

Beacon Hill International School News

A World of Learners

Published by the Staff and PTA of

Beacon Hill International School

2025 14th Avenue South (206) 252-2700

Dr. Susie Murphy, Principal

Allison Delong, PTA President

December 13, 2010



School of Distinction Award!

Beacon Hill International School was one of fifteen Seattle Public Schools to be honored by the Center for Educational Excellence and Phi Delta Kappa as a 2010 School of Distinction.

The award, presented at a ceremony on December 2nd, is given to the top 5% of schools who have demonstrated improvement in fourth grade reading and math scores over the past five years. Schools do not need to have demonstrated proficiency, but do need to be at or above the state average in order to qualify for the honor.

Stop by the school to see the banner and additional information regarding the award, in the display case near the front entrance. Congratulations to all the staff, students and families whose persistence and hard work is represented by this award.

Information for Families about Snow Days and Parent – Teacher Conferences

Snow, ice and frigid temperatures closed schools the two days prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday and brought Parent/Teacher Conferences to a halt.

Seattle Public Schools determined that middle and high school students, who missed class days, will make up their missed days at the end of the year. Elementary schools will not make up those snow days at the end of the year. **Elementary schools will schedule make-up conferences outside of school hours in the weeks before the Winter Break.**

Beacon Hill hopes to make up all missed conferences and have 100% of our parents participate in the parent/teacher conferences again this year. Scheduling conferences at Beacon Hill is challenging under the best of circumstances. Everyone is asked to be as flexible as possible in accommodating the complex scheduling necessary to bring everyone together.

The value of conferences is immense. Conferences are an opportunity for parents to learn about the school curricula, to find out how their child is doing in class, to ask questions, to share important information about their child with the teacher and to find out how they can best support their child's academic success. The school district is encouraging all parents to come in for a conference. **If you have not yet been contacted by your child's teacher, please call the school** and we will make sure that you have a time to come to school and talk about your child's progress.

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteer of the Month** for **November** was the chair of our highly successful PTA Fundraiser – the Read-A-Thon! A big THANK YOU to **Heidi Gans**, who spent many, many hours coordinating the Read-A-Thon. Heidi is the mom of Ava (K2/K3) and Grace (E2/E1) Rothmeyer. Thank you, Heidi, for your efforts that benefit all the students of BHIS!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month** for **November** is a former teacher at BHIS! **Pam Bailey** was a kindergarten teacher for many years, and also taught 2nd grade the year before her retirement from Beacon Hill. Pam currently volunteers in kindergarten on Wednesday mornings. Thank you, Pam, for your continued dedication to the students of BHIS!

Volunteer Opportunities

PTA Co-Treasurer, to work with current Treasurer, Jennifer Matter. More details to be given at the January, 18th “Dream” meeting. For more information, please contact Jennifer at: jennifer_matter@hotmail.com

Staff Appreciation Co-chair, to work with Jennifer Kapinos on various staff appreciation recognition days. (i.e. Support Staff in March, Teacher Appreciation and Nurses’ Day in May, etc.) For more information or if interested in helping, please contact Nancy Fujimoto at: nkfujimoto@seattleschools.org

Book Room help, to help with stamping and labeling books for the Literacy Coach. Stop in anytime in the mornings and see Nancy Fujimoto if you can help.

Thank you!

...to Read-A-Thon Chair, **Heidi Gans**, PTA Treasurer, **Jennifer Matter**, **Erin Musser**, **Eva McGough** and all the others who helped and supported this successful PTA Fundraiser!

...to Community Volunteer from the UW, **Michelle Bollinger** for donating the heavy duty pencil sharpener for the A & B Pod teachers’ workroom. Michelle volunteers in B2 & D1 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thank you, Michelle!

...to the family of **Mykel & Alex Duong’s family** for donating the 4 decks of playing cards (for our emergency bags) and the paper.

...to our Washington Reading Corps team: **Andrea**, **Aron** and **Natneal** for organizing the Penny Harvest and coordinating the Family Literacy Night!

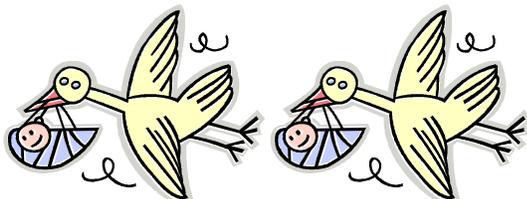
...to PTA Vice President, **Jaime Cárdenas** for chairing the Chinook Book sales.

...to PTA President, **Allison Delong**, for chairing the t-shirt sales, and to **Jaime Cárdenas** for helping Allison sort the t-shirt orders.

...to Librarian, **Mary Thompson**, for running the Book Fair, and to her many Book Fair volunteers and supporters!

...to Family Support Worker, **Natalie Long**, for organizing the highly successful Food Drive which generated the most food donated ever! Thank you, **Mary Thompson** too, for the use of the library shelves to collect the food. Thank you, Natalie, for taking such good care of our families! Thanks, everyone, for all the donations!

Wickman Twins!



Steve Wickman (A2 teacher) and his wife, Marianna had twins! Antonia Fern, 6 lb 5oz, Silas Donohue, 5 lb, 8 oz. Each 18 1/2 inches. All healthy! Congratulations!

Congatulations Ms. Kato!

Congratulations to our K2 Kindergarten teacher, Nina Tomita-Kato, our newest National Board Certificated Teacher!

Taco Sale

From 10:30 to 4:00 on Thursday, Dec. 16th at BHIS, we will have a taco sale: potato, chicken, beans, and bean with chorizo. Stop by and pick up lunch or dinner. Only \$2.00 per taco! There will also be homemade salsa too- limited amount for only \$3.00 per cup.

We did this last year to help with Haiti earthquake relief. This year, all proceeds will go to our sister school in Nicaragua. See you there!

--Ortencia Santana ("retired" BHIS parent)

Needed in fourth grade

Fourth grade will need clear, 2-liter soda bottles for the next science unit, Ecosystems. Please do not wash the inside of the bottles with soap. The rinsed bottles may be dropped off in the Andy Pickard and Sue Fluegel classroom (D2). Thanks!

Guest Speakers Wanted

This year in honor of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** we are planning to have a teach-in. On the Friday before the holiday, **January 14th**, we are hoping to find guest speakers to come in and speak about their involvement with Civil Rights issues. We are looking for passionate speakers who would share about civil rights, social justice, or immigration reform. For the younger grades this might look like someone who wants to teach a song or special project to classes. We are hoping to find at least one guest speaker for each grade. Please contact Beth Alexakos at 206-252-2726 or eaalexakos@seattleschools.org or Kate Poux at 206-252-2671 or kgpoux@seattleschools.org if you or someone you know would be interested. Thank you for your support!

Family Involvement Plan

There are many wonderful ways families can be involved with BHIS! Nancy Fujimoto, our volunteer coordinator, is a valuable resource for anyone wanting to volunteer in any capacity from tutoring to preparing materials for teachers. **To volunteer at our school, contact Nancy Fujimoto, Volunteer Coordinator, nkfujimoto@seattleschools.org, 206 252-2735.**

The PTA and Latino PTA have many opportunities across the year to give service to our school. The Building Leadership Team meetings are always open for input from family members. Finally if you have suggestions or concerns about how to become more involved in the life of our school, please contact me, Helen Finch, Title 1 coordinator. **A copy of the 2010-2011 family involvement plan is available at the office** listing all the ways families are invited to participate at BHIS.

- PTA News -

Remember to mark your calendars for the remaining PTA Family Involvement / General Membership meetings. Dates are also posted on the PTA bulletin board in the main hallway, on the website, and reminders will go home in multiple languages the week before each meeting. Please mark your calendars now - They will all involve student performances so you won't want to miss any!

1/25	“Dream” Meeting:	pot luck
3/22	Dia de los Niños Meeting:	pot luck
6/7	Arts Meeting:	pot luck

Read-A-Thon Results!

The November 5th Read-A-Thon was a great success. We surpassed our budget by raising more than \$14,000, which is very important in this year of extra need. Students, teachers and volunteers wore their pajamas to school, and were involved in reading activities all day long.

Something to keep in mind for the Spring Walk-A-Thon is the time it takes to count coins and small bills. ALL donations are greatly appreciated, but when it's convenient to convert coins to dollars before turning in, your money counting parent volunteers will be very thankful! That said, we're **very thankful** for **all** donations no matter their size or form!

Chinook Books & T-Shirts

Fewer Chinook Books were sold this year, but the reduced profit was made up for by increased T-Shirt sales. Both fund raisers are great ways to provide useful products to families and make a small profit at the same time. Thank you for all who helped and purchased. All shirts have been delivered. If you have any problems with your order please email allisondelong@yahoo.com asap to resolve.

Workplace Giving

Remember, if you are a City, County, or State employee, you can designate the Beacon Hill

PTA as a recipient for your charitable giving via one-time or ongoing payroll-deductions.

Be sure to take advantage of company-matching programs if you work for Microsoft, Boeing, Chase, or the many other companies who match employee donations.

Contact your company's Human Resources department to see if your company supports workplace giving in this way. Beacon Hill PTA 6.15.42 is a registered non-profit.

Annual Fund

All of our other fund raisers either offer a useful product (t-shirts, coupon books, Scholastic books, kid artwork, etc.) or allow your child to participate in a healthy fund raiser where her exercise and reading lead to the money raised.

The Annual Fund is our one exception. For those who have a little extra to give, have company matching funds that make one annual check written go twice as far, or just want to get it all over with at one time – this one is for you.

If you are able, please consider a gift of \$50 or \$500 to Beacon Hill PTA. Remember that the reason we work so hard to raise money, is to provide the extra enrichment programs for all of our BHIS kids, which the school district budget does not provide for. Because of your contributions, all 5th graders get the chance to go to camp. 4th graders have the chance to start music lessons a year early. And we fund half of the Volunteer Coordinator salary, so that Nancy Fujimoto can harness the energy that our community has to share for projects such as landscaping clean up, lunchroom helpers, extra tutors for classes, and much much more.

Original Works Art

Art Specialist / Instructor **Mary Howard-Logel** organizes this annual PTA fund raiser to raise funds that are targeted specifically to the purchase of art supplies for all arts classes for all grades.

Order forms were turned in during November for products such as greeting cards, aprons, magnets, etc. that feature our children's original art work on them. (They make great holiday

gifts!) Ms. Logel raised about \$500 for the Art department through this fund raiser. The items ordered before the November 17th deadline will be received and distributed before the winter holiday. Thank you Ms. Logel!

Scholastic Book Fair

Librarian **Mary Thompson** organizes this annual PTA fund raiser to raise funds that are targeted specifically to the purchase books for the school library.

Affordable books were available in the library during the days before the Thanksgiving break, but the snow days interrupted the sales along with the parent-teacher conferences.

Ms. Thompson raised about \$1,000 for the library through this fund raiser despite the shortened schedule. Thank you Ms. Thompson!

Ms. Thompson wants to be sure to thank her fabulous helpers who helped make the fair possible: Ted and Christina Lee, Sara Ainsworth, David Gackenbach, Doris Fuentes, Dorothy Graves, Virginia Calvo, Kim Esterberg, Nancy Fujimoto, Bradley Fujimoto, Jane Finger, and Natalie Long.

Spring Walk-A-Thon – May 20



It's time to mark your calendar to volunteer for the day for the Spring Walk-A-Thon which will be Friday, May 20th. If you participated last year, you know that about 30 parents are needed to tally laps completed by walking & running teams from each grade, which occur all day long!

We will also need money counters, furniture movers, clip board organizers, and a trainee Walk-A-Thon Chairperson for next year. Erin Musser will Chair the WAT again this year. Anyone interested in assisting in any way can contact her at epoly@aol.com.

Nov 4th Arts Auction & Dinner

The first annual *Celebrating Connections* dinner and arts auction was held on Thursday,

November 4th, at the Fisher Pavilion at Seattle Center.

This was not a PTA event, rather was a collaboration between five of Seattle's International Schools, and the money raised will be split evenly between the five schools to support International Arts at each school.

Quite a few staff members attended, and a table full of parents also. It was a fun and lively event, and many families who did not attend, contributed donations of gift certificates and products for the silent auction. Thank you to everyone who participated to support the International Schools' Arts programs.

Safe Driving and Thoughtful Parking Please!

Please remember to be **slow** and **careful** when driving around BHIS or any school – especially during the dark winter months! Drop off and pick up times can be very hectic with lots of pedestrians, bike riders, and vehicle activity for drivers to keep track of.

Please also observe the drop off / pick up times, and do NOT leave your car parked along Hill Street during those times. Park on the next block and take a short walk, so that the no-parking zone remains open for those actually taking just a few seconds or minutes to drop off and pick up.

Thank you for helping to keep our kids safe!

Safeway Club Cards Earn \$ for BHIS PTA

Register your Safeway Club Cards at www.escrip.com and click on step #1 ("Sign Up – It's Free") next to the picture of the little girl. This will lead you step by step as you link your card to the school. You will need to have your card number on hand. If you have lost your card, you can just call 1.877.SAFEWAY and they will give it to you over the phone. When you register your Safeway card, designate your contribution to go to our school. Every time you scan your card, our PTA receives a small percentage. Thanks for your support!

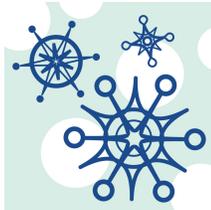
Winter Weather Information



With reports of potential bad weather this winter, we want to update you on how information about school delays and closures is communicated to the community. When we are expecting snow or inclement weather, a central office team continually monitors conditions across the district. That includes having staff drive some of the streets that are typically more treacherous in snow and ice. After consulting with other agencies, a decision is made about whether to delay school by 2 hours or if a closure is necessary. That decision is typically made by 5:30 a.m. We communicate in the following ways:

- Information is immediately sent to all TV and radio stations
- Information is posted on www.seattleschools.org
- 24-hour news and information line at 206 252 - 0207
- SchoolMessenger - we place School Messenger calls to all families and staff

During cold and icy weather, please ensure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately, including hats and gloves, as they may need to wait longer for the bus than usual. Information on Snow Routes is being sent by US mail. Notices to all middle and high school families with students receiving yellow bus transportation were mailed the week of November 15; and notices to all elementary and K-8 families with students receiving yellow bus transportation will be mailed during the week of November 22.



Calendar of Events

Thursday, Dec. 9: Family Literacy Night, 6:00-8:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room, potluck.

Friday, Dec. 10: D-Pod to the Nutcracker at McCaw Hall, 9:30am-2:00pm.

Tues & Thurs, Dec. 14 & 16: Powerful

Schools classes fall session ends.

Thursday, Dec. 16: Kindergarten & 1st Grades to the Seattle Children's Museum, 9:45am-1:00pm.

Friday, Dec. 17: Free Dress Day. 2:25pm Early Dismissal.

December 20-31: Winter Break. NO SCHOOL

Monday, January 3, 2011: Back to School

January 5, 6 & 7: FREE Dental Sealants for 2nd & 3rd grade, MPR stage.

Friday, Jan. 7: D1 & D2 to Picasso exhibit – Seattle Art Museum, 11:30am-3:00pm. WP2/Forest Explorers field trip (E-Pod), 9:30am-1:45pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 11: C-Pod to Seattle Art Museum, 11:00am-3:00pm.

Thursday, Jan. 13: Kindergarten & K3 to NW Puppet Theatre, "Anansi and the Spider", 9:40am-12:30pm.

Friday, Jan. 14: MLK School Assembly "Living the Dream", 2:15-3:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Monday, Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, Jan. 18: PTA "Dream" Meeting and Celebration, potluck at 6:15pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Monday, Jan. 24: Newsletter deadline – BHISnews@yahoo.com

Thursday, Jan 27: Free Dress Day

Friday, Jan. 28: Day Between Semesters – NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, February 2: 1:25p.m. Early Dismissal

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

Due to the short month in December, there will be NO January newsletter. The deadline for the February newsletter is **Monday, January 24, 2011**. Submissions can be sent to our newsletter editor, **Curtis Bonney** at: BHISnews@yahoo.com