

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



June 2, 2009

From Principal Dr. Murphy

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

It is hard to believe that the school year is nearly over. There are very few days left until summer vacation, but they are packed full of important learning opportunities and, in many cases, a chance to pull all that learning together in a final, cumulative project.

During the June 2nd Celebration of the Arts you will see, for example, samples of all the work that students have done in art class throughout the year. Every child will have at least one piece of art work on display. The range of art projects is phenomenal. The fourth and fifth grade instrumental music students will perform, showing all that they have learned across the year. And the first graders will present a ribbon dance as a culmination of their social studies unit on China. On another evening, fifth graders will be sharing their Notables Projects. Each student researched a notable person, wrote a report, created a poster and will deliver a speech in the voice of their notable individual. This project is a combination of academic research and artistic understanding. Supported by both classroom research and a wonderful Powerful Artist in Residence, the students learn deeply about their notable person, what he or she accomplished in *Beacon Hill News* June 2, 2009

life and the impact that this life had on others. In a couple of weeks the fourth graders will be presenting dramatic productions of a book they read. This is the culmination of an extensive spring Book-It Theatre Workshop. On another evening, one of the fourth grade classes will be presenting research on their country of origin to their parents. There are more culminating events, but this gives you a flavor of the important learning that continues on through June 19th.

June, the last month of the school year, is also a time to look back and express our gratitude to everyone who helped make this year such a success. Parents and teachers, staff and volunteers have all contributed enormous amounts of time and energy to help students make academic progress. There is no way to thank everyone, but I would like to expressly thank Nancy Fujimoto for all her help and support this year. Nancy is a catalyst for many things that happen at Beacon Hill across the year. She brings in volunteers, helps them find a niche that contributes their special strengths to the school community and makes everyone feel welcome and appreciated. Fortunately for us, Nancy is planning to be back next year to keep us all organized!

There are, however, a number of folks who won't be returning next year. Certainly the fifth graders will be moving on to middle school.

They will be missed, but there is a world out there waiting for their gifts. The fifth grade parents, the ones who will no longer have students here at Beacon Hill, will also be missed. Nantes Howe, for example, who has produced this PTA newsletter for the past four years, will be moving on with her daughter, Seanna. And Jan Gokami, our teacher appreciation chairperson, will be taking her generous spirit on to middle school with her son, Brooks. These are just two examples of families who have given so much to Beacon Hill. As we move forward, we are grateful for the spirit of giving, the generous time and energy that so many of you have shared with our school.

Those of you who will be returning, need to remember that our first day of school for the 2009-2010 year will be Wednesday, September 9th. You have probably read in the news that the school day will begin later in the morning for all Seattle elementary schools. You will receive a note in your child's report card the last day of school that will let you know the new school hours, as well as some important dates for next year.

Have a great summer vacation. Take care of yourselves and we look forward to seeing those of you who are returning to Beacon Hill next September.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susie Murphy, Principal

News from the Nurse

It's been a wild end of the school year due to the H1N1 Flu outbreak. We've had to be super vigilant. If and when a really bad flu comes we will know what is involved and be more prepared.

Thanks for all those who have kept your children home until they are well. One thing we've learned is the importance of arranging with others for childcare if we don't have immediate family around. Good *Beacon Hill News* June 2, 2009

hand washing is so easy but so important in keeping ourselves healthy. Covering our mouths with our elbows or Kleenex when sneezing and coughing keeps others healthy.

For those students who have medications at school: Parents and Guardians-by the last day of school...

Please pick up any Medications used at school this year. Any medication left in the school building after the last day of school will be destroyed.

If your child has life threatening allergies (Epi-pens) or Asthma please make out the paper work for 2009-2010 school year before summer begins so it will be in place by next fall. I will contact each one of you by mail or drop by my office when I'm here, Tuesday or Wednesday.

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Annie Uomoto
School Nurse

Calendar of Events

Fri., 6/5: Young Authors Day

Sat., 6/6: Beacon Hill Festival @ Jefferson Community Center, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Thurs., 6/11: Last day of After School Sports

Fri., 6/12: Community Volunteer Luncheon, 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in the Library. Field Day in the afternoon.

Sat., 6/13: Beacon Bazaar, 9a.m.-2p.m. outside the school on 14th Ave. S.

Tues., 6/16: Evening of Notables, 5:00 p.m.

Wed., 6/17: End of Year Party for Safety Patrol & Peer Mediators, 12noon-1 p.m.

Thurs., 6/18: K-Pod to Beacon Hill Library, 9:40 – 11:45 a.m. B-Pod to Beacon Hill Library, 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Fifth Grade Graduation 5:30-6:30p.m.

Fri., 6/19: Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony 9:30-10:00a.m. in the MultiPurpose Room. Awards Ceremony, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. FREE DRESS DAY. 2:05 p.m. Early Dismissal. LAST DAY OF

SCHOOL.

Sun., 6/21: Fathers' Day

Mon. – Fri. 6/22-26: Summer Chess Camp at

BHIS, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the MultiPurpose Room.

6/22 – 7/9: Mondays-Thursdays: Spanish Literacy Camp for graduating K-2nd grades.

Golden Acorn Awards for 2009

The Golden Acorn Award is given by the Washington State PTA for recognition of a volunteer who has given outstanding service to all children in the school community... not just an individual who has donated time to help in his/her child's class or a staff member who is doing a good job. It is to recognize volunteer service "above and beyond" a particular job description. We are proud to present this year's Golden Acorn Award winners for 2009:

Family: Our Golden Acorn Award winner for families is **Jan Gokami**. Jan is the mom of Brooks (C2). This is Jan's 6th and last year at Beacon Hill, and is one of our most beloved parents. Our school nurse and librarian, can always count on Jan helping at Health Screenings and the Book Fair. For the past 4 years, Jan has chaired the Teacher/Staff Appreciation. She has provided creative treats for all the staff on their special recognition days, and coordinated the highly anticipated Teacher Appreciation Luncheon with raffle prizes for all certificated staff. Along with being extremely generous to our PTA, in the past Jan has purchased tables for Beacon Hill staff and families to attend the El Centro anniversary dinner, receptions for Apolo Ono, and Center for Career Alternatives. Jan, Glenn and Brooks, we are all going to miss you and wish you the best as you move on to middle school. Congratulations and thank you for all your help these past 6 years!

Community: Our Golden Acorn Award recipient for community volunteer is **Jerri Desper**. Jerri has been volunteering at Beacon Hill for approximately 20 years. Jerri volunteers on Thursday mornings in C3. For many years, Jerri volunteered twice a week at our school. Jerri has also generously given our school a coffee maker, punch bowl set and chafing dish. Congratulations and thank you, Jerri, for your *Beacon Hill News* June 2, 2009

many years of dedication to the students of Beacon Hill International School!

Staff: Our Golden Acorn Award winner for staff goes well above and beyond her normal duties and a C3 fourth grade teacher! **Sue Fluegel** chaired our highly successful PTA Readathon! Sue also chaired the Readathon the year before last! Thanks to Sue's highly efficient organizational skills and hard work, the Readathon well surpassed this year's goal of raising \$11,000! Our school and PTA are extremely grateful to Sue's willingness to chair our Readathon. Congratulations and thanks a million, Sue!

PTA 2009- 2010 Board Elected

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 PTA Executive Board Officers, who were voted in at the May 26th PTA Business Meeting.

Co-Presidents: Maythia Airhart,

Treasurer: Leslie Stewart

Secretary: Michelle Peterson

Fundraising: Erin Musser & Allison Delong

Membership: Jill Davies

Legislative Chair: Dave McGeoy

All Board positions are a 2-year commitment.

We are still currently looking for a Co-President.

If anyone is interested in serving as Co-President, please contact Maythia Airhart at:

m4airhart@hotmail.com

Thank You 2008-09 PTA Board

Co-Presidents: **Angela Castaneda** and **Maythia Airhart**

Treasurer: **Shelly Bates**

Secretary: **Michelle Peterson**

Fundraising: **Christina Lee**

Membership: **Ortencia Santana**

Legislative Representative: **Dave McGeoy**

Special thank you to outgoing Board members: **Angela Castaneda, Shelly Bates, Christina Lee** and **Ortencia Santana**, who have served their 2-

year commitment (and more!) on our PTA Board.

More Thank-Yous to:

Juan Retana, Chair, and her entire Latino Comite.

Nantes Howe, newsletter editor for the past 4 years, and Box Tops Coordinator.

Ferdinand and **Janette de Leon** for chairing our Beacon Bazaar, and for preparing a wonderful lunch for our entire staff in May.

Jan Gokami, for coordinating our Teacher/Staff Appreciation days.

All the **families** who provided food and flowers for the Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and to **Agnes Wong**, for coordinating all the main dishes provided by our Bilingual Asian families.

Masako Davison and the families and staff who helped make the El Dia del Nino Celebration a wonderful event.

Angela Castaneda, for her 2 years as PTA Co-President, organizing the International Garden and composting, Summer Spanish Literacy Camp, writing grants, and donating all the beautiful plants for our Volunteers of the Month.

Doris Fuentes for being our School Banking Coordinator.

Sue Fluegel, C3 teacher, for chairing the PTA Readathon

Connie Cho for submitting our Hilltop Red Apple Receipts and prepared the Readathon envelopes.

Shelly Bates, **Erin Musser**, **Christina Lee**, **Connie Cho** and **Ortencia Santana**, our Readathon money counters.

Shelly Bates, for being our Powerful Schools After School Programs site coordinator.

Jenn Kapinos, **Kathy Wickward**, and **Matt Bates**, for coordinating the Chess Club.

Nicole Taylor and **Beth Cavalli** for their help with the yearbook.

Karen Yang and **Isaac Pan**, our Washington Reading Corps. Staff

Mario Ortiz, our Crossing Guard, **Helen Finch** and the **Safety Patrol** team.

Markos Weiss, **Helen Finch** and the **Peer Mediators**.

Susie Murphy, successfully leading us through our first year as an international school.

Our **Community Volunteers**, **Invest in Youth**, **Team Read**, **Big Brothers and Sisters**, **Microsoft**, **Mercer Island H.S.**, **Eastside Catholic H.S.**, and **former Beacon Hill students** in middle and high school who volunteer at BHIS.

The parents who made tamales for our Tamale Sale and those who purchased them.

To the many people who donated Readathon prizes!

The parents who have provided monthly treats for our staff.

Everyone who generously donated copier paper.

Everyone on the BHIS yahoo group and parent e-mail lists who generously responded to all our volunteer opportunities and needs.

To all our staff and families for making this a great year!

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteers of the Month for June** are the parents of kindergartener, Nat Beaumon. **Flo Beaumon** and **John Shaw**, together help in kindergarten every Monday morning. They go on field trips, prepare the kindergarten snacks, send home homework and flyers, and assist the kindergarten teachers in so many ways. Thank you Flo and John for all your help in kindergarten!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month for June** is a former teacher at Beacon Hill! **Audrey Lucero** used to be a 2nd grade teacher here, but now volunteers once a week in the K3

Spanish Immersion class. Audrey will also be teaching in the Summer Spanish Literacy class at BHIS for graduating K-2nd graders. It's great to have you back, Audrey, and thanks for all your help with the kindergarteners!

Shape up Across America

Shape Up Across Washington is an imaginary trek across the State of Washington. The 800-mile trip starts in the city of Seaview, WA and ended in Clarkston, WA. This 800 mile imaginary trip taken by B.H.I.S. Kids and Beacon Hill International School Staff members exercised in increments of 30 minutes of physical activities ranging from vacuuming their room at home to playing soccer. This year we had 96 participants, of which 92 Kindergartens through 5th Graders and 4 staff members participated. Each participant will receive a certificate of completion and 19 lucky participants will receive a prize that was determined by a random drawing by members of the Shape Up Across Washington Committee.

Keep healthy,
Otis E. Campbell,
PE. Teacher

Soccer

Girls and Boys Fall Youth Soccer Sign ups

Mt Baker / Lakewood Soccer Club
Sign up now for next fall!
Girls and Boys 5 – 18 years old

www.mblsoccer.org

Scholarships Available / Coaches needed!

Players need to be 5 years old by July 31, 2009

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Readathon – A Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Readathon a resounding success! The total figures are not in yet, but it is clear that we surpassed our goal of \$11,000! A BIG THANK YOU, to our Readathon Chair, C3 teacher Sue Fluegel, and everyone who helped and supported this PTA fundraiser!

BHIS International Family Garden Update 5-21-09

Yesterday Cedar Grove Composting delivered a donation of 7 cubic yards of rich, pungent compost, for our school's edible garden project.

Thank you Cedar Grove Composting!

We had a fabulous team of parent, student and community volunteers joined by the two district gardeners assigned to our school, Doat Mai and Sean McManus! Every one worked together to bring the huge mound of compost to the garden area in the inner courtyard (Kindergarten playground).

Thank you everyone for your hard work!

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| John Shaw and Nat Beaumon Angela and Dova Zilly Castañeda Rob Cavness, from Cedar Grove Composting *Yan Deng (mom of Jai Hao Wang) Jeff, Ellie, and Anneka Herrin John Johnson (papa of Ford in K1) Jennifer, Ian and Violet Kapinos, Lisa Kartiganer, Sam and Jeremy Schroeter (Kimball Elementary), Dave and Miles McGoey |
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*Thanks also to Yan Deng for donating various kinds of bean and squash seeds.

Heads up: In today's Powerful School's after-school class K-2 students will get to put plant starts in the ground! We also will put down Tile Mosaic Garden Spacers that BHIS kids have

created in Art Class, and move our worms to the wooden worm bin (built by Franklin HS students) and CDSA kids will be able get started planting their starts in the coming days. Over the next week or so please come and check out the garden area!

For more information about school green team projects at BHIS or to donate plant starts for the garden please call Angela (206) 459-1430

Beacon Bazaar?

There is still time to register for a table at our 4th Annual Beacon Bazaar on Saturday, June 13th! 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Table fee after June 1st is \$30 for BHIS PTA members, and \$40 for non-members. For more information, please contact Ferdinand de Leon at (206) 763-8832 or jifdeleon@gmail.com.

Important Dates for 2009-2010

Sept. 9, 2009: First Day of School
Sept. 30: 2 hr. early dismissal
Oct. 9: No school for students
Oct. 28: 2 hr. early dismissal
Nov. 11: Veterans Day – No School
Nov. 25: 1 hr. early dismissal
Nov. 26 & 27: Thanksgiving Holiday – No School
Dec. 18: 1 hr early dismissal
Dec. 21, 2009 – Jan 1, 2010: Winter Break
Jan. 18, 2010: MLK Jr. Day – No School
Jan. 29: Day between Semesters – No School
Feb. 3: 2 hr. early dismissal
Feb. 15: Presidents Day – No School
Feb. 16-19: Mid-Winter Break
Mar. 3: 2 hr early dismissal
Mar. 19: No School
Mar. 29 – April 2: Spring Break – No School
May 19: 2 hr early dismissal
May 31: Memorial Day – No School
June 22, 2010: Last Day of School – 1 hr. Early Dismissal

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Friday Evening “Play Date: Picnics

June 5th – Sept 18th, 5:30pm-8pm

Would you like the chance to get to know other BHIS families, but work schedule or language barriers have made it difficult?

Join other BHIS families over the summer months at the park next to the school for informal family “getting to know you” picnics. Who ever can make it is invited to show up on the 1st and 3rd Friday from 5:30pm-8pm during June, July, August and September. Just bring a picnic supper for your own family (it’s probably easier this way since we don’t know how many will show up each time, and this way no one will be responsible for clean up other than for themselves).

The kids can play soccer or on the play ground equipment, and families can visit with existing friends, or make new ones.

This is a totally informal and unofficial idea, so no supplies will be provided and no specific arrangements will be made. Just show up on the 1st or 3rd Fridays that work for your schedule, and introduce yourself to whatever other Beacon elementary families you might find there!

Hopefully by the end of the summer, we’ll all have made lots of new friends!!

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

Thank you all for the opportunity to do your newsletter. Now that Seanna is off to middle school I hand the job over to Curtis Bonney at cwbonney@gmail.com

Are you on Nancy Fujimoto’s BHIS parents email list? If not, be sure to email Nancy at nkfujimoto@yahoo.com to get added to her list so you can be kept up to date on reminders about school events, parent announcements, etc.