

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
Maythia Airhart, PTA President
A World of Learners



October 7, 2009

From Principal Dr. Murphy

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

What a wonderful beginning to our new school year and the second year of our international school programs. It has been quite a smooth start all around. If it looks, when you drop your children off at school in the morning, like we have more students at Beacon Hill International School, we do! We are up to about 450 students! Last year we had around 415 students. The year previous to that we had about 385! That is a large influx of students and families.

Welcome to each and every one of you new to Beacon Hill. We are delighted that you are here. We hope that you find the school community to be welcoming and that the needs of your child and your family are met. In addition, please know that we value the contributions that you can make. Each one of you, whether new to the school or returning this year, brings gifts that can enrich the experiences we all have.

Along with the new students and families, we have new staff members, as well. Ms. Parvin Baharloo is our new second grade teacher in E2, Ms. Peggy Lee is joining our Bilingual staff as a Chinese-speaking Instructional Assistant, Ms. Katie Tsai is our new Language Immersion Instructional Assistant in the K/1 Mandarin

Immersion classes, Ms. Juan Xu is a Guest Teacher from China and our new Mandarin teacher for second through fourth grades, and Ms. Kate Poux and Dr. Kristin Percy-Calaff are two new fourth grade teachers sharing the instructional responsibilities in D1. Welcome to all our new staff members.

With the new school year comes some important policy and procedural changes. In addition, I want to be explicit about some older practices that some of you may not be aware of:

- This year, in an attempt to encourage healthy eating choices and provide an equitable response to all students, teachers will have only small celebrations of student birthdays in the classroom. Each birthday student will be acknowledged, but we ask that parents not bring food or party items to share with the class. Home acknowledgements of birthdays can include sweets and treats, but school acknowledgements will be foodless.
- In regard to absences, the school policy remains that unless a child is ill, it is expected that he or she be at school and arrive on time (our school day begins at 9:20 a.m.). On occasion, parents plan an extended family trip and request an excused absence. In order for an absence to be excused, parents need to

write a letter addressed to the principal, at least three days prior to the trip, requesting that the absence be excused. In addition, the parent must have contacted the classroom teacher to be sure that work missed can be made-up and state that explicitly in the request.

- We have had many questions about electronic devices in school. It is school policy not to allow any electronic devices, including cell phones. Some parents need to provide their children with cell phones for emergency purposes, however. If that is the case, it is important for parents to understand that if their child brings a cell phone to school, in spite of the policy, the cell phone must be off and in their child's backpack at all times. In addition, parents must understand that the school is not liable if any such device is brought to school and is lost or stolen.
- Dismissal is going much more smoothly these days. I need to ask for parents help, however. **Please use only the front door of the school to enter the building.** If we allow entry through the playground doors, we have no way to control who is in the building and to keep students safe.
- Finally, if you have any questions about your child's progress in school, please call your child's teacher. Teachers are glad to talk with you, will make an appointment to meet with you either before or after school and welcome not only your questions, but also your input about your child.

Working together we can make this an exceptional year for everyone. Thank you for all you contribute to Beacon Hill International School!

Sincerely,

Dr. Susie Murphy
Principal

Before/After School Programs Start

The A.M. Spanish class and the After School Programs begin in October. Nutritional snacks that meet the USDA Snack Program requirements will be provided to students in the programs. Bus transportation is only available for the Team Read Program. Enrollment applications must be completed and submitted to the school office. Families will be notified if their child was accepted into the program. Participation will be based on submitted application, space availability, transportation, grade level, academic support, commitment, funding, and/or teacher recommendation.

AM Spanish:

K & 1st grades, C1 Wkrm T/W/Th no tuition 10/13/09-6/3/10

After School Sports:

1st-5th grades, Gym, M/T/Th no tuition 10/12/09-6/3/10

Bilingual Homework Club:

2nd-5th grades, C2, T/Th no tuition 10/13/09-6/3/10

Chess Club:

1st-5th grades, C2, Wed. \$80 10/7/09-5/12/10

Invest In Youth:

4th & 5th grades, D Pod Tues no tuition 10/13/09-6/1/10

Latino Homework Club:

1st-5th grades, C1 T/Th no tuition 10/13/09-6/3/10

Powerful Learning Centers:

K-5th grades, location varies, T/Th tuition 10/6/09-5/27/10

Team Read:

2nd & 3rd grades MPR B&C M/W no tuition, 10/26/09-May 2010

For more information, please contact Judy Eng, After School Program Site Coordinator at jueng@seattleschools.org or (206) 252-2671.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

This year the district has standardized the elementary parent/teacher conferences. All elementary schools will be closed for classes on:

- **Monday, November 23rd**
- **Tuesday, November 24th**
- **Wednesday, November 25th**

for parent/teacher conferences.

Schools have the option to offer some conferences the week prior. Beacon Hill will likely offer conferences one evening during the week of November 16th. We will let you know exactly when that date has been set.

The dates school is closed are on the family calendar mailed to each household prior to the beginning of the year, but since the dates this year are later than we have had in the past and are full days without school, it is important for you to put them on your calendars now and make child care arrangements ahead of time.

More information will be coming to you in early November about the best ways to prepare for your child's conference.

MOHAI Educator of the year!

The Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) has selected Shannon Foster, 4th grade teacher in D3, as 2009 MOHAI Educator of the Year. Ms. Foster will receive \$1,000. The award will be presented at the 2009 MOHAI History Makers Gala on November 13th. More to come in on this award in the next newsletter. Congratulations, Ms. Foster!!

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteer of the Month for September** has been monitoring the lunchroom composting/recycling program every day! **Dave McGeoy** is also on the PTA Board of Officers as our Legislative Representative and Vice President-elect. Dave's wife, Shannon, is a past Family Volunteer of the Month. Dave and Shannon's children are Ian in D1, Miles in E1, and Molly in preschool. Thank you, Dave, for all your hard work and for keeping our school green!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month for September** comes to us from Seattle Central Community College. **Ran Liu** comes from China and has been in the U.S. for about one year. Ran volunteered at BHIS all day Mondays-Thursdays for 2 weeks, in A1, E1, B2 and B3. Good luck, Ran, as you go back to school, and thank you for all your help!

Calendar of Events

- **Tues., Oct. 6:** Kindergarten and 1st grade to Woodland Park Zoo – 9:45a.m.-1:30p.m.
- **Tues. Oct. 6 & Thurs., Oct. 8:** Powerful Schools After School Programs begin. 3:35-4:35pm and 4:35-5:35 pm.
- **Wed., Oct. 7:** After School Chess Club begins in C2
- **Thurs., Oct. 8:** Tutor Orientation Brunch for Community Volunteers, 10 a.m. in the Staff Lounge. Application packets for Advanced Learning programs due.
- **Fri., Oct. 9:** Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL
- **Mon., Oct. 12:** After School Sports begins, M/T/Th
- **Fri., Oct. 23:** WALK A THON

- **Mon., Oct. 26:** Deadline for November newsletter – bhinternationalnewsletter@gmail.com
- **Mon., Oct. 26:** Team Read begins – M/W.
- **Wed., Oct. 28:** 1:25 p.m. Early Dismissal (2 hrs. early)
- **Fri., Oct. 30:** Free Dress Day (no costumes please)
- **Sun., Nov. 1:** Daylight Savings Time ends
- **Wed., Nov. 11:** Veterans Day – NO SCHOOL
- **Fri., Nov. 20:** Free Dress Day
- **Nov. 19, 20, 23, 23:** Book Fair
- **Nov. 23-25:** Parent/Teacher Conferences – NO SCHOOL for elementary and K-8 schools.
- **Nov. 26 & 27:** Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL
- **Mon., Nov. 30:** Deadline for December newsletter: bhinternationalnewsletter@gmail.com

GLBT Families Dinner: 10/8

The tenth annual gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) Families Dinner will be held Thursday, October 8th from 6-8pm at NOVA/BOC (the old Meany Middle School). Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson and members of the school board will be there to welcome GLBT families and their friends. All District families and staff are welcome to attend! This donation-funded event is brought to you by the Health Education Office. This year's dinner and entertainment will be provided through community donations. To reserve space at this popular event, please RSVP with the number of people in your party to Lisa Love in the Health Education Office at 252-0982.

Volunteer Opportunities

Chess Club Coordinator: We are looking for a parent volunteer to coordinate the Chess Club – after school on Wednesdays. \$80 tuition fee is waived for the coordinator's children, up to 2 per season. For more info, please contact Jenn Kapinos at snoopjenn@comcast.net or Matthew Bates at matthewdbates@gmail.com

Lunchroom Composting Monitor: Parent volunteers needed to help monitor the lunchroom composting and recycling. If interested, please contact Dave McGeoy at mcgeoy@cablespeed.com

Book Fair: Our school librarian, Mary Thompson, is looking for parent volunteers to serve as cashiers at the Book Fair. Thurs., Nov. 19 and Fri., Nov. 20 – before school and 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m., and on Mon., Nov. 23 & 24 anytime during the day. Please contact Mary at mathompson@seattleschools.org

Translators Needed for BHIS Website

The BHIS website now supports multiple languages.

www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org

Wouldn't it be great if all the families could view the website in their preferred languages? In order to make this happen, we need help translating the web pages into Spanish, Chinese, and other languages.

Please contact Jason Zinschlag at (206) 860-1683 or bhis.translate@yahoo.com for more information.

Join the PTA!

Now is the time to join the Beacon Hill International School Parent Teacher Association. Everyone is welcome. Joining strengthens our school but does not require you

to attend meetings or serve on committees. When you join BHIS PTA, you become a part of a community that encourages student achievement and enriches the learning environment. We believe in building partnerships between our families and our school.

The BHIS PTA helps fund classroom supplies, field trips, music, after school sports, enhanced staffing, and much more.

Annual dues are only \$12 for an individual or \$20 for a family. Membership forms can be found on the PTA information board in the school's front hall.

As of October 1st we have 85 members! Please, if you haven't already joined, fill out a form today and let's work together to make this a wonderful year for Beacon Hill International School.

PTA Committee Vacancies

If you are interested in a PTA leadership role, below is a general description of the current committee vacancies. Committee positions are one-year terms. Attendance at the quarterly PTA Family Involvement/General Membership meetings and monthly PTA Executive Committee meetings is generally required, along with regular phone or e-mail contact with officers as needed.

BHIS has a long history of volunteerism from parents and community members – we are grateful for any contribution you can make. Even if you do not feel like you can commit to a particular position, you may have ideas or opinions to offer. We encourage you to attend the meetings or contact any PTA committee chairperson with questions or comments. If you have questions about the roles and responsibilities of any of the vacancies, please

contact any of the officers listed on the BHIS PTA web page:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/beaconhill/docs/PTAOfficerPhotos.pdf>

Nominating Chair: works with the Executive Committee to identify and nominate others to fill committee vacancies. This position is important because it helps to ensure the continuity, effectiveness, and diversity of committee leadership.

Events Coordinator: Works with the Executive and Fundraising Committees, and Volunteer Coordinator to ensure the smooth operation of our events. This position is responsible for writing a quarterly newsletter article that outlines the events that will be coming up in the next couple of months and identifies ways that parents can get involved; works with the on-staff Instructional Assistants to help coordinate interpretation at PTA events; and coordinates child care for PTA meetings and other school events as needed.

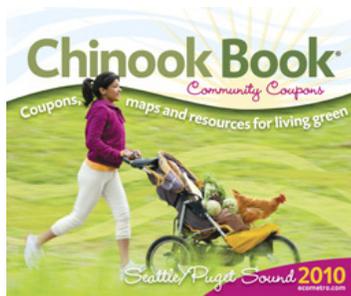
Language/Ethnic Group Outreach Representatives: Works with the Executive Committee to reduce barriers to participation by the major non-English-speaking parent groups. Because English is the predominant language, parents from BHIS may experience difficulty participating in the meetings and events. It is a goal of the PTA to increase the diversity of its membership and to capture the talents and expertise of all parents. Outreach Representatives will actively seek input from a particular group and periodically report to the Executive Committee.

****Assistant Grant Writer:*** Works with Grant Writing Coordinator Angela Castañeda and the Fundraising Committee to complete grant applications that benefit the BHIS community, such as the Compositing/Recycling Lunchroom

Program. Contact Angela at mareanga@mac.com for more information.

**Not a position that requires attendance at quarterly PTA meetings*

2010 Chinook Book Now Available



The 2010 edition of **Chinook Book** is now available, and coupons can be used immediately! With this one-of-a-kind coupon book and resource guide, you can take advantage of great savings while supporting local businesses, a sustainable lifestyle, *and our school!* Chinook Book costs \$20, of which **\$10 goes to the BHIS PTA** to support school programs. From free Metro bus rides to discounts at restaurants, grocery stores, museums, theaters, and other family fun activities, this book has something for everyone. It is also a great resource guide with ideas and tips for living a green lifestyle. So buy one for yourself and as a gift for that practical friend or family member. For more information about participating vendors visit <http://www.ecometro.com/seattle>.

Books can be purchased at the school from Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Fujimoto or from PTA Treasurer Leslie Stewart by contacting noahles@q.com. For more information, contact Leslie Stewart at noahles@q.com. Thank you!

Art Fundraiser

Beacon Hill International School will again be participating in “Original Works” to offer a very special program. This program allows you to have your child’s very own artwork reproduced

onto a selection of over 35 quality products. The products range from magnets, mugs and mouse pads, to t-shirts, sketch books, and ceramic tiles. The wide selection of professionally produced, full color products offers something for everyone.

Your child will be creating their artwork in art class, following the regular art curriculum. You will then have the opportunity to order whatever products you wish with your child’s own artwork featured on each and every product.

We are excited to be participating in this unique and innovative program to raise funds for art materials for the Visual Art Program at BHIS. Look for complete program, product and pricing information to come home with your child on Monday, October 19th. The deadline for placing orders will be Monday, October 26th. All products will be delivered to your child at school by the first week in December.

Sample products and a brochure will be on display by the main office. Additional product and program information, as well as customer testimonials, can be found at www.originalworks.com or feel free to contact Mary Howard Logel, BHIS Visual Art Teacher.

First Annual BHIS Walk A Thon

The first annual Walk A Thon will be held by Beacon Hill International School during school hours on Friday, October 23rd RAIN OR SHINE!

The BHIS PTA has committed for the 2009/2010 school year to fund raisers which contribute to a healthy body, mind and community.

The Walk A Thon (“WAT”) will involve each grade having a 20-minute period during the school day, to run or walk around a course created at the upper play field. Parent

volunteers will count laps completed by each child.

Students will gather pledges in advance of the event, based on their 20 minute “marathon”, and are asked to bring their pledges to school the day before the event. Prizes will be awarded for number of laps completed and other enthusiasm related accomplishments. The fund raising goal set for the kids is \$10 to \$100 each – whatever is possible – with an all-school goal of \$10,000.

Mr. Otis Campbell, BHIS Gym Teacher, is pleased about the direction of this fund raiser, because it promotes physical activity and the health of our kids. Mr. Campbell also runs the after school sports program, and wants to remind all families and children to be safe when training for the upcoming Walk A Thon. Always be sure to wear your helmet when you ride your bike, use crosswalks when walking to and from school, and drink lots of water and fuel up with fruits, vegetables, and other healthy snacks for peak athletic performance!

Pledge forms and sign up forms for Volunteers for the WAT event will come home with your child in the coming week. Please contact Erin Musser at epoly@aol.com or 206-795-4387 for more information or to sign up as a volunteer.

After School Sports



After School Sports at Beacon Hill International School provides an opportunity for boys and girls in grades 1st thru 5th grade to improve their physical fitness level, work

on social skills, refine and enhance special skills that they may have an interest in working on (i.e., a child wants to improve their basketball, soccer, tennis, or golf skills, or they may want to work on unicycle, or double dutch skills). It is absolutely fabulous to see 1st graders working with and learning from 4th and 5th graders.

Ms. Lori Ton, and her three children ranging in grade levels 6th through 12th, volunteer full time. Former student Kevin Ramirez also volunteers full time; and Dan Ton’s friend Jessica, a sophomore, periodically helps out.

I have seen many examples of current and former students who benefited from their experience in After School Sports. From combating shyness or low self-esteem, to the opportunity to make new friends and improve their overall physical fitness level, this program has helped lots of children, and is fun for all.

Another important benefit of After School Sports is that it serves as a deterrent from possible gang involvement; especially for fifth graders who are prime targets.

After School Sports is funded by the BHIS PTA, and is offered tuition-free to students of BHIS. Fund raisers such as the Walk A Thon help to support this opportunity for our students! Thank you to all for supporting After School Sports through the PTA fund-raisers!

Otis E. Campbell,
Physical Education Teacher



New Student Assignment Plan

There will be a variety of public meetings held across Seattle about the new attendance area boundary maps. These meetings will take place in October and November. Translators will be present. Please attend and make yourself heard! A summary of the new plan and a schedule of these meetings can be found at:

http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/meetings_fall09.pdf

Annual Asbestos Notification 2009/10

In accordance with the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the Seattle Public Schools notifies parents, teachers, and other employees each year of the availability of Asbestos Management Plans and actions the District is taking to maintain asbestos containing materials in its buildings.

The District conducted an initial inspection of all school buildings for the purpose of identifying asbestos-containing building material in 1988 and a management plan detailing the findings of the inspection was developed for each building. Since then, appropriate actions have been taken to ensure that asbestos containing materials are removed, repaired, encapsulated, or enclosed as necessary. A periodic surveillance of asbestos-containing materials is conducted every six months and a complete reinspection of each school building is conducted every three years. The next reinspection is scheduled for summer of 2010.

The Asbestos Management Plan includes the results of each periodic surveillance and the most recent reinspection as well as documentation of asbestos related activities. The Asbestos Management Plan is maintained and

available for review in the administrative office of each school or at the John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence located at 2445 3rd Ave South.

If you would like additional information regarding the District's Asbestos Program contact Troy White at 206-252-0528 or twhite@seattleschools.org.

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

Mon., Oct. 26: Deadline for November newsletter:

bhinternationalnewsletter@gmail.com