basic rights in special education at Minuteman High School in Lexington. The exact room location will be included in future announcements and will be available on the Bedford SEPAC News & Events website (<http://www.bedfordsepac.com/News.html>).

2010-2011 BEST/PTO Officers

President: Lyn Kapilian

lynkapilian@comcast.net

Vice President (Davis): Peter Ricci

bedfordriccis@verizon.net

Vice President (Lane): Caroline Fedele

Caroline.fedele@comcast.net

Secretary: Julie Phylis

japhylis@verizon.net

Treasurer: Robin Steele

eleets922@comcast.net

BEST Committee Chair Open Positions

- Enrichment Coordinator for Davis