

Beacon Hill International School News

Published by the Staff and PTA of Beacon Hill School
2025 14th Avenue South (206) 252-2700
Dr. Susie Murphy, Principal
Angela Castañeda and Maythia Airhart,
Co- PTA Presidents
A World of Learners



May 6, 2009

Swine Flu Alert

There has been a lot of information in the news lately about the Swine/Avian Flu Virus. Seattle Public Schools is being very proactive, working with state and local health authorities to be sure everyone is safe. There are some important things we can all do to be sure that this virus is contained:

- Cough into a tissue, elbow or sleeve
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Stay home if you are feeling sick or have any flu-like symptoms
- If your child is feeling ill with flu-like symptoms, keep him/her home until you are sure that any infection is gone.
- If you, or someone in your family is ill with flu-like symptoms, go to the doctor

Beacon Hill News May 6, 2009

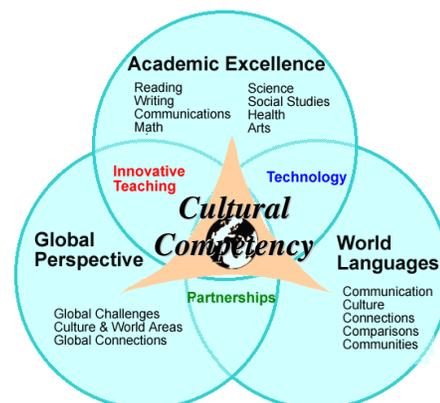
If you have any questions, feel free to call the Seattle King County Public Health Department at (206) 296-4949.

If we all work together, we can help keep our school and community safe.

From Principal Dr. Murphy

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

We are nearing the end of our first year as an international school. One of the first questions visitors ask is, “What is an international school?” The model the Seattle School District adopted for international programs has three major areas of emphasis – academic excellence, world languages and global perspective. These are intertwined around a central focus on cultural competency.



There are, of course, many other areas we focus on at Beacon Hill International School, but these are the main areas of interest for our international program. The first two, academic excellence and world languages, are readily apparent in the daily work of the school, from the early morning Spanish Language and Literacy class conducted three days a week by Chilo Granizo to the kindergarten immersion classes and the FLAP-funded Mandarin classes in first through third grades, to the curricular rigor apparent throughout the day in all classrooms.

The focus on global perspective and cultural competency are also happening everywhere. Each grade level has selected an area of the world, for example, that is a main social studies focus. Most are connected to the traditional social studies goals for that particular grade level. For example, kindergarten students are learning about neighbors, so their global perspective is on Canada and Mexico. First graders are learning about China, second graders are going on a safari to Kenya, and third graders are learning about South America. Fourth graders are studying Washington State history and immigration patterns to the state. A natural extension is an examination of the Pacific Rim countries that fed those immigration movements. Fifth graders are learning about the pre-Revolutionary War period of history and the impact that Europe and the European expansion had on the founding of our country.

In terms of cultural competency, we are engaged in the Roots of Empathy Program in three classrooms this year. We have a school-wide anti-bullying program, peer conflict managers, upper grade leadership opportunities (such as library helpers, crossing guard assistants), and classroom meetings held in many classrooms on a regular basis.

Part of our vision is to help students learn to understand and see the world through the

perspective of people from other cultures, who speak other languages and have had entirely different experiences growing up. We are fortunate, at Beacon Hill International School to have many children and families in our community who are willing to share their varied experiences, cultural traditions and world views. In addition, we have a long-standing relationship with a sister school on Ometepe, Nicaragua, many staff members who speak languages other than English and who have varied cultural experiences to share, and classroom lessons and celebrations that emphasize the cultural traditions that our many families share.

In addition, next year we are going to have a guest teacher from China who will be providing our Mandarin instruction for second through fourth grades. We will provide this teacher with transportation around the city, likely through a Metro bus pass, but we need to locate a family willing to host this teacher for a year (or, if two families would like this experience, two families for a semester each). The family would be expected to supply room and board, but the exchange would be an opportunity to have a teacher from China living with the family and providing those important cultural and language exchanges that happen when living together.

Even if you are not able to host our guest teacher for a year or semester, we are hoping that many families will invite our guest teacher from China to accompany them on family holiday outings, to spend the weekend and for an evening meal. Nancy Fujimoto, Ying Ying Wu, Helen Finch and I will be coordinating the calendar for the guest teacher next year. Please let us know if you are interested in providing a home stay, a holiday experience, a weekend getaway or a dinner invitation.

When we think about ourselves as an international school, we think of all the academic experiences we provide our students, but

Beacon Hill News May 6, 2009

opportunities such as our guest teacher from China also provide learning experience within the home and community that enriches us and connects us to the world.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Susie Murphy
Principal

Donations Needed – Paper Supplies Low

We use a lot of paper at Beacon Hill International School. With the increasingly tight budgets we are facing for coming years, we are working hard to reduce the numbers of copies we make. It is a challenge, however, as we have more students and families to communicate with and many languages into which our communications needs to be translated.

Staff also have curricular initiatives that require paper copies, though we are trying to use both sides and only make the exact number necessary.

We are, however, low on copy paper. If anyone is willing to donate a ream of paper to the school, it would be greatly appreciated. Your child can bring it in and give it to his/her teacher or bring it directly in to the school office. One family, recently, brought an entire box of paper in and donated it to the school! We are so grateful for whatever help parents and the community can provide.

Calendar of Events

May 6: School Nurses Day

May 6 – 8: Fifth Grade Camp at Camp Colman

May 6 – 8: Dental Sealants applied to 2nd graders (and some 3rd graders)

Thurs., May 7: K Pod to Golden Dragons Acrobats, Kirkland Performance Center , 9:30a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Beacon Hill News May 6, 2009

Sun., May 10: Mothers Day

Mon., May 11: Postage raised to .44

Wed., May 13: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon, 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.

Thurs., May 14: El Dia del Nino/Day of the Child Celebration. 5:45-6:40p.m. Potluck, 6:45-7:30 Program. K3 field trip to “the Hungry Caterpillar”, Seattle Center , 9:15- 11:40a.m.

Wed., May 20: 1:05 p.m. Early Dismissal
Thurs., May 21: Readathon

Fri., May 22: Free Dress Day. Newsletter deadline

Mon., May 25: Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

Thurs., May 28: Invest in Youth field trip

Mon., June 1: Cedar Groves Assembly, 9:10-9:45 a.m. **Tues., June 2:** End of Year Celebration, Family Volunteer Appreciation Reception. 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room

Fri., June 5: Young Authors Day

Sat., June 6: Beacon Hill Festival at Jefferson Community Center, 11a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fri., June 12: Community Volunteer Luncheon, 11:30a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Library. Field Day

Sat. June 13: Beacon Bazaar (in front of the school on 14th Ave. S.)

Sun., June 14: Fathers Day

Fri., June 19: “Moving On” day for Kindergarten graduates, 9:30–10:10 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Report cards sent home. Free Dress Day. 2:05 p.m. Early Dismissal. Last Day of School.

PTA Treasurer Wanted

It’s time for our wonderful PTA Treasurer to move on... **Shelly Bates** has been our very competent PTA Treasurer for two years, and it’s time to find a successor. If you are interested and/or would like more information on what the duties involve, please contact Shelly Bates at: 322-6917 or sbates@zipcon.com

Teacher Appreciation Week

BHIS will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week, **May 11 – 15th**. Thank you to **Jan Gokami**, who has been our Teacher/Staff Appreciation Chair for many years. Jan will be hosting our famous Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, May 13th. Thank you to **Agnes Wong**, who has been organizing the main dishes with our Chinese families for many, many years for this event..

Please bring donations of **flowers and greenery** from your yards on **May 12th** to **Nancy Fujimoto**, and they will be placed in vases all around the school in honor of our wonderful teachers!

Thank You!

Super THANK YOU'S to:

Treacy Sargent (Kaitlyn E3) and **Sharon Yamada-Heidner** (K1/K3) for delicious treats for the staff for April.

Jill and Zach Davies (Cyrus K2/K3) for the donations of Readathon prizes, 3 reams of paper and a tape dispenser.

Sally Hedges for gardening (kneeler) mat, gloves and gardening tools. Cosechando esperanza La Historia de Cesar Chavez (book in Spanish) for the Readathon.

Nedra Peterson for Apples to Apples Jr. Version game for the Readathon

Jena Meagher for Art Supplies for the Readathon

Jan Gokami (Brooks C2) for the 2 electric pencil sharpeners for the Library and E pod workroom.

Molly Hasson (Sylvie K3/K1) for the electric pencil sharpener for the office.

Nicole Taylor (Darius Fields K3/K1) and **Beth Cavalli** (Nina B3) for their help with the yearbook.

Beacon Hill News May 6, 2009

Sue Fluegel (C3 teacher) for chairing our PTA Readathon.

Angela Castaneda (Pablo K3/K2 & Dova B2) for organizing the kindergarten weeding.

Mercer Island High School students who volunteered in the classrooms on April 27th.

PTA Treasurer Wanted

It's time for our wonderful PTA Treasurer to move on... **Shelly Bates** has been our very competent PTA Treasurer for two years, and it's time to find a successor. If you are interested and/or would like more information on what the duties involve, please contact Shelly Bates at: 322-6917 or sbates@zipcon.com

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteer of the Month** for **April** is **Noah Kent**. Noah is a kindergarten dad (Josephine K2/K3) and volunteers weekly in the classroom, goes on field trips, helped with the Fall Fundraiser, and nailed aprons up high on the cafeteria wall. Thank you, Noah, for all your help!

The **Community Volunteer** of the month for **April** is **Susan Mitchell**. Susan is a friend of teacher, Steve Wickman (A2), and volunteers in his classroom on Friday afternoons. Susan started in volunteering in A2 in October 2007. Thank you for your help, Susan!

News from CDSA

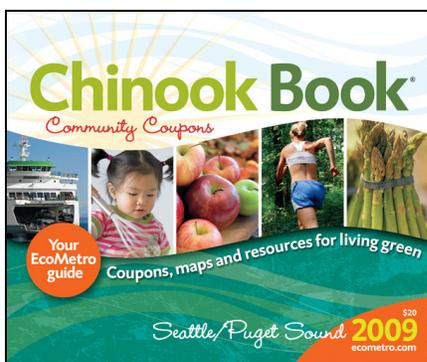
CDSA has enjoyed being a part of the Beacon Hill International School community. Two new Enrichment Teachers, Bryan Getchell and Siri Anderson, have joined the Before & After School Program over the course of the winter. If you haven't had a chance to meet them, please stop by the Multi-Purpose Room in the afternoons to

see what activities they're doing. Their biographies are also posted in the Multi-Purpose Room for you to read at your convenience. Most recently, the After School Program has gone on a self-guided nature hike through the Washington Park Arboretum, a visit to the Burke Museum, bowling, and rock climbing over the past two school breaks. We look forward to planning more outings over the summer and we hope your child can join us!

The Preschoolers have been making regular visits to the library with Mrs. Thompson every week. In addition to reading stories, the children are also checking out their own books. This has been a wonderful way for the Preschoolers to get familiar with the Elementary school environment and routines. It's only a matter of months before the majority of our students leave for Kindergarten, with some of them attending BHIS. We're excited to continue more collaborative activities with the BHIS community before the school year is over.

If you have any questions about either one of our programs, or simply just curious about what we're doing, we always enjoy having visitors!

Support BHIS Through Purchases of Chinook Book



Beacon Hill News May 6, 2009

Beacon Hill International School will begin selling **Chinook Book** in August 2009 as a fundraiser to support our school.

Chinook Book is a one-of-a-kind resource – a coupon book, a directory, a source of ideas and inspiration. The new edition of *Chinook Book* has over 300 coupons and resources for exploring our community and supporting local, sustainable businesses. Find hundreds of dollars in everyday savings with offers for dining, travel, entertainment, wellness, hobbies and much, much more! To see a complete list of vendors please visit: www.ecometro.com.

The books are sold for \$20 and our school keeps \$10 per book! With the purchase of each *Chinook Book* you can save money and support local, sustainable businesses in our community, all while supporting the great programming of BHIS. If you regularly purchase *Chinook Book*, please wait until August to buy your next book so 50% of your purchase will go to support our school.

Chinook Book has something for everyone. It makes a great gift so pick up copies for you, family members and friends.

To make your purchase, please fill out the order form that will be sent home in your child's folder at the beginning of the 2009 - 2010 school year. Or you can pre-order at many of the school events and meetings or by contacting Leslie Stewart at noahles@g.com or (206) 329-1305.

El Dia del Nino/ Day of The Child

A Celebration of children all over the world

El Dia del Nino/Day of the Child is a bi-annual event.

This year's theme is:

*Nuestra Manos Unidas Crean un Mundo Mejor
Hands Together Make the World a Better Place*

Thursday, May 14, 2009

5:45 PM – 7:45 PM

Library and Multi-Purpose Room

A potluck dinner in the library

5:45 PM – 6:40 PM

Followed by

A Presentation by

**The Beacon Hill International School
Students**

**and our prominent guest speakers
in the multi-purpose rooms**

6:45 PM – 7:45 PM

What to Bring for the Potluck: If your **last name** begins with:

A-I bring **a salad or side dish**

J-R bring **a main dish**

S-Z bring **a dessert**

When you arrive, please bring your dish to the library.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes or clothing that represent their cultural heritage or international connections.

Bring a Book and Join Us on May 21!

The Beacon Hill International School Read-a-thon is an annual event and the largest fundraising effort of the year. It has the dual purpose of encouraging kids to be part of a greater reading community and raising much-needed money. Funds are raised in two ways: pledges from individuals based on the number of minutes a child plans to read that day and individual or corporate donations directed to the school as a whole. Students will bring home more information on this event the week of May

Beacon Hill News May 6, 2009

4. Students are neither expected, nor encouraged, to go door-to-door to solicit donations. We hope with your help they will be able to ask family members, family friends, neighborhood friends, and many of your co-workers for donations.

The Read-a-thon is Thursday, May 21. Throughout the entire day, all students and staff will be engaged in various reading-related activities while wearing pajamas. If you would like to join in and participate in this fun-filled day, please contact your daughter's or son's teacher. We'd love for you to participate by reading with students. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sue Fluegel (smfluegel@seattleschools.org).

Volunteers Needed

We're Planning for September 2009! Volunteers Needed!

Grab your walking shoes and join BHIS students as they walk, jog, sashay and trot to raise money for our school. The PTA will sponsor a Walk-a-thon at BHIS in September. We need volunteers to help plan and organize this event. Please contact PTA Fundraising Co-chairs Erin Musser and Allison Delong or BHIS teacher, Andy Pickard for more details on volunteer opportunities.

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

Hello all, the following are the dates for the future newsletters. If you would like to submit an article please email me at nanteshome2@hotmail.com

Deadline	Issue
----------	-------

5-22-09

6-1-09