

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



November 1, 2008

From Principal Dr. Murphy

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

There is a chill in the air, the mornings are crisp, the leaves are crunching underfoot and it is clear that fall is here. I have always loved the autumn months, the anticipation of winter and the upcoming holiday season. One of the loveliest aspects of being the principal of Beacon Hill International School is the diversity of our students and families. That diversity is highlighted in the varying cultural celebrations that families experience around the winter holidays.

Thanksgiving, for example, is celebrated by many families, but certainly not all. Many of our families have come to this country recently and have not experienced the cultural celebration of thanksgiving that represents the colonists' first foray in this vast land many years ago. Some of our families recognize that the colonists were not the first people to inhabit this country and find the changes brought by the westward expansion a source of sadness, rather than a source of gratitude.

The traditional winter holiday of Christmas is also not celebrated by many of our families. At Beacon Hill we have families who celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanza, as well as other significant cultural holidays. Not even the New Year is universally celebrated. The start of the new calendar year is celebrated at different times, depending on the traditions of the community.

Staff members, individually, celebrate a variety of cultural and traditional holidays. This diversity of students and staff creates a rich environment for all of us at Beacon Hill International School. Together we can educate ourselves and our children about various holiday traditions. In some settings, such as in first grade, the teachers build integrated instructional units around culture and cultural celebrations. It is a pleasure to invite families in to the classrooms to talk about their traditions and share the artifacts of their experiences.

I mention this because it is important to take time, as we approach the holiday season, to recognize that the holidays mean many different things to many members of our community. It is a wonderful time of year, a time when we can greet each other and wish each other well in the languages that we share

and delight in the traditions and languages about which we are learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susie Murphy, Principal

News From the Library

What's been happening in the library:

We are off to a great start this year. The students have been checking out books like mad! We have many, many new books in the library, so please feel free to drop in anytime to check them out with your child. We love to see all the new Beacon Hill families jumping right in and checking out books.

What we're reading...this fall season and to kick off October we have been reading folk tales from around the world kindergarten through fifth grade.

Scholastic Book Fair:

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair was held during conference week and it was our most successful fair to date. We were able to raise over \$1,500 for library books and purchased another \$500 in Scholastic books all due to your generous support. The fair would not have possible without our fabulous volunteers: Doris Fuentes, Reba Blissel, Erin Musser, Shannon McGeoy, Chau Nguyen, Ortencia Santana, Kam Yee, Jan Gokami, Mirna Portales, and Dorthy Graves. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Beacon Hill Public Library Opportunities:

Our local public library has many free programs that are worth checking out.

Homework Help:

Homework Help volunteers will be available to assist your child on a drop-in basis throughout the school year, with the exception of school holidays.

Mondays: 4-6 p.m.

Tuesday: 4 -8 p.m.

Beacon Hill News November 1, 2008

Wednesdays: 6 – 8 p.m.

Thursdays: 4 – 8 p.m.

Creative Writing Club:

Every Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30 the writing club meets to write, discuss and share their writing through December 17th. Please contact Diane Cowles, children's librarian, if you have any questions (206) 684-4711.

Donated Books!

We have had many donated books from Eduardo Galindo's family including a fabulous book on the ocean in Spanish called El Mar. Bobbie Saffle (Dr. Murphy's aunt) has generously donated books on John McCain, *My Dad, John McCain* and Barack Obama, *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope*. As well as two other new favorites *Big Words for Little People* and *Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words: From Accessories to Zany*. Thank you!

Family Check Out

Every Thursday starting the middle of November, families will be able to check out up to five books per week. Please let us know if you're available to help check out families any time on Thursday, especially in the morning.

Happy reading,

Mary Thompson and Virginia Calvo

Calendar of Events

Thurs., Nov. 6: Picture Retakes (Free Dress for those taking their picture)

Tue., Nov. 11: Veterans' Day – NO SCHOOL

Thurs., Nov. 13: Family Literacy Night, Multi-Purpose Room, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

A-Pod to Seattle Art Museum, 9:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Tues., Nov. 18: PTA/Family Involvement Meeting, 6-8pm, Multi-Purpose Room, "Academic Traditions Around the World".

Fri., Nov. 21: C1 & C2 to Momix Lines Ballet Performance, University of Washington

Sat., Nov. 22: After School Chess Club

Tournament at Ingraham H.S.

Tues., Nov. 25: K-Pod to Seattle Children's Theatre, 9:30am-noon

Wed., Nov. 26: A-Pod to Childrens' Theatre, 9:15a.m.-1:30p.m.

1-hr Early Dismissal (2:05p.m.)

FREE DRESS DAY

Thurs. & Fri. Nov. 27, 28: Thanksgiving Holiday, NO SCHOOL

Pre-registration and early sibling assignment applications will be available on:

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

6:00 – 7:30 p.m

Beacon Hill Library

2821 – Beacon Ave South

Or

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Beacon Hill International School

2025 – 14th Ave South

Enrollment Process 2009-2010

Beacon Hill International School
Enrollment Process
2009-2010

Now that we have become an international school, our enrollment has increased and the importance of enrolling on time has increased. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2009 and you would like your child to attend Beacon Hill, you must enroll your child during one of the two on-time enrollment periods.

The first enrollment opportunity is for early sibling assignment. The Sibling Early Assignment process is available only for resident students applying for kindergarten who want to attend the same school as their siblings. The sibling must be a current student at Beacon Hill who will be attending Beacon Hill next year, as well. Sibling Early Assignment Applications are due to the district Enrollment Services offices no later than November 30, 2008.

The second enrollment opportunity is for all resident students who wish to enroll in kindergarten or any other grade, first through fifth. Beginning January 20 and ending February 13th, this is a new and shorter enrollment period. The absolute deadline for on-time enrollment is Friday, February 13th at 8:00 p.m.

Assignment to Beacon Hill International School is based on the district priorities of 1) sibling preference and 2) distance from the school. Families who miss the on-time enrollment deadlines will likely be placed on a waiting list. This year we have a waiting list of over 40 students who were not able to get into our kindergarten program, so it is important for families to enroll on time, if they want their children to attend Beacon Hill International School.

Beacon Hill News November 1, 2008

Enroll By mail:
Enrollment Services
MS 11-161
PO Box 34165
Seattle WA 98124-1165

By fax: (206) 252-0761

In person: At the Enrollment Services Center, the Bilingual Family Center or one of the locations listed above on the appropriate date.

ENROLLMENT SERVICES
AT JOHN STANFORD CENTER
2445 Third Ave South (3rd & Lander)
Tel: 206.252.0760
Fax: 206.252.0761

BILINGUAL FAMILY CENTER
AT AKI KUROSE MIDDLE SCHOOL
3928 South Graham St (Room 105)
Tel: 206.252.7750
Fax: 206.252.7751

Regular Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
www.seattleschools.org

Attendance Policies 2008-2009

Beacon Hill International School

Attendance Policies

2008-2009

Beacon Hill International School follows the attendance policies of Seattle Public Schools. There are some important guidelines for parents to be aware of, however.

Students are expected to be in school every day. Participation in school activities is critical for academic success.

PTA Fall Fundraiser!

If a student is ill and must miss school, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the school and report the absence, as well as the reason for the absence. Absences can be reported by phone. The attendance line is (206) 252-2704.

Explanations of absences can be left on the attendance line in the home language. If a parent forgets to call, a note may be sent to the office the day the child returns to school.

Illnesses, doctor or dentist appointments and family emergencies are excused absences. Other absences (due to transportation issues, a parent's appointment, a short family holiday, such as extended weekends, or the illness of another family member) are unexcused. If a child has 2 or more unexcused absences, parents will be contacted and asked to come in for a truancy meeting with the principal.

On occasion, parents will plan an extended family trip. Such trips are discouraged during the school year, but if the trip must be scheduled during school time, the absences will be unexcused unless the parent submits a request in writing to the principal no later than three days prior to the trip, seeking permission and presenting a plan for maintaining academic progress during the missed days. If a child is absent from school more than 20 consecutive days, he or she will be dropped from enrollment.

In addition, students are expected to come to school on time. Students who are frequently late for school are at a distinct disadvantage. At Beacon Hill International School we treat frequent tardiness with the same seriousness as frequent absences. Parents of students who are tardy on a regular basis will be contacted and asked to come in to school for a truancy meeting with the principal.

Children who are in school and on time have learning opportunities that cannot be made up for through homework or other paper assignments completed at home. On the other hand, children who are sick or who have a fever should stay at home. It is a judgment call to determine if your child is well enough to come to school. Whenever possible, we hope your child will be here, with us!

Thank you to all who participated in the PTA Fall Fundraiser, through Elliott Bay Fundraising Company.

During the two-week sales period, \$16,659.11 in sales were turned in. Our school receives 50% of catalog sales, 45% of frozen sales, 40% of magazine sales, and 100% of donations. Additionally, as an early-signing bonus, we will receive an extra percentage point of the sales and \$500 worth of playground equipment for Mr. Campbell.

Here is how the classes did in sales:

E1	\$2,040.00
K2	1,662.50
C2	1,571.00
B3	1,388.00
E3	1,322.11
A1	1,224.00
K1	1,051.00
K3	1,013.50
D2	877.00
A2	821.00
C1	803.00
B2	646.00
C3	557.00
B1	532.50
D3	507.50
E2	419.50
A3	223.00

Top 10 Sellers:

Izabella Lee, E1	- \$848.00
Melody Truong, E1	- \$555.50
Raylyn Oblero, K2	- \$552.50
Brooks Gokami, C2	- \$510.00
Kaitlyn Sargent, E3	- \$508.50
Midori Sylwester, A1	- \$490.00
Nicholas Rabena, A1	- \$428.00
Ian Kapinos, A2	- \$378.50
Jasmine Hart, D2	- \$344.00
Olivia Apolonio, K3	- \$290.50

Thank you to the following parents who helped with our fundraiser: Jennifer Kapinos, Erin Musser, Reba Blissell, Noah Kent, Ortencia Santana, Crhistina Lee, Shelly Bates, Chau Nguyen. Delivery date of the products will be announced as soon as we hear from the company.

Safety First

When dropping off and picking up your children from school, please do not park in the loading zone on Hill St. To keep the traffic flowing in this area, please do not block the intersection or the cars driving east on Hill St.

Also, please remember not to drop off your children at school before 8:40 a.m., as the school does not provide supervision before this time.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Welcome New Staff

Welcome to the new staff at Beacon Hill International School:

K3 a.m.: Kathy Ritzer

K3 p.m.: Ying Ying Wu

E1 – 1st Grade: Jill Landretti

B1 – 3rd Grade, Hayley Sawyer (sub for Ms. Rose)

B2 – 3rd Grade: Sara Friend (sub for Beth Alexakos until January)

Alfredo Osma Villanueva, Spanish teacher assistant

Kristin Percy Calaff, Bilingual Teacher

Yae-Jae Wang, Mandarin Language Teacher

Jane Finger, Family & Community Partnership Coordinator

Minh Nguyen, Night Custodian

Phon Thach, Playground Supervisor

Julie Thompson, Occupational Therapist

Karen Yang and Isaac Pan – Washington Reading Corps.

CDSA: Thomas Ko

Returning: Kate Poux, Math/Literacy Coach

PTA/Family Involvement Meeting

Please join us at the PTA/Family Involvement Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 6-8pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. The topic will be “Academic Traditions Around the World”.

Roots of Empathy

I am writing to share some exciting news. We have been invited to participate in a program called Roots of Empathy (ROE) this year. This program teaches children about feelings,

Beacon Hill News November 1, 2008

recognizing their own feelings and understanding the feelings of others. Once every three weeks, a baby and his/her parent(s) will visit the classroom. This year, starting in October, we will be using this social skills curriculum in both 5th grades and in C-3(4th grade). A trained ROE Instructor will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow. There will be 27 (ROE) classes and 9 family visits during the school year.

During the family visits, ROE hopes for the mom/dad and baby to feel as comfortable as possible doing whatever the baby needs. As a natural part of growing and developing the baby’s needs and actions may be unpredictable. The children predict and cheer when their ROE baby reaches the “developmental milestones” of the first year. “She can roll over!” “He got his first tooth!” “He can sit up!” “She can crawl!”

The ROE Instructor coaches the children in observing the baby and reading the cues the baby gives as to how the baby is feeling. “Is the baby happy or sad?” “How can you tell?” And we use this discussion as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel: “Do you smile when you’re happy?” “How can you tell if your friend is happy?” Being able to understand how other people are feeling is called empathy. The ROE Instructor also, visits the classroom before and after each Family Visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialized lesson plan for each visit.

For more than ten years across Canada and internationally, thousands of children are learning about respect and how to care for one another with the lessons started through their Roots of Empathy baby.

We see this ROE pilot project as having high potential to be utilized in many other classes in the future. We’re excited that we’ve been chosen to participate in Roots of Empathy and we hope you are too. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me by e-mail or at 206-252-2702.

Onward,
Markos Weiss, Counselor

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteer of the Month** for **October** is **Jennifer Kapinos**. Jennifer helped with the Fall Fundraiser, making food and helping at the luncheon for Microsoft on the United Way Day of Caring at our school and she is the coordinator of the Chess Club that meets on Thursdays afternoons. Jennifer is the mom of Ian in A2.

Thank you, Jennifer, for all your help!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month** for **October** comes to us from the Foster Grandparent Program of the Catholic Community Services. **Luz Angeles** started volunteering in March of 2007, and helps 20 hrs a week in C2, C3, and in the Library.

Thank you, Luz, for all you do for our school!

HEALTHY REMINDERS FROM THE NURSE

Here is some helpful information as we approach flu season:

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

Highly contagious, flu is spread by virus-infected droplets coughed or sneezed into the air. The main symptoms are fever (100-104F), chills, muscle aches, headache, loss of appetite and tiredness. Symptoms may also include cough, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, and weakness.

PREVENTION:

+ **SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT SPREADING GERMS.** Because germs are invisible, it's difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Stress the importance of washing their hands, using lots of soap and water, scrubbing until there are bubbles-before meals and snacks, and after coughing, sneezing or using a tissue.

+**THERE'S A PLACE TO COUGH.** Children know to cover their mouths when they cough, but

a better way not to spread germs is to have them cough into their upper sleeves, not their hands. **+KEEP HANDS AWAY FROM EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH.** Children sometimes put their finger in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help your kids keep their hands away from "germy" areas-eyes, nose and face.

WHEN TO CALL YOUR CHILDS DOCTOR:

The goal for treatment is to relieve aches and pains and to reduce fever. Your doctor may prescribe medication such as acetaminophen or other treatment. Don't give aspirin to your child unless your child's doctor instructs you to do so. It's always better to contact your doctor's office for advise than wait until your child is suffering and visiting the emergency room at 2:00am!

HOME TREATMENT:

People with the flu should rest in bed. Rest helps the body fight the virus. Offer your child plenty of fluids (fever can dehydrate the body). Dress your child in layers. When your child feels warm, you can peel a layer or two, and when her/she feels chilly, layers can be added easily.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

Your child shouldn't attend school until flu symptoms have disappeared. Don't forget, a phone call to school is expected each day your sick child is absent. The attendance # is 252-2704.

Seattle Public Schools Annual Asbestos Notification - 2008

In accordance with the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the Seattle Public Schools is required to notify 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 each school building has occurred every six months since the original inspection and a complete reinspection of each school building is completed every three years. The most recent reinspection was completed in 2007.

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.

Parent/Family Involvement Plan

Beacon Hill School **Parent/Family Involvement Plan** **2007-2008**

Beacon Hill embraces the Seattle School District's commitment to parent involvement as a key to academic success. In order to facilitate this , the school community has developed the following plan:

Beacon Hill will meet statutory requirements by:

- School Wide Parent/School compact translated in our four major languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Tagalog) Compacts will be discussed during our early October "relationship building" conferences so that teachers and parents discuss the commitment behind the compact.

- Regular Parent Communication (translated)
 1. Parent e-mail list with weekly updates of important school happenings
 2. PTA sponsored monthly newsletters
 3. Informational displays in school hallways regarding: Powerful schools programs, Monthly Math challenges, PTA news, volunteer news and recognition
 4. Monthly PTA meetings (translated)
 5. Parent/Community Volunteer coordinator
- Funding parent initiated activities (Positive Parenting classes), after and before school parent/student programs, cultural and educational evenings for families, adult literacy classes, etc.
- Building parent capacity for involvement through trainings, family partnership grant opportunities, joint parent/teacher classes.

Beacon Hill will involve parents in the development and revision of the school's parental involvement plan by:

- Soliciting parent comment through regularly scheduled meetings where the involvement plan is on the agenda. (PTA-monthly, Latino/Family Committee-monthly, Building Leadership Team-biweekly, and other appropriate meetings)
- Title I Parent Advisory Council to advise the Building Leadership Team (BLT) on topics affecting school wide curriculum; parent involvement and parent compact, and other topics affecting school climate. Meets three times a year.

Beacon Hill will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement by

- Membership on the Building Leadership Team where major issues

of educational policy and practice are decided

- Membership on the Title I advisory board where school wide curricular topics are discussed
- Soliciting input at language and affinity group meetings throughout the year

Beacon Hill's annual meeting outlining Title I program requirements and the rights of parents will be held in conjunction with an All School Open House on September 25, 2007. This evening meeting is being widely publicized by classroom announcements, translated flyers, Newsletter announcement, PTA sponsorship of the evening. The agenda will include;

- School Wide Curriculum Overview
- District/State Academic Standards
- Overview of School Wide Assessments
- Expectations for student performance on assessments
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Beacon Hill's Parent compact be introduced and will be discussed at Parent/Teacher "relationship" building conferences in early October.

Beacon Hill will hold regularly scheduled parent/teacher conferences.

- October 3-11 Relationship building conferences to access parent's perspective and knowledge of their child.
- Late November conferences focusing on children who may be at risk of not meeting standards
- Parent meetings any time throughout the school year as requested by the parent, teacher or specialists working with the child
- Parent requests will be directed to their child's teacher, the principal, or other bodies as directed by the concern.

Beacon Hill will provide written reports of scores to parents by:

- Letter sent by the Seattle District to K-3 families at the end of the year detailing performance on the DRA
- Distribution of WASL scores at October conferences giving families an opportunity to discuss the meaning of their child's performance and strategies to improve performance
- WLPT reports sent to parents of children served by bilingual services

Beacon Hill teaching staff has been certified as Highly Qualified. All new hires must meet Title I requirements, because Beacon Hill has been designated a Title I school. Beacon Hill follows Title I guidelines in notifying parents in the event of a long term substitute who may not meet the criteria of Highly Qualified.

Activities by Beacon Hill school to help parents understand academic requirements include:

- Trainings organized by language group on how to communicate with your child's teacher and how to use the conferences in the most effective way possible
- Workshops on the WASL – how to help your child prepare
- Trainings on how to read the report card
- Translated reports on student progress in addition to report cards
- Workshops to teach parents how to set up academic routines and positive learning environments at home

Beacon Hill's Title I team provides regular and on-going training and support to all staff in communicating with parents and engaging parents as equal partners in their child's education.

In addition to all the activities listed above Beacon Hill has developed over several years the following opportunities for parent involvement in the school.

1. Parent Volunteer Coordinator whose explicit job description is to

encourage parent volunteer activities and to promote communication between school and parents.

2. Parents serve as volunteers throughout the school (tutors, library helpers, chaperones, lunch room helpers, facilitators of before and after school programs, special events coordinators).
3. Parent/Family All school programs
 - Two Family Math Nights in cooperation with Adventures in Math
 - Two Family Literacy Nights
 - Grade Specific Open houses
 - Scholastic Book Fairs
4. School-wide cultural celebrations representing diverse cultural traditions, such as Day of the Child (El Dia del Nino) and Lunar New Year
5. Kindergarten Student and Parent Literacy Program offered one hour daily to Spanish speaking students and parents.
6. Latino Family Committee activities, including once a month steering committee meetings to plan monthly meetings of the entire Latino Committee.
7. Language specific support for families whose home language is other than English (this includes interpretation of Parent/teacher conferences, SIT meetings, IEP meetings, etc.)
8. Full time Family Support Worker who helps Families with all needs and tracks families whose children are at risk of not meeting standard.
9. Parent borrowing privileges for school library. Books and books on tape sets available in multiple languages.

10. Parent involvement and leadership on the Building Leadership Team, PTA Executive Board and Latino Family Steering Committee, Title I Advisory Group. Parent involvement in Safety Committee, Before and After school child care process and parent representation on staff/teacher hiring teams.

11. Parent involvement and support for sister school project in Nicaragua.

12. Parent involvement component in all extended day tutoring experiences.

This plan will be available in the front office. Copies will be distributed to the Building Leadership Team, PTA Board, Latino Committee, and the Title I Parent Advisory Board.

Beacon Hill School has a strong commitment to parent involvement. With a diverse linguistic, socio-economic, racial, cultural and ethnic community, the school strives to welcome, reach out to and include all families as equal partners.

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
11-24-08	12-1-08
1-27-09	2-2-09
2-23-09	3-2-09
3-27-09	4-6-09
4-27-09	5-4-09
5-22-09	6-1-09