

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

February 2, 2011



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

Have you ever brought your child in to school after the 9:20 a.m. bell, lined up at the front desk and received a “Blue Slip” from Ms. Furuta or someone else at the front desk? If so, you have probably wondered why we have these Blue Slips and what they mean.

As you know, our school bell rings at 9:20 a.m. The teachers meet the students out on the playground and bring them into the classroom, where they hang up their coats, jackets and backpacks, and settle in for the day’s instruction. Generally the students settle in quickly and while they are beginning their work, teachers enter the daily attendance electronically. The Blue Slips are a way to let the teachers know that your child has arrived after the bell has rung and has checked in at the office. It allows us to coordinate our attendance information.

We are required by state law to monitor daily attendance carefully and accurately. The Becca Bill, passed in 1995, expects that students attend school on time each day. It also mandates that we follow up on students who are not at school and notify their parents. Teachers are expected to submit their attendance reports immediately so that we can begin that notification process.

The Becca Bill was passed because a tragedy occurred when a 13-year old child went missing. The school thought she was at home while her parents thought she was at school. At Beacon Hill, our Attendance Officer, Ms. Furuta, monitors daily attendance, both absences and tardies, and calls parents to be sure that their

children are home and safe, if they are not at school.

For security purposes, we lock the playground entrance doors after the classes enter, first thing in the morning. If your child arrives after 9:20 a.m., he or she must enter through the front door of the school, sign in at the office and receive a Blue Slip to give to the classroom teacher. The Blue Slip alerts the teacher that your child has arrived after the 9:20 a.m. bell and that, if your child has already been marked absent, the office staff will adjust the record accordingly.

It is vital that your child attend school regularly and come on time unless he or she is sick. Good work and success in school depends on regular attendance. If your child will not be at school on any given day, please call the school attendance line at (206) 252-2704 by 9:45 a.m. Feel free to leave a message in your home language. Doing this helps Ms. Furuta, so that she doesn’t have to make unnecessary calls, helps you so that you don’t need to receive unnecessary calls and serves as notification for assessing whether the absence or tardy is considered excused.

Excused absences are when children are sick or have a doctor or dentist appointment. Children are not excused, by district policy, if parents have problems and are unable to transport their child, or if the parent or another child in the family is sick, or if the parent decides not to send his or her child on a particular day. Determination of whether or not an absence is excused will be made by the principal.

Occasionally, parents plan extended trips during the school year and take their child out of school to accompany them. By district policy, in order for such a trip to be excused, parents must write

a letter to the principal, at least three days prior to the trip, requesting permission (except in the case of an unexpected family emergency). The letter must note that the child's teacher has been notified and that appropriate work has been given for the child while he or she is away from school. This may include daily class work, missed homework and/or additional assignments appropriate for your child while away. The letter should be submitted to the Attendance Officer, Ms. Furuta. The request will be approved or denied by the principal.

Please be aware that we take regular daily attendance very seriously. We know that students learn best when they are at school and able to participate fully in the learning experiences offered. If you have questions about the attendance policies or procedures at Beacon Hill International School, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,
Dr. Susie Murphy
Principal

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteer of the Month for December** is PTA Board member, **Jill Davies**. This is Jill's 2nd year as PTA Membership Chair. She helps in her 2nd grade son Cyrus' class and also headed the PTA Annual Giving Fund. Thank you, Jill, for all your help!

The **Community Volunteer on the Month for December** is a former BHIS parent **Ortencia Santana**. Although her children no longer attend BHIS, she continues to give her time and skills at our school. Ortencia organized the Taco Sale in December to raise funds for our sister school in Nicaragua. Ortencia was at our school all day making and selling tacos to staff and parents. She also got orders from John Muir Elementary and the Stanford Center. Over \$1,300 was raised for our sister school. Ortencia is a former Family Volunteer of the Month and Golden Acorn Award Winner. Thanks, Ortencia for your continued help and support!

The **Family Volunteer of the Month for January** is **Sung Lee**. This is Sung's 2nd year as PTA Secretary. Sung is the mom of 2nd

grader, Jay Zinschlag. Sung's husband, Jason is also a former Family Volunteer of the Month! Thanks so much Sung, for all your work on the PTA Board!

The **Community Volunteers of the Month for January** are three high school friends that help Stephanie Chen, Mandarin teacher for 2nd grade twice a week, after school. **Carrie Chen** and **Kevin Yen** are from Garfield H.S. and **Quan Wei Li** is from Franklin H.S. The three friends started in the fall and are described by Ms. Chen as very dependable and hard-working. Thank you Carrie, Kevin, and Quan Wei for all your assistance in the 2nd grade Mandarin program!

Tamale Sale!

Order delicious homemade tamales prepared by our very own Latina Moms!

Tamales come 6 to a package of the same variety: chicken, pork or vegetable, and cost \$12/package. Order a few packages and put them in your freezer. Be sure to offer to friends and family who don't have access to home made tamales! They make a quick, easy dinner or lunch. All you have to do is steam them for 30 minutes if frozen or 15 minutes if thawed, or wrap in a paper towel and microwave for 2-3 minutes. Serve with salsa, sour cream or plain yogurt. Yum! Order forms will be sent home the second week of February and need to be returned to school by Friday, February 18th with payment. They'll be ready for pick up at the school on Monday, February 28th.

Venta de Tamales!

Pidan deliciosos tamales hechos en casa preparados por las mamás latinas!

Los tamales vienen en paquetes de 6 de la misma variedad: pollo, puerco or vegetales y cuestan \$12/paquete. Entrega los ordenes con su pago Viernes el 18 de Febrero y se entregaran Lunes el 28 de Febrero a la escuela.



3rd Graders Attend March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom

This year, 3rd grade travelled back in time to August 28, 1963 to participate in the March on Washington. We left from Seattle on a school bus and made some stops on the way before we made it all the way to Washington DC. We made picket signs and marched outside. We sang freedom songs and chanted. Then, we listened to Martin Luther King, Jr's historic "I Have a Dream" speech. It was a very fun and powerful day! This year we were particularly lucky because we had a guest speaker who actually attended the March on Washington come in and answer all of our questions. We are incredibly grateful to Dorothy Hollingsworth for sharing her stories and her spirit of hope.



Hooray for New BHIS Babies!

Congratulations to **Alfredo Osma Villanueva** (Bilingual IA – Spanish) and his wife on the birth of their daughter in December! Also welcoming a new daughter in December was Special Education Resource teacher, **Taylor Richman** and his wife.

Lunar New Year Performance

The students of Dearborn Park School will be performing their highly regarded Lunar New Year performance for our students on Friday, Feb. 11 at 10:00 a.m. in our Multi-Purpose Room. Our BHIS PTA funded this performance.

Taco Time Coupon Books!

Only \$1 for worth \$5 in savings!

- \$1 off any Platter item
- \$1 off any Menu item
- \$1 off a Soft Taco
- \$1 off any Tostado Salad
- Buy Two crisp tacos and get one FREE!

Coupons are not valid on Combo Meals. Coupons are valid until April 30, 2011. Coupon books are available for purchase from **Nancy Fujimoto** or at PTA sponsored events.

BoxTops & Red Apple Receipts

Keep saving those BoxTops for Education logos and Hilltop Red Apple receipts! Recent submissions by coordinator, **Connie Cho**, brought in \$125.50 from the BoxTops and \$246.47 from the Hilltop Red Apple receipts. Thank you!

Order Your 2010-11 Yearbook

It's time to pre-order your yearbook! 28 color pages! Only \$15! Order forms will go home on Feb. 14. **The last day to order is March 4.** Yearbooks will arrive in late May.

Fresh Ometepe Coffee Beans

We have fresh coffee beans for sale to help raise money for our sister school in Nicaragua: \$10.00 for a 12 oz. bag. See **Diana Furuta** or me when you need a bag or five. We are trying to keep our supply continually stocked with freshly roasted coffee so that it will be available throughout the school year. Your family or friends might like some too. It's less expensive than Starbucks and twice as good! Thanks for your support and spread the word!

--Warmly,
Andy Pickard



BHIS Chess Club Competes!

Nine members of the BHIS Chess Club competed in the Chessmates Winterfest Tournament on Saturday, January 22 at Broadview-Thompson Elementary School. Each player played a series of five games against kids from other schools. **Sophie Pederson, Paul Wickward, and Jay Zinschlag**, with three wins each, qualified to compete in the state tournament in April!



Shown in the picture (from left to right): Jay Zinschlag (grade 2), Nahom Negusiea (3), Xander Musser (2), Arturo Sanchez (2), Ian Kapinos (3), Paul Wickward (5), Kendrick Ung (3), Ian McGeoy (5), and Sophie Pederson (1).

The chess club meets on Wednesday afternoons for 1 hour with Coach Joel and with the help of parent volunteers **Walter Kopf** and **Leslie Ernst**.

BHIS Tours

Parents of children who will enter kindergarten in September 2011, please join us for one of the scheduled tours at Beacon Hill International School (K-5). As an international school with a global perspective throughout the curriculum, learn about the various elementary school programs offered. Please let any interested friends or neighbors know.

Evening Tour:

Thursday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.

Day Tours:

Tuesday, March 1, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 3, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

BHIS Green Team!

People are doing it at home and at the office, and your kids are doing it at school! We are part of a city-wide effort to reduce the garbage we send to the landfill by separating our food waste. We started the lunchroom food recycling program at Beacon Hill International School in the fall of 2009. Since then we have cut in half the trips a garbage truck has to make, as well as the amount of trash we send out to the landfill.

“Beacon Hill went from (2) 6 -cubic yard containers a week to (1) 8-cubic yard container a week for refuse, as a result of the compost program at your school. That means that you’ve gone from 12 cubic yards a week to 8, which is really tremendous – a 30% reduction is a great success.” Carrie Ferrence, Resource Conservation Specialist, Seattle Public Schools.

Congratulations go to the students and volunteers who have stewarded this program along the way. And yet... We can do more!

- Ask your child(ren) to show you at home how they practice conservation during lunchtime by separating food waste.
- Ask your child(ren) to have lunch with you one day where they can show you how they practice conservation during lunchtime by separating food waste.
- Be a Green Team volunteer - Contact **Angela Castañeda** (206) 459-1430, mareaangela@mac.com, or Kimela: kimelav@aol.com



On January 6th, EOS Alliance volunteers Kelly, Cari, Brianna, and Calvin spent the day at our school making enthusiastic presentations to each grade about the benefits of composting and why it’s important to participate. Check out the blog by pasting in the link below for a full report and pictures: <http://www.eosalliance.org/blog/blog-eos/post/beacon-hill-international-school-compostprogram>. Thank you EOS volunteers!

- PTA News -

Mark your calendars! The remaining meetings will all involve student performances so you won't want to miss any! Pot luck 6:15, Performances 7pm.

3/22 Dia de los Niños Meeting: pot luck
6/7 Celebrating the Arts pot luck

Teacher Stipends

Did you know that the PTA reimburses \$100 per year to each full time teacher at BHIS for purchases of classroom materials?

Teachers, please submit your reimbursement forms with receipts before April to help us close the books on this expense well before the end of the school year. Reimbursement forms can be found at www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org under PTA Forms. Thanks for all that you do!

Cool Link to Educational Sites

When your kids ask for some computer time, consider having them check out www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org Online Resource tab where you can find links to Everyday Math website, ChessKids website, and sites devoted to learning Spanish, Mandarin, art, and reading. Thanks to the teachers who provided some of these links. If you have additional educational sites to suggest, please email allisondelong@yahoo.com.

Workplace Giving

City, County, and State employees can designate the Beacon Hill PTA as a recipient for charitable giving via one-time or ongoing payroll-deductions.

Remember also 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

It's not too late to make your Annual Fund contribution. Just leave your check made out to Beacon Hill PTA at the front office or in the PTA in-box addressed to Treasurer. Write Annual Fund in the memo field.

Because of your contributions, all BHIS 5th graders get to go to camp and 4th graders have the chance to start music lessons a year early. The PTA funds 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 so much more.

Spring Walk-A-Thon – May 20

It's time to volunteer for the Spring Walk-A-Thon scheduled for Friday, May 20th. About 30 parents are needed to tally laps completed by walking & running teams from each grade, which occur all day long!

It is extremely fun, and will be held in the Spring this year with hopes for better weather than our first ever "WAT" held in Fall 2009. Rain or shine the kids will walk and run to support BHIS, get some exercise, and we hope you will be there too!

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.



Family Involvement

Research shows that being involved in your child's education can raise grades and test scores. There are many, many ways to be involved at BHIS. There are **two parent brunches coming up in March and April**, check the list of activities in this newsletter.

Contact **Nancy Fujimoto** for volunteer opportunities. Contact Nancy at 252-2735 or nkfujimoto@seattleschools.org. For academic questions contact Helen Finch, Title 1 teacher or Susie Murphy, Principal at 252-2700. hafinch@seattleschools.org or sbmurphy@seattleschools.org. We look forward to seeing you at school.

Seattle Public Schools Source

Use the Seattle Public Schools *Source* for information about your child's education. Look at your student absences, state assessment scores, learning plans, and other great information. (At this time, *Source* information for students in grade K – 5 does not include grades.)

To register for *The Source* go to website: <http://source.seattleschools.org> Click the "click here" link to register and follow the instructions. To register you will need:

- Your student's full name
- Your student's 7 digit Seattle Schools student ID# (found on your student's enrollment paper work, progress report or official school mailing.)
- School your student attends
- Your home telephone number that the school has on record
- Your student's date of birth

If you have trouble registering, send the above information to sourcesupport@seattleschools.org

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

The deadline for the March newsletter is **Monday, February 28, 2011**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter editor, **Curtis Bonney** at: BHISnews@yahoo.com

Enrolling for 2011-12 School Year

Students who are new to Seattle Public Schools may enroll at any time! Early enrollment is recommended now for students who will enter kindergarten or for any new student who will be entering school in September 2011. Families who participate in early enrollment benefit by avoiding long lines and by receiving an initial assignment letter in March, 2011. Enrollment is available through the Seattle Public Schools Service Center. New students are assigned to their attendance area school. If a student wishes to attend any other school in the district they may apply during the Open Enrollment of March 15-31, 2011. Assignment depends on space availability.

Review school information and the enrollment process at seattleschools.org – click "Enrollment." Questions? E-mail the servicecenter@seattleschools.org or call (206) 252-0760.

Calendar of Events

Tues., Feb. 1: Instrumental Music Concert, 6:30–7:30 p.m. in MPR.

Wed., Feb. 2: 1:25 p.m. Early Dismissal. Kindergarten Parent Meeting, 6–8pm. Potluck in the Library.

Thurs., Feb. 10: D1 & D2 to NW Youth Theatre, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 11: Lunar New Year Performance by Dearborn Park students, 10:00 a.m.

Feb. 14 – Mar. 4: Order your yearbook

Tues., Feb. 15: Latino Family Meeting, 6:1 – 8:15 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 17: Kindergarten Evening Tour, 6:30 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 18: Free Dress Day

Feb. 21 – 25: Presidents Day & Mid-Winter Break, NO SCHOOL

Mon., Feb. 28: March newsletter deadline – BHISnews@yahoo.com

Tues., Mar. 1: Winter Instrumental Music Concert, 6:30–7:30 p.m. in MPR. Kindergarten Tour, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Wed., Mar. 2: 1:25 p.m. Early Dismissal

Thurs., Mar. 3: Kindergarten Tour, 9:30– 11:30 a.m.

Thurs., Mar. 17: Title 1 parent brunch – math expectations, 9:20–10:00 a.m. in MPR A

Thurs., Apr. 4: Title 1 parent brunch - Preparing for the MSP, 9:20–10:00 a. m. MPR A