

Newsletter

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/23-27/09 Diversity Week
- 3/9-13/09 AP Exam Registration
- 3/18/09 Belmont Unplugged
- 3/25/09 Band & Orchestra Spring Concert
- 3/28/09 Asian Culture Night
- 3/31/09 MCAS English Composition Sessions A & B
- 4/1/09 Choral Spring Concert
- 4/4/09 ACT at BHS
- 4/10/09 Early Release Day

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- Parent Education Series
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- Foundation for Belmont Education
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From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to begin by congratulating Senior Anji Tang, who was recognized by the College Board and the Siemens Foundation as the recipient of one of two National Siemens AP Awards. Anji qualified for this award by having the highest number of perfect scores on eight Advanced Placement math and science tests of any female student in the entire country. The award also includes a \$5,000 scholarship. This truly is an incredible honor!

I am also pleased to announce that Belmont High School has been named one of 50 na-

tional winners of the 2009 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement. The award includes a \$1,000 grant to support math and science education at BHS.

Our Winter Sports season is winding down. I would like to congratulate all of our athletes on their seasons. The Boys' Basketball, Ski, Swim, Boys' and Girls' Track and Wrestling Teams will continue their seasons in the state playoffs after the conclusion of February vacation. I encourage you to come out and cheer on our teams in their respective tournaments.

Finally, as I am sure that you are well aware, the develop-

-Michael M. Harvey, Ed.D., Principal

ment of the town and school budgets for next year are in full swing. As is the case with the general economic climate, the outlook for the school department's budget is bleak at best as we are projecting a shortfall of at least \$2.5 million for next year. This means that in order to provide exactly the same services that we currently do, the school budget will need to grow by an additional \$2.5 million for 2009-2010.

In November, the district's administrators and I began meeting regularly to develop a plan to address the shortfall, and for the past month Superintendent Aubin has

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PTO Notes

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Warm greetings to everyone in this new year. At this point the school year is half over. I suspect that for every student/parent/teacher who wonders where the time went, another is asking "Is it June yet?" It continues to amaze me how quickly we move between semesters, from one sports season to the next, from one wonderful artistic production to another, and on and on.

Acting Superintendent Dr.

Pat Aubin and Financial Director Dr. Gerry Missal will make the annual budget presentation to the middle school and high school community on Thursday, February 26th. The presentation will take place at the Chenery Middle School at 7:30 pm. This is an important meeting as it will provide information about the state of funding for our schools, a topic of utmost importance to all parents. Dr. Aubin will also provide a schedule of upcoming meetings with the Selectmen, the Warrant Committee and the

-Anne Lougee, PTO President

School Committee, all excellent opportunities for residents to have a voice in decisions about the allocation of the town's financial resources. I urge everyone to attend.

All members of the PTO are asked to attend a brief Business Meeting prior to Dr. Aubin's presentation on the 26th. You need not be a Board Member to attend. We will meet at 7:00 pm in the Chenery auditorium and use the half hour to review

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News From the Fine Arts Department

Upcoming High School Fine Arts Department Events

February 11 ~ Solo and Ensemble Concert
7:00pm ~ BHS Auditorium

March 6-7 ~ MMEA Eastern District Jr. High Music Festival (includes grade 9)
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

March 12 -14 ~ Performing Arts Company presents *Les Miserables*
7:00pm on March 12 & 13;
3:00pm & 8:00pm on March 14 ~ BHS Auditorium
Admission ~ \$15 adults; \$10 students and seniors

March 25 ~ BHS Band & Orchestra Spring Concert
7:00pm ~ BHS Auditorium

March 26-28 ~ MMEA All-State Music Festival
Boston

April 1 ~ BHS Spring Choral Concert
7:00pm ~ BHS Auditorium

Belmont High School Art Students Win Major Awards in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards Program

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts is proud to announce the results of the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards competition for Belmont High School. The students' artwork is adjudicated by a panel of art educators from across the Commonwealth. Students' art work that meets the criteria for excellence is awarded a Gold Key, Silver Key or Honorable Mention. In addition, five high school students in the Commonwealth were selected to receive the American Vision Award- best submissions in Massachusetts.

Ten Belmont High School students received eleven awards in the competition. In the painting category, Jerry Suh received an American Vision Award and a Gold Key. Lyle Analetto, Linlin Cui, Anna Dooley, Sarinne Ghazarian, Bruna Pino, Mariel Strauch, and Rose Wu each received Gold Keys for their paintings. In the photography category, Sarah Fennel received a Silver Key, and Bridget Dooley and Sharif Durzi received Honorable Mention awards.

The art awards, started in 1950, are an affiliate of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. High school students in grades 7-12 and home-schooled artists enter works in ceramics and glass, computer art, design, digital imagery, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and video and film. In addition, high school seniors enter art and photography portfolios.

This year the judges selected the winners from 3,560 entries from 398 public, private, and parochial Massachusetts schools. Awards will be presented today at John Hancock Hall, and the winning pieces will be on display at the Massachusetts State Transportation Building at 10 Park Plaza through Feb. 23. The exhibit will feature the 295 pieces that won the Gold Key, the top award, and the 488 Silver Key winners. Belmont High School students received 30% of all gold key awards, the most ever awarded to any Massachusetts school district in a single year. This was a record for Belmont High School, as well.

In May, American Vision Award and Gold Key winners' artwork will be exhibited in New York City for the national competition.

Students in BHS's Modern Actor class receive awards at the Emerson College High School Drama Festival

On Saturday, January 31st, the students in Ms. Smith's The Modern Actor class performed *Blues* by Jerome McDonough at the Emerson College High School Drama Festival. Their participation in the festival provided the students with an opportunity to perform in front of their peers from other schools, and Emerson College theatre education faculty members. At the conclusion of the festival, the class received the Outstanding Ensemble Award. In addition, three BHS students were recognized with Excellence in Acting awards: Chanel Ashley, Roberto Gassman, and Seth Ripman. Other students in the class (and in the cast) were Angeli- que Bradford, Elena Hill, Taylor Hicks, Rob Knoll, Katelyn Joyal, Jack Lowrie, Erin McGlashen, and Megan Rodriguez. Holly Sverdrup, the only participant not enrolled in the class, but is the BHS Performing Arts Company's technical theater guru, was the stage manager for this production. All students who are enrolled in *The Modern Actor* had rolls in the play; *Blues* is one of their class projects. Six other schools participated in the festival: Westwood High School, Snowden International School, Wellesley High School, Boston Arts Academy, Brookline High School and Wayland High School.

Belmont High School Music Students Achieve State-Wide and Regional Recognition

We are proud to announce that 11 students from Belmont High School were accepted to participate in the 2009 Massachusetts Music Educators All-State Music Festival. Auditions were held on Saturday, January 24th at Algonquin Regional High School in Northborough. Students who were accepted into the MMEA All-State Chorus are Leslie Baker, Gabe Compagnone, Sam Efthim, Jack Lowrie, Gary Nielsen, Emily Regier, Jacob Scharfman, Jang Yoon, and Yong Yoon. Narissa Gogos, Jerway Chang, Ben Meyer, Janson Pan, Ye-Eun Sung, and Leslie Wolf were accepted into the All-Sate Orchestra.

Approximately 1000 students representing over 250 public and private high schools audition for the MMEA All-

State Music Festival, of which about 450 are selected for the honors band, orchestra and chorus. The students will be attending rehearsals on March 26-27 under the batons of nationally recognized conductors. The festival will culminate in a gala concert at Symphony Hall, Boston on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The All-State Music Festival is held in conjunction with the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Annual In-Service Teachers Conference.

In addition, after auditions that were held on January 31st at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, eighteen 9th grade students were accepted for participation in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Eastern District Music Festival. The students who were accepted into the festival are: (Band) Alice Cui, Sara Kayyali, and Malcolm Perkins; (Orchestra) Thad Carlile, Hayley Furmaniuk, and Rebecca Powers; (Treble Chorus) Rosemary Baratta, Maggie Davis, Acadia DeAtley, Katie

Fallon, Sienna Haines, Rachel Polansky, and Hannah Silverfine; (Mixed Chorus) Kelly Baker, Louise Brownsberger, Leyla Dincer, and Robert Gibson; (Jazz Ensemble) Noah Lattanzi.

This year's MMEA Eastern District Festival will be hosted by Lincoln-Sudbury High School and will be held on March 6 and 7, 2009. The students will have an opportunity to meet and work with other outstanding seventh through ninth grade musicians from the region. They will participate in an intense day-long rehearsal on March 6th, and perform in concert on March 7th at Lincoln-Sudbury High School.



PTO Notes (Continued from page 1)

our current program and project support. As we move into spring, we will begin to discuss the expenditure of PTO funds.

The Programs committee is busy putting together several in-school events for the students. Nothing is yet set in stone but our hope is to schedule these events before the end of March. You'll be hearing more about them in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Anne Lougee
annelougee@aol.com
 617-489-4569

Principal (Continued from page 1)

presented our list of recommended cuts at a series of school committee meetings. The list of cuts that we have proposed was developed with the preservation of direct instructional services to students as the number one priority.

While this philosophy has led to some unpopular decisions, such as the recommended cutting of freshman sports and after-school activities, I believe that it is necessary in these dire times to preserve the programs and staff that further the core mission of the school: classroom instruction. As a former high school athlete and musician, I can definitely attest to the benefits that these programs offer to students. However, when faced with the unpalatable choice between the classroom and the playing field, I have to say that the classroom will take precedence.

I must point out that even though we attempted to shield classroom instruction from the cuts, the reduced service budget that was presented included the loss of

over seven instructional positions at Belmont High School. There simply is not enough "fat" left in the school budget to be able to make substantial cuts without some substantial effects to our programs.

I ask that you pay attention to the budget process as it rolls on towards Town Meeting in June, and encourage you to attend the school department and town forums on the budget. These meetings are your opportunity to be heard by your elected representatives who will make the final decisions on the form of the school's budget.

In future newsletters I will provide you with updates regarding the effect of the budget decisions on BHS, especially as they pertain to the development of our course offerings for next year.

Sincerely,
 Mike Harvey

Parent Education Series

WINTER PROGRAMS

QPR Suicide Prevention Training: Helping Adults to Understand Teen Depression scheduled for January 28 which was postponed due to inclement weather will be re-scheduled. Please watch the list serve announcements for the new date and time.

SPRING PROGRAMS

Understanding Your Child's (and Your Own) Temperament

When? March 23, 2009, Monday

Time? 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where? CMS Community Room

Presenter: Linda Jones, Parent Educator

Elementary, Middle and High School

Let's Be Honest! Communication in Families Keeps Kids Healthy

When? April 8, 2009, Wednesday

Time? 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where? CMS Community Room

Presenter: Planned Parenthood

Elementary and Middle

HELPING YOUR SENIOR WITH THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

When? May 4, 2009 Monday

Time? 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where? BHS Little Theater

Presenters: Gerri Taylor and Brenda Hawks, Bentley College

High School

Questions? e_dinerman@yahoo.com

Erica Dinerman

Coordinator, Parent Education

Belmont Public Schools

Peer Tutoring in Mathematics

Confused by your math homework?

Preparing for a chapter test?

Struggling with proofs?

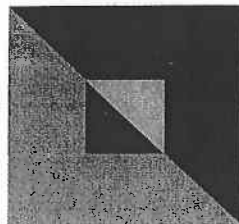
Puzzled by the application problems?

Peer tutoring is now available in the math department in room 237 on a drop-in basis.

The tutor schedule is posted in every math classroom and on the door of room 237.

There is a student tutor on duty almost every mod.

Students are welcomed to drop in as needed.



Belmont High School Class of 2009

All Night Party

Dear Parents,

Each year, following 30 years of tradition, the Junior Class parents host the All Night Graduation Party. This party provides a festive and safe environment for the graduates on their last night together as a class. The high school is transformed and the evening is filled with fun, friends, food, games, entertainment, music and an all around good time for the kids!

In order to create this wonderful event we need lots of volunteers. There are many ways to help, both large and small. This year's party will be held on Sunday, June 7th and runs from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am the following morning!

There are lots of ways to help out and our goal is to have fun while creating a memorable occasion for our community's children.

Feedback from past years party planners has been wonderful. It is an opportunity to connect with old friends while creating a great gift for the outgoing seniors. In one short year, the graduates will be our sons and daughters! Please take this opportunity to contribute to a very special community tradition.

Sincerely,

The All Night Party Executive Committee

Lynne Polcari, Robin Ohringer, Nora Hackett, Noreen Millane, Lauren Alprin

If you are interested in volunteering at this event; please contact Terry McCarthy @ terrymcc_2@msn.com or Mary Alice Wistman @ mawistman@gmail.com.

Marauder Athletics

Spring Sports

Belmont High Spring Athletic season will begin on Monday March 16, 2009. All Belmont High students interested in trying out for a spring sport are reminded that they need to have filled out and submitted to the athletic office an up to date athletic information packet which includes, Parental Permission, Physical and MIAA Chemical Health form. Any student needing this packet may pick one up in the athletic office.

Physical Education News

Contracted Fitness Activity Program

The Belmont Fitness center is currently open after school on Mon, Wed, Thurs: from 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm for any BHS student or out of season BHS student / athlete to use.

Yoga will again be offered this spring as an after school activity for all BHS students. Interested students may sign up in the athletic office starting the week of February 9th. Dates for the spring Yoga Classes are as follows: February 2/26; March 3/3, 3/5, 3/10, 3/12, 3/17, 3/19, 3/24, 3/26, 3/31; In April 4/2, 4/7, 4/9, 4/14, 4/15, 4/16, 4/28, 4/30 In May 5/5, 5/7, 5/12, 5/14, 5/19, 5/21

Please note that in order to receive PE Credit for Yoga the participant must attend 20 out of the 23 scheduled classes.

STREAMLINING YOUR GIVING TO BHS PTO

From the elementary grades through the high school level, Parent/Teacher Organizations across the country conduct membership drives and sponsor many fundraising activities in order to secure funds needed to support their school's activities. At BHS, the PTO has simplified the fundraising process by asking families to respond to a single fundraiser – aptly

called the “non-fundraiser” appeal -- with an annual donation.

This year we hope to again raise \$25,000 through the annual appeal. These funds are used to support teachers, students, and classroom instruction. The needs of the high school and the programs we support are as important as ever. We hope

that you will contribute as generously as you can. The donation form in this newsletter outlines the procedure for contributing the PTO. We thank you for all the support you have provided over the years and we pledge to continue to use your money carefully.

Donation to the BHS Library Announced

The School Committee recently announced that the high school library will be renamed the *Peter B. Holland Library* in honor of Dr. Holland and his twenty years of service to the Belmont schools. The Foundation for Belmont Education has received an initial check for \$500 from the retirement committee, earmarked strictly for purchases for the Library, and is pleased to offer the community an opportunity to support the Library by making online donations through the Foundation website specifically for the purchase of library materials.

If you would like to make a contribution to the high school library you can do so directly through the Foundation website, www.fbe-belmont.org. Click on the red Donations button on the homepage, and choose One Time Donation after that. The donation form, if you scroll down, has a place to click to make a targeted donation to the Library. Donations are also accepted via mail by writing a check and mailing it to the Foundation for Belmont Education, PO Box 518, Belmont, MA 02478. Please note the Peter Holland Library on the memo line.

Raffle Tickets for Sale to Support Foundation for Belmont Education

The Foundation will be sponsoring a raffle in connection with its upcoming Spring Fundraising Reception on 4/4. Take a chance on winning \$1,000 cash (1st prize), Bose SoundDockâ and IPodâ (2nd prize--value \$600), 2 Red Sox Tickets (3rd prize--value \$180). All proceeds support the work of the Foundation which has to date awarded over \$1.6 million to the Public Schools in the form of grants, capital projects and special initiatives. Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. The winning tickets will be drawn at the Spring Gala on 4/4 but you don't need to be present to win. If you'd like to purchase a ticket, please contact Susan Griffin at 617-489-4517 or susangriffin9@comcast.net

PTO Annual Appeal

The Belmont High School PTO

requests the pleasure of your absence
at their annual *Non-Fundraiser*

We will not ask you to organize an Auction, Crafts Fair, Gift Wrap Sale, Car Wash or Bake Sale.

All we ask is for your tax-deductible donation!

I am pleased to contribute to the BHS PTO by **not** fundraising. Thank you for making my life a little easier and less stressed.

- _____ \$250 Thank you for allowing me not to chair the fundraising committee as well as saving me from asking my friends and neighbors to buy something. Please use my donation to support the **teacher/staff wish list** for items to aid classroom instruction.
- _____ \$150 I look forward to not spending a single evening baking brownies or seven layer dream bars or standing in line at the bakery to supply goodies for the bake sale. Use this donation to offer **student activities**, such as the **college fair** and **career breakfast**, and **scholarships**.
- _____ \$100 I am excited to again use the Sunday comics to wrap gifts instead of purchasing (and selling) gift wrap to raise money for PTO sponsored events. Please use my donation to help support the **teacher luncheon**.
- _____ \$ 75 Instead of purchasing more magazines that I do not have time to read, please use my donation to help fund the **All-Night Party** for seniors.
- _____ \$ 50 I am thrilled not to participate in any aspect of a craft fair. I am very happy that my donation will help fund the **Class Connectors** program.
- _____ \$ _____ There is no greater feeling than giving. My heart is full. Use this donation however it will help.

NO CONTRIBUTION IS TOO SMALL OR TOO LARGE!

(Please note that donations in a specific category will not necessarily be used for the program described in that category.)

Name _____

BHS Student(s) Last/First Name(s) _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to: **Belmont High School PTO. Thank you!**
Mail to: **Ms. Judy Arsenault 99 Cushing Avenue Belmont, MA, 02478**

Belmont High School Newsletter

Calendar for February / March / April 2009

February 23 – Mar. 17	MELA-O Testing
February 23 – 27	Diversity Week
February 27	Deadline to register for the April 4 ACT
March 2-4	MCAS Retest, ELA
March 4	POMS Meeting 7 pm
March 4-7	ACDA National Conference
March 5-6	MCAS Retest, Math
March 6	Progress reports mailed home
March 6-7	EDMMEA Junior District Festival (includes 9 th grade)
March 8	Daylight Saving
March 9 – 13	AP Exam Registration
March 9-17	MEPA Testing
March 18	Belmont Unplugged
March 12-14	Musical Production-- Les Miserables
March 14	SAT only at BHS – Report at 7:45 am
March 16	Spring Sports begin
March 18	PTO Meeting 7:30 pm
March 20	Career Breakfast for Juniors
March 23	All Town Elementary Spring Concert, 6:30 pm
March 23-27	Auditions for One-Act Play Festival
March 25	Band & Orchestra Spring Concert 7 pm
March 26 – 28	MMEA All-State Conference
March 28	Asian Culture Night
March 31	MCAS English Composition Sessions A & B: (Grade 10) 7:35 am(Gr. 9, 11, 12 begin school at 10:30 am)
March 31	Deadline to register for the May 2 SAT & Subject Tests
April 1	HS Choral Spring Concert 7 pm / MCAS English Language Arts Sessions 1 & 2 (Grade 10) 7:35 am (Gr. 9, 11, 12 begin school at 10:30 am)
April 2	MCAS English Language Arts Session 3 (Grade 10) 7:35 am (Gr. 9, 11, 12 begin school at 9:45 am)
April 3 – 5	MICCA Music Festival
April 4	ACT at BHS – Report at 7:45 am
April 7	MCAS English Language Arts Composition Make-up / End of Third Quarter
April 8	POMS Meeting 7 pm / Passover begins at sundown
April 10	Early Release Day
April 15	IAJE Jazz & Combo Festival at WPI / PTO Meeting 7:30 pm / AP Pre-Administration
April 17- 27	Latin Trip
April 17 – 25	Theatre Trip
April 17—30	China Trip
April 20 – 24	Spring Vacation
April 22	Report cards mailed home
April 29	Jazz Night, 7 pm
April 30 – May 2	One-Act Play Festival, 7 pm