

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

Maythia Airhart, PTA President

February 1, 2010



From Principal Dr. Murphy

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

Welcome to the New Year! It is both the end of the first decade of the new century and the start of the celebrated lunar Year of the Tiger! Hopefully it will be an auspicious year for all!

Here at Beacon Hill International School we begin the year with good news. We have been designated, school-wide, as a Confucius Classroom Network School. We were among 135 programs nominated. We submitted a proposal and, out of 65 proposals, ours was one of 20 across the United States selected for this honor.

The Confucius Classroom program is co-sponsored by the Asia Society and Hanban, the Ministry of Education in China. This is an acknowledgement of the strength of our developing Mandarin Chinese program and our commitment to helping children develop competency in more than one language.

As a Confucius Classroom, we will receive resources to assist us in moving our program forward. These include some funds for technology, over 1,000 books / software packages, professional development for our teachers, networking opportunities with other Confucius Classrooms across the US,

the possibility of support for a new local Chinese teacher and support in identifying and connecting with a potential sister school in China.

Creating a partnership with a school is not new to Beacon Hill. We have had a long-standing and growing relationship with Balgüe Primaria on Ometepe in Nicaragua. This has been a source of learning and delight for students and staff at both schools. Delegations of adults have traveled to Nicaragua for the past seven summers. Classrooms have completed projects to send to students in Balgüe and students at the Primaria have sent projects and letters back to us. We have helped Balgüe Primaria develop and staff a school library – the most extensive library on the island. Technology has been supported for the administrative staff and instructional materials and supplies have been collected here and distributed there.

What we have learned from our sister school relationship in Nicaragua will enrich our efforts to reach out to a school in China. Our Chinese Guest Teacher, Xu Juan, is working to help identify a school that would like to serve as our sister school. We already have a possibility in the city of Chongqing, Seattle's sister city in China, and Ms. Xu's hometown!

We are moving rapidly forward as an international school. The Confucius

Classroom designation is just one indicator. Next year, our immersion programs leap into second grade. The globalization of the curriculum throughout K-5, is moving forward dramatically. Take a few moments to look at the integrated social studies, art, library research and literacy work the first graders are doing as they learn about China. Their work is on display in the main hallway as you walk toward the library.

In order to assure that we are focused on the most important aspects of international education, I am instituting an International Education Advisory Team. We will meet monthly to discuss the issues around International Education at Beacon Hill and in Seattle Public Schools. I invite you to contribute to this important work. Let me know if you can participate. You can call me at (206) 252-2705 or email me at sbmurphy@seattleschools.org or just drop by the office when you drop off or pick your child up from school. Our first meeting will be Monday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. I look forward to your input, even if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susie Murphy
Principal

New Board-Certified Teachers

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards announced Wednesday, Dec. 16, that 57 Seattle Public Schools teachers earned their **National Board Certification** in 2009. Seattle now has 174 National Board-certified teachers.

A voluntary program designed to develop, recognize and retain accomplished teachers, National Board Certification is achieved through a performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Among other requirements,

teachers submit video-tapes of their teaching practice, which are reviewed by a jury of national board teachers; and take six assessments on content knowledge and teaching practice.

Congratulations to the following BHIS teachers who earned their National Board Certification: **Elizabeth Alexakos, Susan Fluegel, Heather Graves, Kyle Okada, Andrew Pickard, and Mary Thompson.**

Award-winning Teachers

In October, Title I Teacher, **Helen Finch**, surrounded by her family, was surprised at school by the announcement that she was the recipient of the **Symestra/Seahawks Heroes in the Classroom Award**. Ms. Finch received \$350 and was officially recognized at the January 3, 2010 Seahawk game. Ms. Finch's favorite Seahawk player is Aaron Curry, because although he was offered a lucrative contract, he stayed in school. Congratulations Ms. Finch!

On November 30th, K-2 Kindergarten teacher, **Nina Tomita-Kato** was one of three teachers presented with an award from the **SynapticMash Innovation Foundation** for making learning more personal, productive and exciting! Along with a plaque bearing her name, Ms. Kato was presented with a check for \$500. Congratulations, Ms. Kato!!

BHIS Evening Open House

Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The open house provides an opportunity for prospective parents to learn about the various school programs offered with a global perspective throughout the curriculum. Spread the word!

BHIS Daytime School Tours

School visits for prospective parents are scheduled on the following days in the Multipurpose Room from 9:30 – 11:00 am:

- Thursday, February 25
- Thursday, March 4
- Wednesday, March 10
- Tuesday, March 16
- Wednesday, March 24

There will be a presentation, followed by kindergarten – fifth grade classroom visits to learn about the various programs offered at Beacon Hill International School. Please let any interested folks know.

Volunteers of the Month

The Family Volunteer of the Month for December is **Kevin Chan**. Kevin is the husband of K1 teacher, Sheila Matsuda-Chan, and the father of Keoki (D2) and Kulani (A2/A3). Kevin volunteers once a week in kindergarten and first grade (A1), and helped at the Book Fair, Health Screening and on Picture Retake Day. Thank you, Kevin, for all your help!

The Community Volunteer of the Month for December comes to us from England and Germany, where he was a teacher in both countries. **Andy Day** hopes to establish a teaching career in the U.S. Andy volunteers all day on Thursdays and Fridays in B1 and with the Washington Reading Corps. group. Thank you, Andy, for all your help at BHIS!

The Family Volunteer of the Month for January is a co-chair in Fundraising at BHIS. **Allison Delong** has been a very active member of the PTA Board. Allison assisted with the Walk A Thon, and chaired the BHIS T-shirt sales. Allison's son is Ford Johnson in 1st grade. Thank you, Allison for all your hard work for BHIS!

The Community Volunteer of the Month for January is in her 2nd year of volunteering at BHIS. **Cari Lui** tutors one morning a week in Ms. Baharloo's 2nd grade class. Cari is expecting her third child this spring. Cari is the wife of the owner of Yuen Lui Portrait Studios, which did our school pictures this year. Congratulations and thank you, Cari, for all your help at our school!

Lunar New Year Celebration



Come and celebrate the **Year of the Tiger!** Thursday, February 11th at 7:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. There will also be a daytime assembly at 2:15pm on Friday, February 12th.

Lion Dance! Fashion Show! Chinese Songs! Instrumental Music Performance by the BHIS advanced group! Wushu! Ribbon Dance! Filipino and Japanese Dances!

Vote "YES" on Prop. 1 & Prop. 2

The PTA reminds you to vote "YES" on the education levies and mail in your ballots by **February 9th**.

The Operations Levy (Proposition 1) accounts for nearly one-quarter of the school district's annual operating budget. **The Capital Levy** (Proposition 2) is part of Seattle Public Schools' long-range plan to upgrade and renovate aging school facilities on a planned and predictable timetable.

Both measures will replace existing levies, are part of Seattle Public Schools' long-term levy plan and will result in tax rates staying *at the current levels*.

- PTA News -

The Beacon Hill International School PTA has recently crafted our Vision & Mission to help guide our efforts. We invite all families to join us in making these words a reality!

Vision: Every student achieving. Every family involved.

Mission: The Beacon Hill International School PTA is dedicated to promoting educational excellence, health, and welfare of all students and their families through advocacy, community building, and enrichment programs. We are committed to creating leaders and lifetime learners

PTA Tamale Sale!

Delicious homemade tamales, lovingly made by our very own Latino moms! Order forms will go home February 5th, and orders with payment must be received by Friday, February 12th.

Delivery date: Monday, February 22nd. \$12 for a package of 6 of one variety: Chicken, Pork, or Vegetarian. Thank you, Ortencia Santana, for chairing this PTA fundraiser!

Read A Thon

The date is set: **Friday, April 9th**. Eva McGough, mom of Zoe (2nd Grade), has volunteered to lead the Read A Thon, along with Lauren Rayment (mom of Will, Kindergarten and Lucy, 3rd grade) and Erin Galvin (mom of Liam 1st grade).

PTA Annual Giving Fund:

It's not too late to make an Annual Giving Fund donation. Just write "Annual Giving Fund" on your check or envelope and send to school with your child. We're currently halfway to our goal of \$3,000. **Thank you!**

PTA Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways you too can get involved: as a helper on specific projects, a project leader, or as a committee chair. If you have an opinion, a skill, or a passion, we invite you to join fellow PTA volunteers to make a difference!

June will be here before we know it! Parent Ferdinand de Leon is getting ready to "graduate" from BHIS and needs someone to fill his shoes as coordinator of **the Beacon Bazaar**. It's incredibly fun and relatively easy to coordinate this festive community and fund raising event each summer. Contact Ferdinand at beaconbazaar@att.net and be his shadow this June to learn directly from him for next June!

Remaining PTA Committee Vacancies are Nominating Chair, Co-Treasurer, Language / Ethnic Group Outreach Representatives, and Grant Writers.

New Openings:

- **Legislative Chair and Vice President:** Dave McGeoy, will vacate these position when he moves up to President in 2010/2011. Get a jump on the position now and start training with him this year.
- **2010/2011 Treasurer:** Post cash receipts, pay expenses, prepare annual budget, work with Executive Committee to ensure expenditures are per approved PTA budget.

Contact any one of the PTA Officers for more information. You can find our names and photos on the PTA bulletin board in the front hallway, or at the parent-created and supported website: <http://beaconhillinternationalschool.org>

We can't do it without you!

Next PTA Family Meeting

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, March 23rd** and **June 8th** for our next PTA Parent Involvement Meetings, to be held 6:30-8:30pm with child care provided. Please plan to bring a pot luck dish to share.

School Yearbooks

School Yearbook order forms will be going home on Monday, March 1st. Don't be left out! **Pre-order your yearbook** for early June delivery date. This year our yearbook will be **IN COLOR**, and 28 pages (4 more than last year). Cost: \$15. Deadline for yearbook orders is Friday, March 12th.

News from the Penny Harvest

Thanks to all who contributed to this year's Penny Harvest! The Seattle chapter of the Penny Harvest had a record breaking year. Students from 65 schools around the city worked together to bring in **14 tons of pennies – that's \$78,836.00!** Thanks to the hard work of BHIS students, Beacon Hill has been awarded a **Philanthropy Roundtable** and a **\$1,000.00 grant!**

Student leaders from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will have until April 10 to award the grant to a community organization. They will spend the next few months assessing the needs of the school community, locating and interviewing non-profit organizations that focus on those needs, and consulting fellow students to make the final decision.

Please congratulate newly selected Penny Harvest Student Officers:

Co-Presidents: Jimmy Hua, T'Asia Holden

Recorder: Kelly Vong

Treasurer: Stefania Escobedo, Juanita Hernandez, Van Pham

Advertising Officers: Dova Castañeda, Ian McGeoy

Lead Research Team: Mekhi Airhart, Kasey Roque, David Sy, Kelly Vong, Dova Castañeda, T'Asia Holden

Be on the look-out for more news and updates from our advertising team, Dova Castañeda and Ian McGeoy!

Auditions for NW Boychoir



The Northwest Boychoir is holding auditions for NEW members on Saturday, February 6 for Spring Enrollment. Boys ages 6-9 are invited to sign-up for auditions. No previous music training is needed. The Northwest Boychoir offers the perfect blend of fun and music training. If your child is interested in singing and music, the Northwest Boychoir is the right choice. For 36 years, we've been training Seattle's children to sing and perform in public. Auditions are offered twice yearly. We offer small group instruction, after school, in Seattle's University District with convenient freeway and public transportation access. Call us today to set up an audition appointment at (206) 524-3234 or visit www.nwchoirs.org

Newspaper Carrier Jobs

The South Seattle Beacon (formerly the Beacon Hill News & South District Journal) seeks news carriers. Girls and boys, ages 9 and up, are invited to apply. In addition to providing your son or daughter with the opportunity to earn \$\$ (\$20-\$60 per month depending on route size), a newspaper route teaches lifelong skills including handling money, interpersonal and sales skills, commitment and follow-through.

The South Seattle Beacon is published every Wednesday, and papers are delivered directly to the carrier's home. For more information or to request an application, please contact Jim (206-461-1337; ppccirc@nwlink.com) or Miya (206-461-1320; circulation@nwlink.com).

Register for Seattle Baseball and Softball



Registration opens January 11th:

- Baseball: Boys/Girls Ages 7-14
- Fastpitch Softball: Girls Ages 8-14

Online Registration & Information:
WWW.SEATTLEPONYBASEBALL.ORG
(206)774-0429

Seattle PONY Baseball has offered a quality baseball experience to our community for 20 years. Practices start in mid-March and the season runs through mid-June. Our boundaries for player eligibility extend from Seattle's southern city limits to 65th Street, and from Elliott Bay to Lake Washington. Register now and join the fun !!

Calendar of Events

Tues., Feb. 2: BHIS Open House, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 3: 1:25 p.m. Early Dismissal

Thurs., Feb. 4: K & A Pod to the NW Puppet Theatre, "The Green Bird" 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 5: Tamale order forms go home

Tues., Feb. 8: Special Election Day. Please vote (via mail)

Thurs., Feb. 11: Lunar New Year Celebration, 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room

Fri., Feb. 12: FREE DRESS DAY. Lunar New Year Assembly 2:15pm. Deadline for Tamale Sale orders.

Mon., Feb. 15: Presidents Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Feb. 16–19: Mid-Winter Break: NO SCHOOL

Mon., Feb. 22: Tamales Delivered. & March newsletter deadline: bhinternationalschoolnewsletter@gmail.com

Thurs., Feb. 25: BHIS School Tour: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Mon, Mar 1: Year Book order forms to home

Wed., Mar. 3: 1:25 pm Early Dismissal

Thurs., Mar. 4: BHIS School Tour: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fri., Mar. 12: Year Book order forms due

Fri. April 9: Read A Thon!

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

Deadline for March newsletter is **Monday Feb. 22**. Send submissions to Curtis Bonney at bhinternationalnewsletter@gmail.com.