

Beacon Hill International School News

A World of Learners

Published by the Staff and PTA of

Beacon Hill International School

2025 14th Avenue South (206) 252-2700

Dr. Susie Murphy, Principal

Allison Delong, PTA President

November 2, 2010



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

Beacon Hill International School has two sister school relationships – one with Fauto José Castillo Gonzalez School (formerly Balgüe Primaria) in the village of Balgüe on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua and the other with Chongqing Renmin Primary, a school in one of the largest cities in China, Chongqing.

The relationship with Fauto José Castillo Gonzalez School in Nicaragua has been in place for close to ten years. On the other hand, our relationship with Chongqing Renmin Primary School in Chongqing began just last spring.

We take our sister school relationships very seriously. The Asia Society has established a rubric that describes aspects of a sister school partnership. They suggest thoughtful and regular communication as critical to deepening connections between the schools. Communication can occur in many different ways, such as visits between staff members, teacher exchanges, professional sharing between staff, technological connections and, even, when appropriate, student and family travel to visit sister school sites. We are planning to incorporate all of these aspects in our relationships with both of our sister schools.

We have had delegations of adults, staff and

friends of Beacon Hill traveling to Balgüe, Nicaragua at least once a year for the past eight years. In addition, this fall, for the first time, we were able to bring a small delegation, the principal and lead kindergarten teacher, to Seattle to visit Beacon Hill. We have established email links and teachers in both Balgüe and Beacon Hill have exchanged student work and made very real classroom connections. We are currently planning another delegation for this coming summer.

Last spring, the assistant principal of our sister school in Chongqing, China, was able to visit Seattle and spend time at our school. Now it is our turn. As you are reading this, in early November, I will be in China, visiting Chongqing Renmin Primary. It is very possible that Ms. Wu, our kindergarten and first grade teacher will also be visiting the school and connecting with the students and faculty in significant ways.

There is much to learn from our international partnerships. Fauto José Castillo Gonzalez is a small village school of about 265 students, kindergarten through sixth grade. All students come from the village where Spanish is spoken exclusively. Students in Balgüe attend school for half a day. Classrooms are used for primary students in the morning and intermediate students in the afternoons. Many classrooms have dirt floors, no classrooms have electricity and the playground is an uneven dirt surface, often cohabited by

chickens and other rural animals who are there to forage for food.

Chongqing Renmin Primary, on the other hand, has about 5,000 students. The school is situated in Chongqing, a municipality of over 14 million people. Located in this urban center, Chongqing Renmin Primary serves students from Chongqing, but also welcomes international students from all over the world. In addition to studying in Chinese, students begin to learn English in the primary grades. I will be able to share more about our sister school when I return from China. If you want to know about Chongqing, however, you can talk with Xu Juan, our Mandarin Guest Teacher. She is from Chongqing, and has been at Beacon Hill teaching students in third, fourth and fifth grade Mandarin since 2009. Xu Juan helped us set up our sister school relationship.

In spite of the obvious differences between Beacon Hill and our partner schools in Nicaragua and China, we also share many of the same concerns. Parents and staff work extremely hard in all three schools to educate the children and to help them be academically successful. Together we can connect across the miles, learn how to support our children and develop students who are truly global citizens.



Sincerely,

Dr. Susie Murphy
Principal

Lost and Found

Please check out the Lost and Found barrel in the main office, by the men's room. These lost

jackets, zippered hoodies, tops, gloves, etc. will be needed with the cold weather upon us!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences at BHIS are scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, Nov. 18: 3:40 – 8:00pm (evening conferences)
- Monday, Nov. 22: 9:00am – 3:50pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 23: 9:00am – 3:50pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 24: 9:00am – 12noon

There is no school for students the week of Nov. 22-26 to allow for Parent/Teacher Conferences and Thanksgiving Holiday. (Middle School and High School students do not have conferences and dismiss one hour early on Nov. 24)

Volunteers of the Month

The **Family Volunteer of the Month** for **October** is Lee Thai, who volunteers in K1 on Monday mornings, and in E3 on Wednesday mornings. Mrs. Thai is the mother of Anthony (K1/K3) and Andrew (E3) Tang. Thank you, Mrs. Thai, for all your help in the classroom!

The **Community Volunteer of the Month** for **October** is Jean Emily. Ms. Emily is a friend of Ms. Baharloo, and this is her 2nd year of volunteering in E2. She also helps in the Nurse's office. Thank you, Ms. Emily, for all your help at BHIS!

Thank you for the supplies!

Thank you to the following who donated copier paper and school supplies to BHIS.

RR Donnelly, Beacon Hill Apartments, Volunteer Park Seventh Day Adventist Church, Tishman Speyer, Bobbie Saffle, the family of Daniel Lee, and the family of Michael and Alex Duong.

Math Fest

MathFest – Helping Elementary Students Succeed in Math



MathFest showcases students having fun and mastering math – and showing those students and their families that the community supports their achievements.

Thursday, November 4, 2010 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Rainier Community Center

Food Drive

Our school is having a **Food Drive** from **November 1st – 12th**. The drop-off area will be in the school library. Gift cards to grocery stores will also be very much appreciated. Please give the gift cards to our Family Support Worker, Natalie Long.

The food will be distributed to BHIS families the week of November 15th – 19th.

Calendar of Events

Mon., Nov. 1: Food drive kick-off in the library.
Tues., Nov. 2: Kindergarten Parent Meeting, 6-7:30pm in the Library. Potluck starts at 6:00pm. Election Day – **Please vote!**
Wed., Nov. 3: B2 & B3 to Salmon Hatchery in Issaquah, 10:20am-1:00pm. Vision Screening with School Nurse. Chess Club starts today, 3:25-4:25pm in B2.
Thurs., Nov. 4: Picture Retake Day in the morning.
Friday, Nov. 5: READATHON !!
Sun., Nov. 7: Daylight Savings Time ends. Set your clocks back 1 hour.
Thurs., Nov. 11: Veterans Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Fri., Nov. 12: Food drive ends.
November 15 – 19: Penny Harvest
Thurs., Nov. 18: Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:40-8:00pm
Fri., Nov. 19: Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. Free Dress Day

Nov. 22 – 24: Parent/Teacher Conferences – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Nov. 25 & 26: Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL

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

Thurs., Dec. 9: Family Literacy Night, 6-8pm in MPR

Tues. & Thurs. Dec. 14 & 16: Powerful Schools Afterschool Program Fall session ends

Fri., Dec. 17: 2:25pm Early Dismissal

Dec. 20-31: Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

Return to school on Monday, January 3, 2011

Annual Asbestos Notification

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 most recent reinspection was completed during the 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.

- PTA News -

We greatly appreciate the **130+ PTA members** who have already joined via individual or family memberships, and love that so many staff members are official PTA members this year!!

Meeting dates are posted on the PTA bulletin board in the main hallway, on the website, and reminders will go home in multiple languages the week before each meeting. Please mark your calendars now to make sure you don't miss any!

1/25 "Dream" Meeting: potluck
3/22 Dia de los Niños Meeting: potluck
6/7 Arts Meeting: potluck

The PTA offers several fund raisers scheduled throughout the year. The list is posted on the PTA bulletin board and on the website so you know what to expect.

We strive to provide value with fund raisers such as the t-shirt, Chinook Book, and tamale sales. The Read-A-Thon and Walk-A-Thon are designed to empower the kids to raise funds in a way that is fun and healthy for their minds and bodies.

If it's too much to keep track of, the Annual Fund allows families to just write one check per year – especially helpful if your company offers matching funds. Whether your annual contribution is \$10 or \$1,000 – we appreciate whatever contribution you are able to make.

Your contributions help make 4th grade music lessons possible (the district only funds enough for 5th grade), allow all 5th graders to participate in the year-end camping weekend, fund half of the Volunteer Coordinator's part-time salary, reimburse full-time teachers for up to \$100/year in classroom supplies, fund mini-grants for extra field trips and performances, and fund the after-school sports program – all important "extras" that our public school district budget is not able to provide for.

Thank you for all that you do to contribute toward your membership in the PTA, and other volunteer opportunities at the school. As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child"

and all of our families share the work and joy of raising our community of children.

PTA Open Board Positions

It's never too late to step up to be involved. We have a great, hard working team, and would love to have you join!

Open – Co-Treasurer
Open - Nominating Chair
Open – Language Outreach Representatives

Contact any PTA Officer for information at <http://beaconhillinternationalschool.org>.

We are also seeking a CPA to help with this year's tax filing, or future year tax filings. Please contact Treasurer Jennifer Matter. jennifer_matter@hotmail.com if you or someone you know can help!

Read-A-Thon Nov 5th!



The **Read-A-Thon** will take place on **Friday November 5th!** Students, teachers and volunteers are invited to wear their pajamas to school, but please leave stuffed animals at home to avoid having them get lost.

Donation envelopes are due Thursday, November 4th, but will be accepted on the 5th if there are any late donations that come in.

Contrary to what the collection envelope says, please make checks payable to **Beacon Hill PTA**.

Chinook Books on Sale!

The BHIS PTA is still selling **Chinook Books**. Only **\$20** each for a coupon book full of savings! The Chinook Book contains many coupons for eco-friendly goods and services. The books can be purchased from PTA Vice President **Jaime Cárdenas**, or Volunteer Coordinator **Nancy Fujimoto** in the Volunteer Room in the mornings. Please make checks payable to **Beacon Hill PTA**.

T-Shirts

The order was submitted to the supplier and we plan to have shirts delivered right after Thanksgiving holiday.

P.E.A.C.E. of Mind

The Beacon Hill PTA hosted a *P.E.A.C.E. of Mind* Safety Meeting on October 26th. About 50 BHIS parents and staff attended. Speaker Kim Estes talked about:

- How to teach our children to identify the “safe adults” in their lives.
- How to educate our kids about the appropriate roles adults should have in their lives so that kids can learn to recognize and set appropriate boundaries.
- How to remind kids that bathing suit areas are private.
- How to encourage open conversation every day with your kids so they feel comfortable listening to themselves, and coming to you when they get that “uh oh” feeling that some experience they had didn’t feel quite right.

P.E.A.C.E. of Mind teaches affordable seminars to many PTA groups, preschools, churches, parents groups and more. Several parents commented that the educational information presented in a “non-scary” way was really helpful.

Go to: <http://pomwa.org> for child safety tips or to subscribe to a “Tip of the Month” email.

Nov 4th Arts Auction & Dinner

The first annual **Celebrating Connections** dinner and arts auction will be held on Thursday, November 4th, 5:00pm-9:00pm at the Fisher Pavilion, Seattle Center.

This event will be a major fundraiser that will benefit all students attending our international schools and provides essential support for the arts at these schools.

Dinner will be hosted by Caspars. Individual tickets are \$75 each, with a staff rate of \$35. At least one “BHIS parent table” is nearly full – you can contact allisondelong@yahoo.com or isungi@gmail.com if you want to join us or start your own table.

BHIS’s Art Specialist, Mary Howard Logel, is leading the collections efforts at BHIS for donated auction items. Please contact her if you can contribute gift certificates for restaurants or services, a weekend at a cabin or condo, a sailing trip, gift baskets, a special home cooked meal, etc.

High quality desserts for the “Dessert Dash” can also be donated.

More information can be found at: www.beaconhillinternationalschool.org.

Vote November 2nd



Don’t forget to mail your ballot in by November 2nd. There are many important initiatives on this ballot including a **School Levy** which would supplement the existing operating budget for the school district. The result for home owners of a \$400,000 house would be a \$48 per year increase in property tax.

Newsletter Dates and Deadlines

Deadline for November newsletter: **Monday, November 28th**. Send submissions to Curtis Bonney at BHISnews@yahoo.com