



Dear BHIS Families,

September 7, 2011

Welcome to Beacon Hill International School (BHIS)! The PTA is excited to have you and your family as a part of our community. As you walk through the school and meet other families, you will find that BHIS is a community of diverse cultures and languages. We are proud of our diversity and the richness that it brings to our children's education. The classroom is not the only place where your child will learn. Here at BHIS, interaction with peers and exposure to other cultural experiences will also be part of your child's learning experience.

As parent of a 3rd grader, and this year's President of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), I would like to extend an invitation to experience BHIS by becoming involved in our school community. There are many ways to get involved. You, your spouse, or even a grandparent can participate in the PTA, donate funds, chaperone fieldtrips, volunteer in the classrooms, or at school events. You will find lots of related information at www.BeaconHillInternationalSchool.org (our website designed and maintained by talented BHIS parents!) Our part-time Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Fujimoto manages a family email list that often lists volunteer opportunities and provides reminders about school events. Email Nancy at nkfujimoto@yahoo.com to be added to her list so you can stay informed.

I'm so pleased to note that we have a full PTA Board this year, but there remain **many** family involvement opportunities such as the Building Leadership Team ("BLT"), PTA Meeting Translators (we have parent translators for Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Russian – if you are fluent in English and a different home language, we would love to add you to the list for PTA meetings!), Classroom "Pod Parents" (a new idea), neighborhood Litter Teams (also new) and more. To find a place where your skills are needed, get in touch with Nancy Fujimoto (her office is near the main entry), any PTA Board Member, or your child's teacher. It sometimes takes a few efforts to find the spot that feels right and I hope you will try different areas as each will help you learn something different about the school. It's also never too soon to get in touch with parents Heidi Gans for the Fall Read-A-Thon, or Erin Musser for the Spring Walk-A-Thon where the most helping hands are needed.

If you are interested in becoming a PTA member or have any questions, please contact me or any of the officers listed on the bulletin board or website. We also invite you to attend the six evening PTA Family Involvement / General Membership Meetings in the multi-purpose room ("MPR") which will be held throughout the year. Most meetings start with shared potluck dinners, and those meetings that don't feature student performances offer free childcare. Dates and details will be published on the school website, in the newsletter, via the family email list, and on the PTA bulletin board in the entry hallway. Translated notices will also go home with students. Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 27, 2010 6pm-8pm**. We will have free childcare, and you will get a chance to meet families, staff, and the PTA team. We hope all families will be able to join us, and we have a special fun activity planned.

Again, welcome to Beacon Hill International School! I hope that you find BHIS to be an enriching environment which supports the academic needs of your child. However you choose to participate at BHIS, I strongly encourage you to **GET involved!** The success of the school and our children requires collaborative efforts between the parents, teachers and staff members. **Remember that the example we set will be the one our children follow.**

Sincerely,

Allison DeLong
BHIS PTA President 2011/2012