



Benchley-Weinberger School
PTA Newsletter

Benchley-Weinberger
Elementary School
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Paw Prints

January 2009
Vol. XXVI, No. 5

Paw Prints is published
monthly by the
Benchley-Weinberger
PTA, SD Unified Council,
Area C, Ninth District
Inc., CCPTS

WWW.BWPTA.ORG

Message from the B-W PTA President *Chris Morache*

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope everyone had a joyous and restful holiday. I'm looking forward to a great second half of the school year. We have many fun things planned and wonderful opportunities for the children to learn and express themselves. Save the date for February 6—our Multi Cultural Fair committee is busy planning this year's event. It's going to be an amazing day filled with international music, traditional foods, cultural games and stories. All the classrooms participate with beautiful decorations. The children visit the world in one day right here on Benchley's campus.

We will begin auditions for the annual Variety Show in January. Our January PTA/Foundation meeting is Jan. 13th, 7:45am; As always Mrs. Jacobs will be there to give us an update on what's going on at school. It's a great opportunity to get informed and get involved!

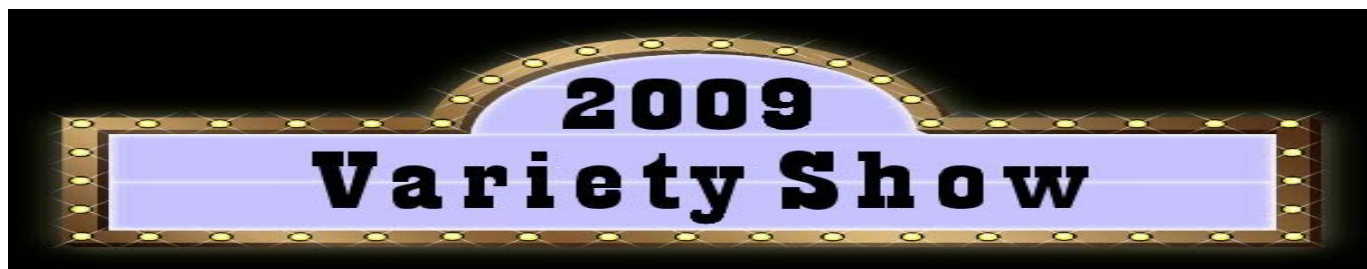
Don't forget to check out the Word of the Month; we'd love to have some creative entries to post on the website and share in the newsletter.

Have a great January!

REMINDER - MAGNET APPLICATION DEADLINE

FOR SIBLINGS OR NEW STUDENTS FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

Please make sure you have submitted a Magnet application for any siblings for the 2009-2010 school year. The deadline is February 15, 2009. If you have any friends or neighbors wishing to send their child to Benchley-Weinberger for the upcoming school year, please remind them about this deadline! If you have any questions, please call Kathy Bouman at (619) 463-9271.



Auditions for the 2009 Variety Show are January 21 through 23. We will be showcasing Singers, Dancers, Gymnasts, Musicians, Karate studs, Actors, Announcers, Hula hoopers, and more...

This year's theme is "Happy Days", so get your act together! Entry/Permission forms are due by January 9, 2009 (Friday). For more details or extra forms, go to: www.bwpta.org

Calendar Highlights

- Jan. 9—Variety Show entry/permission slips due.
- Jan. 13—PTA / Foundation Meeting (7:45 AM) Potluck Breakfast. Lounge
- Jan. 19—Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 30—Spirit Assembly
- Feb. 6—Multi Cultural Fair.

Dates and times and locations subject to change.



Message from the Principal

Marian Jacobs

January 1, 2009

Dear Families,

Welcome Back! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Hopefully everyone is ready to dive in to a new semester of school!

To start the New Year off right, I want to remind everyone how important attendance and arriving to school on time every day is for your child. When a child arrives in a class late, it is difficult for the child to start the day after everyone is seated and it is tough on the teacher to stop the morning lesson to acclimate the child. Please bring your children to school on time by the first bell at 7:40 am.

Our district, Dr. Grier and my School Improvement Officer, Jean Madden, are asking all the schools to reinforce the importance of daily school attendance. When you take your child out on contracts, the school loses \$45.00 a day for each child. The district lost \$24 million in revenue last year due to student absences. The message isn't "one day matters" - it's "that every day counts." Please reduce planned absences to help alleviate the financial difficulties that all schools are facing today.

Beginning in January, the office will have a new volunteer/visitor sign-in system. It is a computer security system sponsored by Ident-A-Kid Services of America. Visitors will type in their name and a visitor sticker will be printed out. Volunteers will be inputted into the system and will be able to use a drop-down menu each time they visit and also have a volunteer sticker printed out. The school will notify volunteers of a date where volunteers will have the opportunity to have a permanent volunteer badge made with their picture on it along with a computer chip that will allow them to swipe their badge each time they come in to help reduce sign-in time. When signing in, be sure to check out our new video picture frame with photos of current school activities.

In January Magnet Schools of America will be coming to visit our school to see how we provide "Achievement through Communication" with our three themes of Interpersonal, Global/Media and Artistic/Alternative to our students. When you go into your child's classroom, you will see a bulletin board or signage showing what your child is learning in these three areas.

Sincerely,

Marian K. Jacobs, Principal



Personality
 s Reputation
 p Individual
 i Qualities Moral
 r Nature Fiber
 t

The PTA is sponsoring a school wide creative art and literature contest. Students are encouraged to think about the word of the month (for January, the word is: CHARACTER), then write an essay (200 words or less) or create artwork on 8.5x11 size paper using any medium of their choice. Look for selected works published in next month's Paw Prints issue and on our new PTA website www.bwpta.org

Questions? please contact Debbie Zappelli at dzappelli@hotmail.com