

# *Beacon Hill International School News*

Published by the Staff and PTA of Beacon Hill School  
2025 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (206) 252-2700

Dr. Susie Murphy, Principal  
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Co- PTA Presidents  
*A World of Learners*



**December 1, 2008**

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## ***From Principal Dr. Murphy***

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of  
Beacon Hill International School,

At Beacon Hill International School we want our students to grow to become readers and writers. We work hard to help our students understand and solve problems using mathematics. And we want them know and wonder about their social and natural world. These are important goals for a school to have. But, underneath all of this, the foundation on which we work, is our attempt to keep our students safe.

We have many systems in place to help keep students safe. For example, we have established a policy of locking all exterior doors to the building (except the front office door). In addition, we have recently updated our critical incident manual and all classrooms have new emergency bags. You probably are aware that we do monthly fire and earthquake drills so that we know exactly what to do in case of an emergency.

We also have over fifty adults working in the building at any one time. These are very caring individuals who watch out for your children. It is likely that you have seen them, offering a hand to a child climbing down from the Big Toy on the playground, cautioning a child not to run in the hallways

or giving a long line of children squirts of hand sanitizer before lunch. We are all always on the lookout, watching out for the children.

We need your help in keeping all children safe, as well. Here are some things that you can do:

- When you drop your child off in the morning, or pick up your child in the afternoon, be sure to insist on safe behaviors such as using the crosswalk and the help of the crossing guard to cross the street, exiting the car using the curb-side door and keeping the crosswalk clear. Parents who cross the street in the middle of the block, let children get out of the car in the middle of the street or stop their car in the crosswalk create a significant safety hazard for children.
- When you drop your child off in the morning, if it is after 8:55 a.m., make sure that your child is dropped off in front of the building and enters through the front door of the school. The playground doors are locked at 9:00 a.m. each morning, once the tardy bell rings.
- When you come to pick up your child in the afternoon, enter the building through the front door of the school and wait in the front foyer or along the long corridor leading into the new E Wing. Do not try to enter from the

playground doors.

- I have posted the exterior door policy on each outside door. This policy is in place to keep your children safe. Do not knock on locked doors or let anyone in the building who is knocking on the doors. Respectfully ask adults to go around and enter through the front of the building. (All authorized staff have electronic keys; if those keys are misplaced, the staff member needs to walk around to the front, as well.)

- Finally, if you come to school for any reason and you will be going beyond the front office (to a classroom, the lunchroom, gym or library) you need to sign in at the front office, get a badge and sign out when you leave. If you pick up your child for an early dismissal, for a doctor's or dentist's appointment, you must sign your child out in the front office (the secretaries will call the classroom and your child will meet you up in the office). One of our safety procedures is to take lists of all children and adults in the building with us if we have an emergency evacuation. We need to know who is in the building and who has left.

These safety measures may seem obvious, but they are critical to keeping our students safe. We can't do it without your help!

Our Winter Break is coming up. It begins with early dismissal (2:05 p.m.) on Friday, December 19th. We return to school on Monday, January 5th. My best wishes to each of you for a safe and happy time with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susie Murphy  
Principal

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**News From the Library**

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Greetings from the Library!

A lot has been happening in our library this past month and here's a brief overview of what your child has been doing in the library.

**Kindergartners:** Listening to fiction and non fiction books about different rain forest animals. They have begun learning how to gather information from different text and how to report what they have learned about different animals. Look for their research in the hallways soon! Introduction to Tumblebooks.

**First Graders:** Working on alphabetizing and recognizing the ABC order of books in our library. Introduction to Tumblebooks.

**Second and Third Graders:** Writing their own similes and alliterations, learning about antonyms and synonyms, and using thesaurus' for their writing. \* Check out their class books in their classrooms! Also, they have begun using our new library catalog to find books by its title, author and/or subject. Introduction to Tumblebooks.

**Fourth Grade:** Learning about the Oregon Trail and Northwest Coast Native Americans from a variety of sources including: books, magazines, websites and online databases using highlighting and note-taking to find information.

**Fifth Grade:** Reading a variety of nonfiction articles continuing their note-taking strategies. Introduction to Culture Grams.

**Online Resources:**

Seattle Public Schools has subscriptions to many fabulous and age-appropriate online resources. Two that I am highlighting this month are **Tumblebooks** and **CultureGrams**.

**Tumblebooks** is an online collection of TumbleBooks – animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love. TumbleBooks are created by adding animation, sound, music and narration to existing picture books in order to produce an electronic

picture book which you can read, or have read to you.

The TumbleBookLibrary provides **enrichment to students who are reading independently** with a variety of high interest material. It also provides **support to students who require skill building** with a variety of exercises that can be matched with other areas of the curriculum. In general, TumbleBooks are a **great addition to a reading program.**

*CultureGrams* is collection of country and state reports that teach upper elementary-aged children more about the world around them. Each report includes up-to-date, engaging cultural information, complete with images, historical timeline, fun facts, and sections on history, population, "life as a kid," and more.

### ***How to access Seattle Public Schools online databases:***

Go to [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org)

From the website click on "FOR STUDENTS"

From the FOR STUDENTS page click on "STUDENT ONLINE RESOURCES"

On the STUDENT ONLINE RESOURCES page click on "Tumblebook Library" or "CultureGrams – Kid's EDITION".

### **Global Reading Challenge:**

All of our fourth and fifth graders have been invited to participate in the Global Reading Challenge again this year.. The program encourages children to have fun and enjoy the sport of reading. After reading 10 books, children take part in a "Quiz Bowl" game to determine the winner for the city of Seattle. The winning Seattle team takes home the Global Reading Challenge traveling trophy and goes on to a videoconference challenge between Seattle and Fraser Valley and Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada. Participation is voluntary but it's great to see how many students are excited about reading all ten books by the end of March

Here's a list of the ten books:

*Beacon Hill News December 1, 2008*

### **Book Titles**

#### **Nim's Island**

by Wendy Orr

#### **Escaping the Giant**

#### **Wave**

by Peg Kehret

#### **Snow Treasure**

by Marie McSwigan

#### **Looking for Bapu**

by Anjali Banerjee

#### **Birchbark House**

by Louise Erdrich

#### **Sahara Special**

by Esmé Raji Codell

#### **Kite Fighters**

by Linda Sue Park

#### **Free Baseball**

by Sue Corbett

#### **I Was A Rat**

by Philip Pullman

#### **Brendan Buckley's**

#### **Universe**

by Sundee T. Frazier

### **Beacon Hill Public Library News:**

#### **The Beacon Hill Branch is a Homework Help Center**

Homework Help volunteers will be at this branch every Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m to 8 p.m. to assist students kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade on a drop-in basis throughout the school year, except for school holidays.

#### **Preschool Story Time at the Beacon Hill Branch**

**Every Thursday 10:30 – 11 a.m.**

It is story time at the Beacon Hill Branch! Bring your preschoolers to enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and fun with our children's librarian.

#### **Thank you!**

Thanks to all the volunteers who come in to help and the parents who come in to check out books with their children we love seeing you!

Have a wonderful and restful break,

Mary Thompson and Virginia Calvo

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### ***Calendar of Events***

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Tues., 12/2: B2 & B3 to Carkeek Park  
 Wed., 12/3: D2 & D3 to MOHAI, 9am-1pm  
 Mon., 12/8: 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester report cards go home  
 Tues., 12/9: K-Pod to Children's Museum,  
 9:30am-1pm  
 Thurs., 12/11: Festival of Cultures in A-Pod, 10-  
 10:30am  
 Fri., 12/12: 4<sup>th</sup> graders to Nutcracker, 10am-2pm  
 at McCall Hall, Penny Harvest  
 deadline  
 Tues., 12/16 & Thurs., 12/18: Last day of  
 Powerful Schools After School programs  
 – Fall quarter (Winter quarter starts 1/20/09)  
 Thurs., 12/18: Latino Family Meeting,  
 6-8:30pm, Multi-Purpose Room.  
 Fri., 12/19: C & E Pods to Highland Ice Arena,  
 9:15am-1pm. 2:05pm Early Dismissal  
**FREE DRESS DAY**  
 Winter Break: 12/22/08 – 1/02/09 **NO**  
**SCHOOL**  
 Mon., 1/05/09: Back to School  
 Wed., 1/7: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to Seattle Children's  
 Theatre, 10:30am-1:30pm.  
 Mon., 1/19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – **NO**  
**SCHOOL**  
 Wed., 1/21: K-Pod to NW Puppet Theatre,  
 "Wiley and the Hairy Man", 9:50am-  
 12noon.  
 Mon., 1/26: Day Between Semesters – **NO**  
**SCHOOL**  
 Tues., 1/27: Newsletter deadline  
 Thurs., 1/29: Latino Family Meeting, 6-8:30pm  
 Fri., 1/30: **FREE DRESS DAY**

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**Enrollment Process 2009-2010**

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Beacon Hill International School  
 Enrollment Tours Scheduled  
 2009

Seattle Public Schools has delayed the Open Enrollment period this year due to the potential school closures, consolidations and repurposing of programs. The new Open Enrollment period begins March 2nd and ends March 31st. The Kindergarten Fair previously set for January 10th has been cancelled.

Tours for prospective families will be held at Beacon Hill International School from mid-

February until the end of March. The dates are listed below:

Wednesday, February 11  
 Wednesday, February 25  
 Wednesday, March 4  
 Wednesday, March 11  
 Wednesday, March 18  
 Wednesday, March 25

All tours will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Interested parents can expect the tours to last approximately 2 hours. Prospective parents will have an opportunity to visit the morning kindergarten classes, as well as first through fifth grade classes and our Art and PE program. There will be opportunities for prospective parents to ask questions and to learn about the various offerings we have at Beacon Hill International School.

In addition, we will hold a parent information night on Tuesday, March 10th in the multipurpose room at Beacon Hill International School. This meeting will be from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

Also for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Fifth grade students and their families may be planning to attend this Open House on December 9 at Washington M.S. This has now been cancelled.

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**From Powerful Learning Centers, Writing Club**

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The Fall Quarter of the Powerful Schools, Powerful Learning Centers, will be ending on Dec. 18th. This has been a fun and exciting quarter as we have served over 60 children each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Minds have been challenged, stomachs filled and voices lifted as these children have experienced math, cooking and choir in addition to many other enrichment classes. We plan to send out the catalogs for Winter Quarter on Monday, Jan. 5th. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 20th. Please remember you must register for any class you would like to take, even if you were enrolled

in the Fall. If you have any questions, you can reach me, Shelly Bates, Site Coordinator, by email at sbates@powerfulschools.org. See you next quarter!

Here are some samples from Writing Club:

Tiger

By Phillip Bates

A tiger smells like death  
A tiger looks like a big cat  
A tiger eats deer to death  
A tiger feels like a predator  
A tiger sounds like a whistling bullet heading for its target

Tiger

By Jessie Yu

A tiger's fur feels soft. The claws are sharp. Its eyes are like a hawk's. The tigers smell like fear coming your way. The tigers prey tastes like a deer. The tiger sounds like a ROAR! The tigers look like a black and orange costume.

Tiger

By Jimmy Ha Hua

Tiger, strong and powerful, quiet and loud in its role  
Not so immortal as it is a fleeing animal from fire in the jungle  
Smokes flaming as it is  
It can also taste the fear that pieces your fearful heart fleeing  
But soft is the heart, protecting itself and cubs  
Quiet and loud as I said  
Hunting and blending with its color, orange of fierce  
And white for the fear of others

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**Annual Giving Fund**

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You should have received by now a letter from the PTA Board asking for your

support in our Annual Giving Fund. We all deal with phone calls each week from various organizations asking us for financial support and many of these organizations might be ones we are not even familiar with. Well, the Annual Giving Fund allows you the opportunity to give directly to an organization that you are a part of, whether a member or not. The BHIS PTA supports every student in our school and you can see the results of that support in the faces of our children. We have a goal this year of raising \$3,000. If every family in the school gave \$10 we would surpass that goal, but because that might not happen we ask that you give what you are able to which might be less or might be more. It would also be great to surpass our past involvement of fewer than 20% of our families, let's challenge ourselves to reach 30% of our families. Our families are wonderful here at BHIS and you do wondrous things with our students, thank you for your support.

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**Congratulations!**

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Congratulations to our BHIS Librarian, Mary Thompson, winner of the Symestra/Seahawks **Heroes in the Classroom** award! Ms. Thompson was awarded \$350, which she will use for the library. She was presented this award at the Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Seahawks game against the Washington Redskins. (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher (C3), Andy Pickard also received this award 2 years ago). Congratulations Ms. Thompson!

Also Congratulations to:

Congratulations to **Edgar Cortes Gonzalez**, 5th grade in C2, for being the Rainier Chamber of Commerce, Student of the Month! Edgar received his award and was

accompanied by his teacher, Heather Chavez, at the Rainier Chamber meeting and luncheon at the Rainier Community Center on December 4th. Congratulations for a job well done, Edgar

Karen Yang & Isaac Pan  
Penny Harvest Coaches  
Beacon Hill International Elementary School

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### **Welcome New Staff**

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#### **Welcome New Staff - 2008**

Welcome to this year's new staff:

**Jill Landretti**, E1, 2nd grade  
**Kathy Ritzer**, Spanish Teacher, K3 a.m.  
**Ying Ying Wu**, Mandarin Teacher, K3 p.m.  
**Hayley Sawyer**, long-term substitute in B1  
**Sara Friend**, long-term substitute in B2  
**Julie Thompson**, Occupational Therapist  
**Pollyanna Wang**, Mandarin Language Teacher  
**Kristin Percy Calaff**, Bilingual Teacher  
**Alfredo Osma Villanueva**, Bilingual IA - Spanish  
**Khadar Ahmed**, Bilingual IA - Somali  
**Melissa Campbell-Jackson**, Lunchroom Assistant  
**Minh Nguyen**, Night Custodian  
**Phon Thach**, Playground Supervisor  
**Karen Yang, Isaac Pan, Michael Pestano**,  
Washington Reading Corps.  
**Thomas Ko**, CDSA

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### **Help Gather Pennies for Penny Harvest!**

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There are over \$2 billions of unused pennies in homes across America. Does your home have unused pennies lying around? Collect them for Penny Harvest and make a difference!

All the pennies collected will be gathered and decided by the students to be awarded to community service projects and charitable organizations in our neighborhood.

With the Penny Harvest, every penny counts and every person counts. Please work together with your child to collect pennies. Your support will make the Penny Harvest a success. The last day for penny collection is **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please have your child bring in the pennies before that date.

On behalf of the student, people, families and organizations that have been touched by Penny Harvest, we thank you.

Sincerely,

*Beacon Hill News December 1, 2008*

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### **Volunteers of the Month**

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The **Family Volunteer of the Month** for **November** is a Kindergarten mom. **Erin Musser** has been volunteering at our school in so many ways! Erin helps in the classroom, with Health Screening, the Fall Fundraiser, Bookfair, and is organizing the Adopt-a-Street litter pick-up around the school. (for more info on the Adopt-a-Street, please contact Erin at: [epoly@aol.com](mailto:epoly@aol.com) Erin's son, Xander, is in K1/K3.

Thank you, Erin, for all your help!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month** for **November** comes to us from the Beacon Lutheran Church. **Catherine Graham** is a middle schooler, who is home schooled. Catherine's mom, Eunice, was a past volunteer tutor. This is Catherine's 2<sup>nd</sup> year volunteering in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Thank you so much, Catherine for all your help!

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### **Newsletter Dates and Deadlines**

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Hello all, the following are the dates for the future newsletters. If you would like to submit an article please email me at [nanteshome2@hotmail.com](mailto:nanteshome2@hotmail.com)

Deadline	Issue
1-27-09	2-2-09
2-23-09	3-2-09
3-27-09	4-6-09
4-27-09	5-4-09
5-22-09	6-1-09