

# NEWS from Beacon Hill International School

A World of Learners

Published by the Staff and PTA of

**Beacon Hill International School**

2025 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (206) 252-2700

Mr. Kelly Aramaki, Principal

Allison Delong, PTA President

June 1, 2012

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## PTA NEWS

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Dear BHIS Families,

We have a fantastic roster of PTA Board members for the coming school year, which gives me a great feeling to end the school year with. I want to say a big thank you to the new people joining the team, and the existing ones who are staying on for another year. I'm grateful to all the family members who have contributed and continue to contribute to BHIS in so many ways.

### Incoming Board and Committee Chairs:

Jaime Cárdenas Jr., President

Ann Aioki Becker, Vice President

Erin Galvin, Secretary

Karen Pederson, Treasurer

Bill Becker, Legislative Chair

Christina Lee, Membership Chair

Treacy Sargent, Staff Appreciation Chair

Michael Almquist, Fund Raising Chair

Grant Writing Chair – Era Schrepfer

Event Coordinator, Molly Hasson

Staff Liaison – **open**

Latino Family Liaison - **open**

Co-Treasurer - **open**

Nominating Chair - **open**

*Allison Delong*

BHIS PTA President 2011/2012



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## PTA Meeting & Event Calendar

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- **Fri 6/1 PTA Walk-A-Thon** – school day – remember you can also make donations on-line on the school website.
- **Tues 6/5 PTA End of Year Arts and Cultural Celebration** including pot luck – bring a blanket to sit on outside, and a dish to share.
- **Sat 6/9 PTA Bazaar** on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue 9am-2pm– come for lunch, visit with friends, buy organic plant starts, and more!

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## Shakespeare at BHIS!

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The TEMPEST will be performed by C-2 fifth graders **Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**



Shakespeare

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## Golden Acorn Awards!

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The Golden Acorn Awards are awarded by our Beacon Hill PTA through the Washington State PTA to recognize and honor individuals for their service to all children and youth in our community. This year's 2011-2012 Golden Acorn Awards are presented to:



**Mario Ortiz**, School Crossing Guard. Mr. Ortiz was our School Crossing Guard for years, and used to coordinate our Safety Patrols. Mr. Ortiz has been volunteering at school for years since his children and grandchildren attended Beacon Hill. Thank you, Mr. Ortiz for your many years of service to our school!

**Don Mitchell**, Community Volunteer. Dr. Mitchell volunteers 3 afternoons a week, and has been doing this for over 10 years! This year, Dr. Mitchell tutors in Ms. Chavez's 5th grade class. Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Mitchell!

**Allison Delong**, active parent volunteer at BHIS and PTA President for the past two years. Thank you Allison, for your outstanding leadership in our PTA and congratulations on your Golden Acorn Award!

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## Volunteers of the Month

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The **Family Volunteers of the Month** for **May** are a mother/daughter team! Thank you to **Treacy Sargent** and her mom, **Marion Wong**. Treacy helped on School Picture day, and is also chair of Staff Appreciation on behalf of the PTA. With the help of her mom, Treacy coordinated a wonderful Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in May. Treacy also honored our school nurse and counselor on their special days. Thank you Treacy and Marion, for making our staff feel appreciated!

The **Community Volunteers of the Month** for **May** are two students from Franklin High School. **Redait Marcos** and **Tyra Turla** have been faithful volunteers in the Powerful Schools After-School Homework Center for the entire school year. They say they will be back next year too! Thank you Redait and Tyra for all your help after school!

The **Family Volunteers of the Month** for **June** have helped assemble the yearbook on-line for the past 2 years. **Jesica Hun** (mom of Nasir Vinson) helped with the classroom pages, and **Andrea Leuschke** (mom of Poppy Knorr) helped with the activity pages of the yearbook. They also agreed to help in next year's yearbook! Thank you Jesica and Andrea for your help with the yearbook!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month** for **June** is **Kathleen McCowan**. Kathleen volunteered last year with the after school Invest In Youth tutoring program. This year, she is helping in Ms. Granizo's before school Spanish class and also helping in E3. Thank you Kathleen for all your help in the Spanish classes!

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## Lunchroom Thank You

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Lunchroom Manager, **Tuyet Dao** would like to extend her thanks to **Hoa Tieu**, who helps out in the lunchroom during breakfast and lunch. Hoa's children are Linda, Bill, and Sammy Giang. Thank you for your help in keeping our lunchroom tidy!

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## ***A Story of Success***

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I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to everyone at this wonderful school that has supported my family for the last four years. When my son arrived for second grade, he could barely write a three-word sentence and his reading skills were very low. As any kid who struggles academically, he was very discouraged and disliked coming to school.

This year he will graduate from 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading at grade level and writing full stories. He's also received an award for being one of the students with the highest improvement in reading. This was a special joy for us after so many worrisome days and nights.

My husband and I are unconditional supporters of our son but we could not have done it without the support of all the school staff, making true the saying: "It takes a whole village to raise a child." With your help my son has grown not only on academically but also socially, gaining more and more confidence.

Our heartfelt "thank you" goes out to the teachers, principals, counselor, office staff, and the rest of the personnel, and to all the wonderful programs that have made it possible for this one special mind to succeed.

Sincerely, Rocio Luquero

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## ***"Donate" button on website***

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Thanks to **Stephan Blanford**, **Jennifer Matter** and **Boun Tounalom** for doing the research and set up the new "Donate" button on the PTA Fund Raising tab of the website: [www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org](http://www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org)!

We hope this will be an added convenience to families who either want to contribute from out of state, or are concerned about sending cash or checks to school in kid-mail.

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## ***Erasmo Ramirez at BHIS!***

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**Tacoma Rainiers** pitcher, **Erasmo Ramirez** visited our school on May 25th. Erasmo, who is from Nicaragua, visited the classrooms, signed autographs, had pictures taken, and spoke to each pod about Nicaragua and coming to the U.S. to play baseball. Erasmo was acquired at the beginning of the season and pitched 9 games for the **Seattle Mariners**!

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## ***Summer Camp Ideas***

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Check the school website for ideas about summer camp options (go to News / Summer Camp). There are lots of fun, healthy, and educational choices. Many have financial aid options available.

[www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org](http://www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org)  
(go to News / Summer Camp)

**CDSA** provides more than before & after-school care at BHIS. They also provide pre-school, and have summer camps in multiple locations. Only \$185/week, and lots of activities and field trips planned. Go to [www.communitydayschool.org](http://www.communitydayschool.org) for more information.

And don't forget to add **swimming** to your summer plans. Check out the YMCA or Seattle Parks Department for swim lessons. In the greater Seattle area with our many lakes, rivers, sounds, every child should learn to swim so they can be safe and have fun!

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## ***Middle School Math Olympiad***

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On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> twenty-six BHIS fifth grade students, along with a dozen parents, volunteer math coach **Don Mitchell**, and teachers **Heather Chavez** and **Helen Finch**, attended the Middle School Math Olympiad.

Held in dozens of locations around the state, the Math Olympiad attracts the most capable math students for a day of team challenge and fun. BHIS has been participating in this challenge for the past seven years. This year BHIS took seven teams to Laurelhurst Elementary for the daylong event.



Practice for this event began in March. Don Mitchell and a group of dedicated math coaches from our partner, GE met every Friday afternoon to teach, coach, and cajole.

Teams worked for one and a half hours on a long problem which involved over a dozen steps, took a break and tackled problems in the five strands of mathematics.

Everyone had a challenging time and one team brought home ribbons for Exceptional work in this long problem.

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## ***Greetings from the Library***

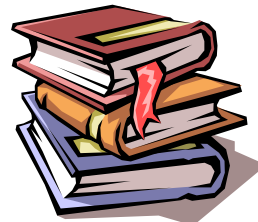
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First of all thank you to all of the families that have diligently ensured that your child's library books were returned each week. AND to all the parents that checked out this year. We had over 12,000 books checked out this year!

**Book Return: All books are due back to the library by Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** We need to inventory all of the books and get them put back in the appropriate spot. This is a major undertaking because we have almost 15,000 books in our library! I always feel like the books are so sad when the school year ends and they are not being read over the summer.

If you have lost or misplaced a book please either replace it with the same title (www.amazon.com is a good resource) or pay for a new copy to be purchased for our library.

If you feel that you have returned a book please come in or send a note and I can double check that it isn't on the shelf. Sorry since I reorder books that have been lost over the summer, I cannot give you refunds for any books found over the summer.



**Speaking of summer...**

**Reading over the summer makes a difference!** Reading during the school year is important, but kids' reading skills are only maintained when they continue to read over the summer.

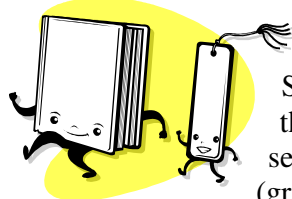
**What kids read matters:** Research has demonstrated that choice makes a very important contribution to achievement. Choice among compelling and appropriate books is an important first step in encouraging voluntary reading. Readers also benefit from a large selection of books that vary by difficulty, genre, topic, and length.

**How much reading is enough to "catch up"?** Minimum daily reading time should be 30 minutes outside of school. Remember, kids who are reading at or above their grade level continue to grow as readers. In order for less proficient readers to "catch up", these readers need to double or triple the amount of reading they do. Also, it is important that most of the reading is from "just right" books, those that kids can successfully read on their own and on topics that interest them.

**Ways families can read together:** Read a chapter book aloud and talk about it together. Favorites include books like Charlotte's Web (grades K-2), James and the Giant Peach (grades 1-3), The Shoeshine Girl (grades 3-4), Terror at the Zoo (grade 4), and Maniac McGee (grades 4-5). Ask your local public librarian for other recommendations.

**Share the reading of books.** Less skilled readers can read along in books that would challenge them if you share the reading. A parent or older sibling can be the narrator and take one character's part, and the younger reader can chime in on a simpler part. Favorites include books from the Elephant & Piggie series (grades K-2), Fox on the Job or Frog and Toad series (grades 1-3), Ricky Ricotta (grades 2-3) and The Enormous Crocodile (grades 3-5).

**Get hooked on a book series.** This is a sure-fire way to get kids hooked on reading. Some favorites include the Elephant & Piggie series (K-2), Fly Guy (grades K-2), Ricky Ricotta, or Henry and Mudge (grades 1-2), Junie B. Jones or Captain Underpants (grades 2-3), Magic Tree House or A-Z Mysteries (grades 2-3), Lunch Lady, Baby Mouse, or Judy Moody (grades 3-4), Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Poison Apple or Percy Jackson series (grades 4-5). This is just a sample!



**Read and talk about a wordless picture book, or even a movie.** The goal of reading is to understand what you read, and there is no better way to think about what a text means than to talk about it together. Books by authors like David Weisner or Chris Van Allsburg are challenging to figure out, and families can enjoy the challenge together.

**Book lists:** Book lists are a great resource to use when looking for books at your child's "just right" reading level. You will need to check with your child and/or their teacher for their appropriate reading level. The first two sites are my "go to" sites to connect children with books. They are also on our school website as well:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/index.html>

[http://www.pps.k12.or.us/curriculum/literacy/level\\_eveled\\_books/lb\\_grade\\_level.pdf](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/curriculum/literacy/level_eveled_books/lb_grade_level.pdf)

Seattle Public Library has lots of booklists to help you choose "just right" books!  
[http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection\\_readinglists\\_category&catID=1](http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection_readinglists_category&catID=1)

**Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program:** Download your own summer reading log. After you read and log in 8 books, take your reading log to Barnes & Noble to get a free book. I also have forms in the library. Find our more at <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading>

**Seattle Public Library Summer Reading:** Drop into your local branch and sign up today. The librarian will give you a reading log. After you read ten books, return the log for a free book and qualify for a drawing to attend The Breakfast of Champions and/or a free Burke Museum pass.  
[http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience\\_children\\_srp\\_intro](http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience_children_srp_intro)

**Learning Beyond the Classroom from [www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org)** Find learning activities for ages 4 to 18, including podcasts, videos and online tools. Practice matching letter names and sounds, or create your own personal playlist using wiki. There's something here for everyone.  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/>

**Education.com** Five Free & Easy Tips for Summer Learning, including reading and math. Find a wealth of online learning activities at:  
[http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref\\_Five\\_Free\\_Easy\\_Tips/](http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Five_Free_Easy_Tips/).

Please feel free to drop by the library any time.

Warmly,  
Mary Thompson and Virginia Calvo

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## **Wave Your Flag! Move Your Body!**

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Parents **Erin Musser** and **Lesley Ernst**, along with Physical Education instructor **Mr. Campbell** kicked off this year's **Walk-A-Thon** with an inspired assembly the morning of May 29.



**Mr. Campbell, Erin Musser, Lesley Ernst**

The theme for this year's Walk-A-Thon is Wave Your Flag; which represents the international make up and pride of BHIS. The theme song of the same name (from the 2000 World Cup) was played while three fifth graders (Diego, Shu Feng and Angkenna) displayed flags from the U.S. and the countries of our sister schools in China and Nicaragua. Three third graders (Marvin, Cedric and Nat) read excerpts from the song in English, Spanish and Mandarin. Small United Stages flags were handed out to all the students to wave during the assembly.



**Song Lyric Readers Marvin, Cedric and Nat**

Teachers and staff dressed "old school" in their 70's and 80's work out attire and displayed their commitment to physical fitness by showing off their dance moves to the song "Move Your Body" by Beyoncé. Staff have been practicing their moves for months, and their students were impressed!



**"Old School" Teachers Move Their Bodies!**

Mr. Campbell reminded the students how important physical fitness is all year long and to be sure to remain active during the summer months. Staff, parents, and students are all excited about the Walk-A-Thon June 1<sup>st</sup>, which is a favorite fund raiser for the Beacon Hill PTA.

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## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Beacon Bazaar**

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Mark your calendars for the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Beacon Bazaar on Saturday, June 9 from 9 am - 2 pm!**

This is a fun community event that anyone will enjoy! So stop on by and grab a bite to eat and do a little shopping, or consider setting up your own table to sell arts and crafts, clothing, household items, treasures, plants, you name it!

Table rentals are \$20 for BHIS PTA members and \$30 for non-members. Anyone is welcome to participate. You keep all the earnings from the items you sell, or donate your earnings to the PTA to support school programs. Proceeds from the rental of tables benefit the BHIS Parent Teacher Association.

To participate as a vendor, complete the registration form attached to this newsletter.

For more information, contact Beacon Bazaar Coordinator John Shaw at [johnshawtoo@hotmail.com](mailto:johnshawtoo@hotmail.com). We hope to see you there!

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### **Yahoo-Families Email Group**

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Remember to sign up for the BHIS All Families email group to help stay in touch with your friends over the summer.

Because our school community includes families of many languages, we invite families to post questions or comments in ANY language. Families from that language group can reply in that language with no obligation to translate. If you don't understand the language, just ignore that set of posts. We will share this invitation with the Instructional Assistants to ask them to translate for the families they serve, and we actively encourage participation in ALL languages.

If you are a BHIS family that is not yet a member, you can subscribe by simply emailing this address:

[BHIS\\_Parents-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:BHIS_Parents-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Once a person is subscribed, he or she can post messages to the group by sending an email to this address:

[BHIS\\_Parents@yahoo.com](mailto:BHIS_Parents@yahoo.com)

The Family Forum has been up and running for over a month now. It's not getting a lot of use yet, but summer is a great time to stay in touch and use it to arrange pick up soccer games or ask questions about the coming school year.

I hope you will participate in this new forum, and I hope you find it useful.

- Scott Olson

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### **Calendar of Events**

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**Fri., June 1:** Walk-A-Thon!!

**Sat., June 2:** Beacon Hill Festival at Jefferson Park Community Center, 11am-4pm.

**Tues., June 5:** International Celebration/Art Walk: 5:00-7:00pm. 5:30pm Potluck outside. See performances and student artwork!

**Fri., June 8:** Young Authors Celebration

**Sat., June 9:** Beacon Bazaar, 9:00am – 2:00pm in front of the school.

**June 11-13:** Fifth Grade Camp at Camp Colman. Students return to the school at 2:00pm.

**Fri., June 15:** Community Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 11:15am in the Library. Field Day in the Afternoon.

**Thur., June 21:** Fifth Grade Graduation, 6:30-7:30pm

**Fri., June 22:** Last Day of School. Free Dress Day. Fifth Grade Awards Assembly, 10:30am in MPR. Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony, 1:30pm in MPR. Last Day of School, 2:00pm Early Dismissal.

**Wed., Sept. 5:** First Day of School.

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### **Found: Newsletter Editor**

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Welcome and thank you to **Alma Aleman** who has volunteered to be next year's newsletter editor! **Curtis Bonney** is retiring as our BHIS newsletter editor for the past 3 years. We are all very grateful to Curtis for his wonderful monthly newsletters.

Alma is the mother of Daniella, who is new to BHIS this year and is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Alma will take over for Curtis when the new school year starts. You can still send your newsletter submissions to: [bhisnews@yahoo.com](mailto:bhisnews@yahoo.com)