



Paw Prints

WWW.BWPTA.ORG

Letter from the PTA President *Derby Pattengill*

The Benchley Weinberger PTA Goes To Sacramento To Protect Our School

That is right, Mr. Mom goes to Sacramento. Thanks to a grant from the 9th District, I have just returned from the California State PTA Legislative Conference. It is a three day event filled with PTA legislative issue discussions and meetings with our state leaders. Over 150 PTA volunteer representatives from around the California filled the halls of the capital, meeting with members or staff of the entire Assembly and Senate. An advisor for the Governor spoke to us and basically said, "So you're the PTA I've heard about. I want a nice clean slate in this town so I'm going to tell you two things. We don't have any trouble and we don't need any from you. Got it?" Our message was clear, however. Children are our future. Put away the partisanship and do what is right to protect education.

I am occasionally asked "What is PTA?" or "Why do we have PTA?" or "What does the PTA do? Well we don't just do bake sales. This is what \$3.50 out of every membership helps to do. Your support:

- Promotes the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- Raises the standards of home life
- Secures adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- Brings into closer relation the home and the school that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- Develops united efforts between educators and the general public such efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

It seems like ages ago, but I would like to thank Janet Weaver and her committee and all of the teachers for an amazing Multi Cultural Day. The teamwork between parents, teachers and administration for this event are true evidence of the effectiveness of our communications magnet program.

Our next meeting will be March 9th at 6:30pm in the Library. It is our board nomination meeting. Please let me know if you may be interested in a position on our board.

Questions, comments, critiques? Feel free to email or call me regarding PTA business. Of course let me know if you caught the Clint Eastwood riff for this month.

Derby Pattengill
284-9471
Cpattengill@cox.net

Message from the Foundation President *Drew Smith*

CONGRATULATIONS BW STUDENTS!!! The Jog-a-Thon was a great success. Thank you to all of the students and families who brought in donations. Make sure you return your T-Shirt order forms by March 5, 2010 and remember to wear your Jog-a-Thon t-shirts for the 3/26/10 assembly when the prize winners will be announced.

I want to recognize Jog-A-Thon chair Louie Bertsche and everyone who helped make the Jog-A-Thon such a success. Most importantly, the students did an awesome job running and raising money for our school. We could not have done so well without them. This has been the best Jog-A-Thon ever and Louie has raised the bar for next year's event. ***Continued on page 2***

Letter from the Principal



Calendar

Highlights

Mar. 3 to 5—GATE testing grade 2

Mar. 6—Magic Mile

Mar. 13—Variety Show

Mar. 15—Possible guest speaker, Nathan Levy

Mar. 19—Spring Social

Mar. 24 to 26—Conferences (dismissal at 11:30)

Mar. 29 to Apr. 2—Spring Break

March 2010

Dear Families,

Thank you to all the families for your involvement in the Multicultural Fair and Jog-a-Thon. Both were a huge success. The Multicultural Fair transported the students across the world to other countries giving them the opportunity to learn through displays and activities what different countries and cultures are like. The Jog-a-Thon monies just keep coming in and as soon as a final calculation on the donations is made, prizes will be awarded to the top students.

I would also like to remind families and students that it is very important for children to arrive at school on time. Students need to be in class before 7:45 am. Students coming in late can be disruptive to class instructional time. The running club is an excellent way for students to be at school early and receive the health benefits of good exercise. Getting your children in the routine of being on time to school now will help them in their future years of school and employment.

The seasonal flu season is upon us. Please make sure that children are fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Continue to use proper hygiene techniques to cut down on the risks of contracting cold and flu viruses.

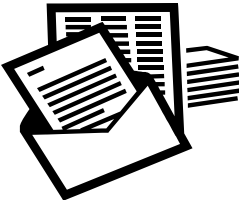
The news on the district's budget for next year is holding the same as stated in my last month's paw print letter with class sizes remaining the same and keeping library assistants and health techs at the elementary sites. Just be aware that they are talking about possibly charging for transportation. I will keep you posted as soon as I know more.

I would also like to take the time to congratulate our PTA President, Derby Pattengill, for winning a grant from the PTA to participate in the 2010 Safari to Sacramento trip on February 22 and 23 with school board member Katherine Nakamura. He will have the opportunity to learn about the state's education policy and the workings of the state government and speak about the importance of education.

Upcoming events for the month of March include:

March 3-5	Grade 2 GATE Testing
March 13	Variety Show, 6:30-8:30 pm
March 19	Parent/Teacher's Night-6:00 pm Masonic Temple
March 24-26	Parent/Teacher Conferences-Minimum Days-Dissmissal at 11:30 am
March 26	Spirit Assembly-Twin Day/Backward Day
March 29-April 2	Spring Break-No Student Attendance

Sincerely,
Marian K. Jacobs
Principal



Message from the Foundation President continued

Our Spring Cocktail Party is Friday March 19, 2010. Check out the article from Susie Chapman in this issue for more details. Hope to see you there. I have previously sent out order forms for the tile project. If you want to purchase a tile to recognize your child or a staff member you can print an order form off the Foundation's website. Send it back in your child's red folder.

Benchley Weinberger Spring Cocktail Party

You're invited to an evening of dancing, food and fun Friday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. The B-W Foundation is hosting this spring cocktail party for B-W parents, teachers, staff and friends.

Date: March 19, 2010

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: ESD Masonic Temple, 7849 Tommy Drive

Cost: \$25.00 per person (teachers and staff get in free)

Heavy appetizers, drinks and desserts will be served. DJ Paul Peterson will be spinning great dance tunes for the night. There will also be fantastic raffle prizes available. Tickets will be on sale before school the week of March 15th in front of the office and at the door. Payment method by cash or check only. Please contact Susie Chapman with any questions at 619.238.2958 or chapmanlsb@cox.net. **THIS EVENT IS NOT AN AUCTION.**

We hope to see you there.
The B-W Foundation

(Please note that this is an adults-only event. Babysitting is not provided)

Together for a time Remember it with a YEARBOOK

How will you preserve your memories? How about with a full color yearbook?

Order your copy today and receive a FREE PHOTO BOOK! *

Only \$20.00 each if ordered by February 1, 2010
\$22.50 each after February 1st

Please make checks payable to: BW Foundation

Fill out envelope at the bottom of the yearbook form that was sent home in the red folders. More forms/envelopes provided in the office.

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Cruz at cruzsml@aol.com

*Photo Books are a great way to preserve your *personal* memories! It's Easy! Just download your digital photos and Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co. will build your photo book automatically! Offer consists of a 20 page 7.5 x 5.5 inches full color soft cover photo book.

Library News

Have you met Shelly Griswold? She is the wonderful lady that is getting buried under all of the reading sheets being turned in by our ravenous readers at B-W. If you have a minute, please stop in and lend a hand. Better yet, if you know someone who may like to help, ask them to join you. It is fun and easy. Best of all, when it gets warm, the library is a very comfortable building.

Save the Date!

We have the opportunity to have a nationally known education speaker come to BW on the 15th of March. Through the hard work of Mrs. Jeanette, he has agreed to come to San Diego after speaking in Los Angeles. His name is Nathan Levy and has been an educator for over 30 years. His books include Stories With Holes, Whose Clues, and Nathan Levy's 100 Intriguing Questions. He has developed some unique teaching strategies that encourage a love of learning. Check out his website: Storieswithholes.com

FAME, I'm Gonna Live Forever, I'm Gonna Learn How To Fly, High!

BW students will shine on stage with this year's Annual Variety Show. The evening show is on March 13.

This is a show you don't want to miss. For information or to volunteer to help out please call Debbie Zappelli at 466-0773 or dzappelli@hotmail.com. See you there!



Your Variety Show Committee, *Debbie Zappelli, Chris Morache, and Kim Fakadej*



Have a Cuppa!

Cold and thirsty during monthly Spirit Assemblies?

Stop by the table operated by fifth grade promotions and purchase a cup of coffee and perhaps a pastry or other goodie.

You'll warm up and help the fifth grade class in one easy transaction.

This and That—stuff that just wouldn't fit anywhere else

- ◆ Check for clothes/lunch boxes in lost and found. The bins are now overflowing and the contents will be packed up on the Friday before Spring Break and donated. :
- ◆ Any neighborhood siblings who will be attending kindergarten next year need to stop by the office as soon as possible to pick up an enrollment packet.
- ◆ Want to hold a position on the PTA? Want to write and edit Paw Prints? Would you like to be responsible for changing the glass case mounted outside the school office? Contact Derby or a board member to state your interest. Nominations are on March 9.

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program

San Diego Unified School District participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. You may apply for this program at any time of the year.

This program is a federally subsidized program and your child(ren) may be eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.

If you would like to apply for the program, please complete a Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application Packet available at the school office, cafeteria, or the central Food Services office located at Revere Center, 6735 Gifford Way, San Diego, CA 92111.

If you have any questions regarding this program please call (858) 627-7328. A copy of the Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application Packet is available on the SDUSD website.

Please Note: *In order to process your application it must be completed on an original form. Faxes and copies are not accepted.*

Paw Prints is edited by Jeannette Stumpfel and the Benchley-Weinberger PTA.

Next issue's deadline is March 22, 2010 for publication in the April issue. Articles may be sent to: BWPawPrints1@Yahoo.com

Please be sure to provide your name and contact information along with your article.