

NEWS from Beacon Hill International School

A World of Learners

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Beacon Hill International School

2025 14th Avenue South (206) 252-2700

Mr. Kelly Aramaki, Principal

Allison Delong, PTA President

November 1, 2011



PTA NEWS

Dear BHIS Families,

What a great year we're off to. Between this year's Curriculum Nights where grade 1-5 families got to meet their kids' regular teachers, and the PTA "Speed Meeting" where families got to meet their kids' "special" teachers (art, P.E., library) and other volunteers and staff – I feel like families have had a really good chance to get to know a lot more of what BHIS is all about. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held Thanksgiving week and Kindergarten Curriculum night is scheduled for December 7th, so there is more learning yet to happen.

Our children's school experience is what we help them make of it, and each parent / family member sets the tone for what's important. From making sure your child gets quiet time and support for homework, healthy meals at the start, middle and end of their day, and a good night's sleep so they can be ready to learn at school, it feels like a full time job just getting them there.

On top of that we need to limit their screen time, get them to spend enough time reading, and encourage physical activity to keep their bodies healthy.

And we're expected to volunteer on top of all that?? Volunteering is important to me because I know my child will learn from my example (as I learned from my parents' example), and I want my skills to benefit my child's school and our community. Volunteering is most valuable when you put your energy toward something that is important to you. If you don't feel the passion, the rewards won't be as great.

So while I encourage you to get involved, it's important to find the right fit. Our school's families and community are passionate about many things: bicycle and road safety, academics, tutoring others, gardening, art, bilingual education, parks, transportation, the culture of their homeland, giving blood, coaching team sports, supporting the fight against debilitating diseases, politics, and so much more.

Some of us have some extra time, but most of us don't. You'll read in every newsletter about opportunities to get involved, and you'll see many names recognized for their efforts. At the end of the day I think it's worthwhile for your child to see you making a difference in an area that you care about. I hope that will be this school or our shared community.

Whatever it is, I thank you for all that you do to support your child's education and our community.

Allison Delong,

BHIS PTA President 2011/2012

Read-A-Thon November 4th!

Our first big fundraiser of the year, the Read-A-Thon, may well be underway as you are reading this! Did you forget to donate? Did you forget to pick up that promised check from Aunt Marie? Never fear, it's not too late! You can still bring your donation to the front desk in an envelope labeled "Read-A-Thon."

Please make checks payable to Beacon Hill PTA (not BHIS PTA as envelopes state). Classes with the most participation will earn the

chance for fun prizes such as an extra free dress day.

This is one of our two biggest fund raisers of the year (the other is the Spring Walk-A-Thon) and the goal is \$15,000. Whether your child raises \$10 or \$250, their participation in helping support school services is a good start toward a life time of community service.

Contact parent Heidi Gans – Rothmeyer with questions: hbgans@yahoo.com!



Volunteer Opportunities

There's always an opportunity to volunteer! Contact Nancy Fujimoto at (206) 252-2735 or nkfujimoto@seattleschools.org for information about existing needs. There are many ways you can make a difference at your child's school!

- We would love to re-create the **Adopt-a-Street** litter team for the school vicinity. You could be the captain! Talk to Allison Delong for ideas allisondelong@yahoo.com.
- **Classroom Directory Coordinators** - There is a blank form in 6 languages on the school website (PTA tab) to help you create a directory for your child's grade. You will likely use it for years to come!
- **Classroom Volunteers** – see your child's teacher to schedule.
- **5th Grade China Trip** Grades K-2 Coordinators – 3rd Grade parents are working on the first-ever BHIS China trip for when their kids reach 5th grade. K-2 parents may want to create a similar plan.

The above are just a few ideas that may need a champion to get them going. You may have other ideas for improvements to BHIS.

Create the change you want to see!

Volunteers of the Month

The Family Volunteer of the Month for October is **Raji Venkateswaran**. Raji is the mom of 3rd grader, **Jyotika Chung**, and has volunteered in the classroom regularly since Jyotika was in kindergarten! Her husband, **Tai Chung**, also volunteers at our school too. Thank you, Raji, for all your help at BHIS!

The Community Volunteer of the Month for October first came to us last spring from the University of Washington. **Stephen Narita** graduated from the UW and is back again this fall to volunteer in Kelly Toland's A2 class. Stephen is also applying to the JET program and hopes to be accepted to teach English in Japan. Thank you, Stephen for all your assistance in A2!

Library News

Greetings from the library! It's so wonderful to see so many families coming in and checking out books. Before school and after school are the best times for family library check out. During the school day I am often with a class or maintaining the library.

Book Fair!

We will be having our annual Scholastic Book Fair during the school day on **Wednesday, November 16th, Thursday, November 17th and Friday, November 18th**

- Every morning 8:30 – 8:55
- Lunch 11:30 – 12:40
- Every afternoon 3:00 – 4:00

And, during parent-teacher conferences **Monday, November, 21st and Tuesday, November 22nd from 9:00 to 3:00**

Please come in and support our Book Fair, as all proceeds go right back to the library to purchase more books. Your child will be bringing home a flyer with a few of the books that will be available at the fair. Also, **if you are free to volunteer any of these times** please contact me or our volunteer coordinator, Nancy Fujimoto.

*Note: Students will be able to preorder Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever

Book Donations:

Many thanks to **Ford Johnson** who continues to donate his favorite books to our library. The latest donations are from the Ranger's Apprentice series and fill out the books that were missing from our collection (books 8-10 will arrive as he finishes them). Also, we have a little angel, **Bobbie Saffle**, Mrs. Murphy's aunt who continues to donate wonderful books to our library. Some of her donations include: nonfiction books about Emergency Vehicles, Trains and Digging Machines, Andrew Clements' new chapter book Trouble Maker, and very large number of biographies.



Seattle Public Library: Author Readings

This Friday, November 4th at the Central Library from 7 – 8 p.m. John Flanagan, author of "The Ranger's Apprentice" series will read from "The Outcasts," his new series set in the world of Skandians and Araluens.

Sincerely – Your Library Team,
Mary Thompson and Virginia Calvo

Getting Global / Giving Back

This past summer I had an opportunity to travel to Balgüe, Nicaragua and visit our sister school for the second time. My Spanish is a little bit better and I was thinking about a project that would connect my 5th grade class with 5th graders at Balgüe Primeria. I had heard of a 3rd grade class on Bainbridge Island that created a calendar to

raise money for programs on Ometepe Island. Why not create a calendar together? I presented the idea to Maestra Irma the 5th grade teacher; she and her students were very interested to participate. For the next five days the students came to school two hours early to research animals near their homes and to create beautiful pictures for the calendar. The Balgüe students were eager and proud to work on a project together with my students from their sister school in Seattle.

During the second week of school at BHIS, I shared pictures of Balgüe, the school and students with my class. My students were excited about creating a project together with students from our sister school. At the end of September, my students had the opportunity to meet Maestra Irma when she was visiting our school. My fifth graders had many questions for her about Balgüe and her students.



Maestra Irma at BHIS

One of our goals is to raise money to buy a white board and install two doors to the new 5th grade classroom in Balgüe. After school students must place chairs blocking the classroom doors to prevent animals from entering in the night. Maestra Irma is unable to leave any teaching materials in her room for the next day. We will also use funds to continue to support the Balgüe Library and future Sister School projects at BHIS.

It is our goal at BHIS to nurture global citizens. This calendar project has united two fifth grade classes in creating a beautiful calendar that Balgüe and BHIS students will sell to support education in both countries.

As our students' knowledge of the world increases so does their understanding of the difficulties other students face around the world. This project has taught our students about the power we all have to give back and make a difference.

- Pre-Sale Event now! Buy a calendar for everyone on your holiday list!
- \$10 for each calendar.
- Look for presale forms in the office and return to Ms. Furuta.
- Thank you for supporting our students in their efforts to give back!

--By **Heather Chavez**, 5th grade teacher

Box Tops and Receipts

Please save your **Hilltop Red Apple receipts** for our school! Our BHIS PTA will receive 1% of the total.

Also, please save your **BoxTops for Education logos**. Our PTA will receive .10 for each logo.

Please deposit your receipts and BoxTops in the containers in the main office. Thank you to **Connie Cho**, for submitting our receipts and BoxTops. (Please see attached flyer for the products that have the BoxTops.)

School Website

www.BeaconHillInternationalSchool.org has lots of useful information including Staff contact info, links to Principal Aramaki's newsletters, educational web links, and much more. Check it out and remind your friends.

Contact parent-volunteer webmaster, **Boun Tounalom**, if you have suggestions for additions at BHISBT@hotmail.com.

Calendar of Events

Fri., Nov. 4: Read-A-Thon – all day

Sun., Nov. 6: Daylight Savings Time ends

Nov. 7 – 10: Advanced Learning Testing, 9am – 3pm

Tues., Nov. 8: Election Day – **please vote!**

Wed., Nov. 9: Tile Glazing Party, 4:30 – 7:30pm in MPR

Thurs., Nov. 10: Picture Retakes, morning.

Fri., Nov. 11: Veterans Day – NO SCHOOL

Mon., Nov. 14: Book-It Theater performs, 9:30am for K-2nd grades, 11:25am for 3rd-5th grades.

Tues, Nov. 15: Latino Family Meeting in MPR

Nov. 16 – 23: Book Fair in Library

Thurs., Nov. 17: Parent Conference evening schedule

Fri., Nov. 18: Free Dress Day

Nov. 21 – 23: Parent/Teacher Conferences – No school for students

Nov. 24 & 25: Thanksgiving Holiday – No school

Mon., Nov. 28: Newsletter deadline: bhisnews@yahoo.com

Wed., Dec. 7: Kindergarten Curriculum Night, 6-8pm in classrooms

Mon., Dec. 12: RIF all day

Tues., Dec. 13 & Thurs., Nov. 15: Last day of Powerful Schools After School classes – Fall session.

Fri., Dec. 16: 2:00 Early Dismissal, Free Dress Day

Dec. 19 – Jan. 2, 2012 – Winter Break, NO SCHOOL

Back to School on Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

The deadline for the December newsletter is Monday, November 28th. Please send your submissions to the newsletter editor, **Curtis Bonney** at: BHISnews@yahoo.com.