

# **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  
May 1, 2012

---

## **PTA NEWS**

---

Dear BHIS Families,

I am excited to be coming to the end of three years as an active member of the Beacon Hill PTA! Excited because I get to relax a little, but also because I'm proud of what I have seen accomplished over the years by the great people I have worked with. I'm ready to hand over the reins and look forward to what the next group of family-volunteers has in store. Judging from those who have agreed to come back next year, I have every confidence it is going to be great.

One board member recently commented that he had had a stereotype of the bad type of PTA in his mind before getting involved at BHIS, but that his experience had been very different than that preconceived image.

Another board member made the point that before she got involved she had no idea of what actually went on at a PTA Board meeting and that she didn't think she was close to qualified. Despite her "lack of experience", she happens to be one of the most capable and hard-working people I have had the pleasure to work with.

The point is that we all started out as relative beginners. When I began, our then-principal noted that every board comes with a different set of skills and a different set of interests, and that she had learned to value whatever that set of skills and interests happened to be each year. That point of view has been very helpful to me over the years. Yes, we have very specific rules we follow to safeguard the



donations made by our families, and to be sure that funds are spent as budgeted, and in the best interest of all the children at the school.

But beyond that, serving on the board gives you the opportunity to help shape your child's school into the way you think it ought to be. Some of the things I'm proudest of are how much the school website has grown and how much useful information is accessible for current and future boards and families; that so many families recently got to see Speaking in Tongues and came away raving about how all immersion-language families (or even those considering immersion) should see it; that the Walk-A-Thon so successfully replaced a prior, much less healthy fund-raiser (and is so dang fun). There are lots of other things this board and prior boards have accomplished. And I look forward to seeing what my last two years as a parent at BHIS hold with our next board in charge.

**Our next all-families PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.** I hope you will join us for a pot-luck, and to vote on the budget for next year. The PTA Board, and the BLT (Building Leadership Team), work hard to create a PTA budget that meets the needs of the school and serves as many students as equitably as possible. We need PTA member families to be aware of, and have the chance to discuss and vote on approval of the PTA budget because these are YOUR dollars at work. We hope you will be there on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to take part in this important process. I thank the Building Leadership Team for their work in creating the

recommendations that are a large foundation of our budget.

You will also have the chance to nominate and vote on next year's PTA Board members. Job Descriptions for each position can be found on the website under the PTA tab. Please do not hesitate to ask me, or any other current board member, about any positions that may interest you. All are welcome and all are valued.

*Allison Delong*

BHIS PTA President 2011/2012

---

### ***PTA Meeting & Event Calendar***

---

- Tues 5/22 PTA All-Families meeting to include budget and board votes for next year – Pot-luck
- Fri 6/1 PTA Walk-A-Thon – school day
- Tues 6/5 PTA End of Year Arts and Cultural Celebration including pot luck
- Sat 6/9 PTA Bazaar on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue

---

### ***New Yahoo-Families Group***

---

Welcome to the new BHIS Family Forum! Several months ago Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Fujimoto transitioned to sending out school communication through the district's Messenger system, leaving the old Yahoo email group list unused.

As the parent of a new BHIS student, I suggested to the BHIS Principal and PTA Board that a parent email forum might be useful to help school families communicate between themselves, and to create and build community. They agreed, and I was invited to lead the effort!

The goal is to create a sense of community among BHIS families and give them a place to participate in a forum that allows back and forth dialogue. We hope it becomes a place where parents and guardians can share thoughts, ask questions, get questions answered, and propose ideas about school, homework, kids, community, sports, childcare, camp, tutoring, pick up soccer games, etc. Membership will be limited to

parents and guardians who have children at BHIS. Staff may also join the group.

Online communication can sometimes become very casual. When using the Family Forum, please remember to keep your questions and comments positive and constructive. We want to make sure this is a useful tool, and that it doesn't get used to insult, offend, judge, or create gossip. Contributions may be posted to the group without being pre-screened, so please think carefully before you hit "send".

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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BHIS_Parents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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

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

The Family Forum has been up and running for about a month. It's not getting a lot of use yet, but spring and summer should be 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

---

### ***Uniform Shorts?***

---

Yes, it's getting warmer & yes, navy shorts can be worn as part of the school uniform, but the shorts must be uniform style – not gym shorts!



---

## ***Volunteers of the Month***

---

The **Family Volunteers of the Month** for **April** are **Cassie Yee** and **Mulu Saleem**. You will see Cassie and Mulu hard at work every Friday morning organizing the kindergarten folders. Cassie's daughter, Grace, and Mulu's daughter, Samrawrit) are in kindergarten. Mulu also goes on field trips, as does Cassie's husband. Thank you for all your help in the K pod!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month** for **April** is **Irma Dorantes** from the University of Washington. Irma first volunteered at BHIS in the fall quarter in 2010. Then she returned in January 2012. Irma is fluent in Spanish and helps in K3's Spanish Immersion class. Thank you, Irma, for all your help in K3!

---

## ***BHIS Chess Club represented in State Championship!***

---



Two third graders, **Ford** (left) and **Jay** (right), competed in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship on Saturday, April 21 at the TRAC Center in Pasco, WA. Both players won a majority of their games in an earlier tournament which qualified them to represent BHIS at the State Championship. At the

BHIS News May 1, 2012

championship, Ford won one game out of five, and Jay won three of five games which qualifies Jay to play in the National Championship.

The school's chess club is wrapping up for the year, but look to join us next year! It's fantastic how much the kids learn in chess club, and they have a great time doing it.

---

## ***Foro Comunitario Latino***

---



Esta cordialmente invitado a un Foro Comunitario Latino con el Alcalde de Seattle Mike McGinn.

Una oportunidad para una conversación abierta con el Alcalde de Seattle sobre temas de interés a la comunidad Latina de Seattle.

**Sabado, May 19, 2012**

**12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Escuela Internacional Beacon Hill**

2025 14th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

(Habr  interpretaci n al espa ol)

RSVP a Thao Tran (206) 684-4033 o [thao.tran@seattle.gov](mailto:thao.tran@seattle.gov). Habr  cuidado de ni os de 3-12 anos de edad. Indique el n mero de ni os al hacer su reservaci n.

**(English Translation:)**

You are cordially invited to attend a Latino Community Forum with Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn.

An opportunity for open conversation with the Mayor of Seattle on topics of interest to the Latino community of Seattle.

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

**12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Beacon Hill International School**

2025 14th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

(Spanish interpretation will be provided.)

RSVP to Thao Tran (206) 684-4033 or [thao.tran@seattle.gov](mailto:thao.tran@seattle.gov). Limited childcare is available for children age 3-12 yrs old.

---

## Calendar

---

### May is Bike to School Month!

**MAP Testing: April 30-June 13** (all grades)

**MSP Testing: May 1, 3, 8, 10, 11** (3rd-5th grades)

**Mon., May 7:** D2 Low tide field trip, 9:30am-2pm.

**May 7 – 11:** Teacher Appreciation Week!

**Wed., May 9:** Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon: 11:30am-1:30pm in the Staff Lounge. School Nurses' Day. Last Day of Team Read.

**Wed., May 16:** 1:00pm Early Dismissal

**Fri., May 18:** Instrumental Music Concert, 6:30-7:30pm in MPR.

**Sat., May 19:** Town Hall Meeting - Latino Community Forum with Mayor McGinn, 12:30-2:30pm in MPR.

**Tues., May 22:** PTA Potluck Meeting, 6pm in MPR.

Thurs., May 24: K & 1st grade to Thistle Theatre "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears", 9:40am-12:10pm.

**Fri., May 25:** Free Dress Day

**Mon., May 28:** Memorial Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL

**May 29-31:** Dental Sealants for 2nd & 3rd grade.

**Tues., May 29:** Walkathon Rally Assembly, 9:40-10:30am in the gym. Newsletter deadline: [bhisnews@yahoo.com](mailto:bhisnews@yahoo.com)

**Tues., May 29 & Thurs., May 31:** Last days of Powerful Schools After School Programs

**Thurs., May 31:** Invest In Youth students field trip to the Arboretum, 9:30am-2pm.

**Fri., June 1:** WALKATHON!!

**Sat., June 2:** Beacon Hill Festival @ Jefferson Park C.C.: 11am-3pm

**Tues., June 5:** International Celebration & Artwalk: Starts off with 5:30pm Potluck.

**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. Return to school at 2pm June 13.

**Fri., June 15:** Field Day. Community Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 11:30am in Library.

**Fri., June 22:** Last Day of School. Free Dress Day. Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony, 1:30pm. 2:00 Early Dismissal.

---

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

---

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!

---

## May is Bike to School Month

---

May is Bike to School (and Work) Month. If you have questions about participating, send a note to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent, David Gackenbach, [dgackenbach@comcast.net](mailto:dgackenbach@comcast.net).

Biking to school creates daily exercise habits, reduces car traffic and air pollution, and helps teach safe cycling habits. You, your child, and your school can join us for our month or day challenge!

By participating, you can make a difference for the environment and for your health. In 2011, 3,300 elementary school students (and their awesome parents) from 34 different schools around the Seattle area participated in Cascade's Bike to School Month. In middle schools and high schools, 373 students biked 1,979.2 miles!



---

## ***Bike Swap & Repair***

---

**Kids' Bike Swap and Festival:** Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-4:00pm at the **Rainier Community Center**. Check the Bike Works website for more info about how it works [www.bikeworks.org](http://www.bikeworks.org) or call 206.725.9408.

---

## ***Summer Camp Ideas***

---

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.

**The Museum of Flight** Aerospace Camp Experience (ACE) is a summer day camp for children who are excited about aerospace and aviation! [www.museumofflight.org/ace](http://www.museumofflight.org/ace)

**Pacific Science Center** has very popular camps with info found at [www.pacificsciencecenter.org/camps/camps-for-curious-minds](http://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/camps/camps-for-curious-minds)

**Coyote Central** has very cool camps ranging from break dancing, cooking, and so much more, for kids age 10-14. Very creative financial aid options are also described on their website at

[www.coyotecentral.org](http://www.coyotecentral.org)

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, etc. every child should learn to swim so they can be safe and have fun!

---

## ***BHIS New Mural !!!***

---

The BHIS mural has been installed and unveiled. It is a beautiful addition to our school and our community.



---

## ***Found: Newsletter Editor***

---

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)

---

## ***"News from Nancy"***

---

Volunteer Coordinator **Nancy Fujimoto** switched from using a Yahoo email group to using the Seattle Public Schools' Messenger service to send out her weekly updates.

Nancy wonders if you're getting her "News from Nancy" messages. If you're not, send her a note at [nkfujimoto@seattle.schools.org](mailto:nkfujimoto@seattle.schools.org) to make sure you're on her list *and* add her to your list of Contacts so her helpful updates don't end up in your spam file!