

WELLINGTON



PTO NEWS

December 2007

EXECUTIVE CORNER

Adding a Spark to Learning Enrichment activities and school performers bring fresh insight and perspective

Happy Holidays to all! We hope the school year is progressing well. This has been a busy fall for the Programs committees of your PTO! Many of you are aware of the field trips funded by the PTO, but may not know of the myriad of other PTO programs.

After-school enrichment programs serve nearly 400 children, 4 days a week! Some of the most popular offerings include **Mad Science, Yoga with Mary Jo Peterson and Chess with Mr. Tenhor.** After-school enrichment programs will be winding up their fall sessions in the next few weeks, with the next session beginning in late January. Look for a program brochure by mid-January. These programs are run by parent volunteers Diane Poulos and Diane Carson, and could not succeed if not for the wonderful monitor, Elizabeth.

In November, the entire school was treated to a fun-filled solo performance of magic and comedy by **Jedlie Productions.** The program entitled, "**Bully-Free is the Choice for Me!**" focused on helping students build safe, supportive and bully-free schools.

Upcoming shortly is a special **Martin Luther King assembly,** Amazing Grace, for grades 1-4. Timed for February, Black

History month, the program features Providence-based storytellers and actors Valerie Tutson and Rochel Coleman who bring history to life through stories and songs as they portray Civil Rights activists Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy and more.

A new grade-level program for this year is the Plantmobile from the Mass. Horticultural Society, which will be visiting all 2nd grade classes this spring. In addition, we welcome back **Tom Wahle** of **Techsploration** who will present a program on sound for all 4th grade classes. The third graders enjoyed a visit from **Patricia Bade, The Owl Woman,** who presents historical information about her Massachusetts Native American community, shares artifacts, and relates stories, songs, and drum-based music from her people. Other fall programs include **Wingmasters, Birds of Prey** for 4th grade and **Steve Lechner** of the **Science Works** for the 1st grade weather unit. Kindergartners can look forward to a visit from the **Tanglewood Marionettes** in the spring.

A hearty thanks to our teacher liaisons, our grade-level coordinators and our parent volunteer grant-writers. Our committees still need help planning upcoming events and welcome all new ideas and feedback.

Juliet Jenkins

617-489-5585



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BELMONT SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (BSEAC)

Education • Collaboration • Information Exchange

If you have a child on an IEP (14% of Belmont kids are), or even if you don't, you should know about the BSEAC!

The BSEAC is a parent advisory council which advocates for quality education for all students, advises Belmont School administration and the School Committee on special education issues, and assists families in effectively participating in the special education process.

We have already had three informative meetings so far this year on: (a) Sensory Integration, (b) School Safety and (c) Special Education in Belmont. Meetings are held once a month at Cheney Middle School at 7:30.

Nationally known Clinical Psychologist Dr. Lawrence Kutner spoke on Tuesday, December 11th about "Making Sense of our Kid's Behaviors". If you missed it, **more information about this speaker can be found at www.DrKutner.com.**

BSEAC website: www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bseac

To subscribe to the moderated listserv:
BSEAC-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com

Jane Slavin, Wellington's BSEAC liaison



Box Tops for Education



The Box Tops Superbowl, a football themed collection campaign, began on Monday, November 5th, and will run through Friday, December 21st. Our goal is to have each team (class) clip 300 Box Tops over the 7 week period. Each team that clips 300 Box Tops will win a prize!! We hope to raise at least \$650 for the PTO.

Another easy way to support Wellington this holiday season is to shop through the Box Tops Marketplace. Sign up to support Wellington at www.boxtops4education.com (in the upper right hand corner of the home page), and then go to the Marketplace tab. Over 60 of your favorite online stores will donate between 1-8% of your purchase to Wellington!! Tell your family, friends and neighbors about this opportunity too!

Wellington's goal this school year is to earn **\$3,000** through the Box Tops program. So far, we have earned \$652, not counting the **Superbowl Box Tops**. The last submission deadline for this school year is February 28th.

Thank you to everyone who has been faithfully clipping and turning in all of your Box Tops! **If you have any questions about this fundraising program, please contact jane.slavin@verizon.net.**



Library Gift Book Program F.A.Q.

Q: Is there a list of books available for purchase?

A: We do not publish a list of available books because of the ever changing inventory. If you would like to purchase a book and are not able to come into the library, you can ask for a current book list to be printed out for you.

Q: Can I suggest books for the library?

A: Ms. Raidl, Wellington's Professional Library Aide, does welcome your suggestions, but asks that you familiarize yourself with what the library already has first.

Q: Can my child pick out the gift book?

A: Yes, just please accompany them in the library.

Q: Can I buy books at a bookstore and donate them in to the library?

A: We ask that you speak to Ms. Raidl and familiarize yourself with what the library already has. Books purchased from the "outside" are not library ready. We have very limited resources to process these books so that they can circulate.



Q: Can I get a list of gift books purchased for my son/daughter's birthday?

A: Yes, we are happy to provide you with a list so that you can write thank-yous.

Q: Where can I find the Gift Book Program form and more information?

A: Go to the Wellington website, www.belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington, and click on Library. Forms are also available in the library.

If you have any other questions, please contact jane.slavin@verizon.net or Ann-Sophie Dankens at 489-9101.



Gift Book Program

We have many new and exciting books in the library this year! Several children with fall birthdays suggested a purchase of a library gift book to their guests. Each book was processed with a special bookplate commemorating a person or occasion. Ms. Raidl, our Professional Library Aide, will do her best to present all gift books during the donor's class library time. Ms. Raidl and the PTO really appreciate your support! *Please stop by the Library or contact Jane Slavin (617-489-1499) or Anne-Sophie Dankens (617-489-9101).*

Thank you to the following people who purchased books for Wellington's library:

Allard, Carey.....Rinkitink in Oz, Sarah, Plain and Tall

Andersen, Ethan.....The Indian in the Cupboard, Jack Plank Tells Tales

Auerbach, KathleenLittle Red Snapperhood

Boyle, James.....When is a Planet Not a Planet?

Bucciarelli, IsabelaThe Key Collection

Call, JennySeptember Roses, Warriors: Dawn & Rising Storm

Carere, Camilla & NicoHana in the Time of the Tulips, Kumak's House, Seen Art? Warriors: Fire and Ice

Chen, Sophie.....The Year of the Dog

Conover-Prentiss, Elizabeth..Sugar Cane - A Caribbean Rapunzel

Coppolo, Nicholas.....Who Was First?

Fahey, Maisie.....High Tide in Hawaii; In a Dark, Dark Room

Fiacco, NicholasCruisers

Frumhoff, ClaraMaking Waves: Sound

Green, Nate, Toby & Oliver..Anne Hutchinson's Way, Goodbye, My Island, Read a Rhyme, Write a Rhyme, Sarah, Plain and Tall, Warriors: Firestar's Quest

Gurwell, KierstinWarriors: A Dangerous Path, & Into the Wild

Hale, Kaela.....The Gardener

Hardy, OliviaL is for Library

Hayner, Tess.....Callihan Cousins: Together Again

Hlotyak, HannahTriceratops - Mighty Three-Horned Dinosaur

Kaldenbaugh FamilyThe Diary of a Young Girl, Why is it Snowing?

Kaldenbaugh, MiaSnakes

Kenselaar, Jasmyn & Ana..Encyclopedia Brown: Case of the Dead Eagle, Case of the Slippery Salamander, & Case of the Two Spies, Patience Brown

Kim, HelenaThe Case of the Elevator Duck, Making Room

Kutsman, YulyaWhy is it Windy?



- Lee, Dong Eun.....Blubber, The Wishing Tree,
- Lester, Kate.....Encyclopedia Brown: Case of
the Treasure, Just Grace, Sarah,
Plain and Tall
- Libenson, Alex.....A Wind in the Door
- Libenson, Katherine.....Celebrating Chinese New Year
- Madden, Brogan.....Warriors: Starlight, & Sunset
- McCormack, Finbar.....The Secret of the Indian, Ugly Sea
Creatures
- Moroney, Morgan.....Terrible Storm
- Newberry, Lila.....In the Haunted House, Pasta, Fried
Rice and Matzoh Balls
- Pergamo Family.....Callahan Cousins: Home Sweet
Home, Flotsam
- Piccione Family.....882 • '5f Amazing Answers to
Your Questions about the
Titanic, Crypto-zoology A to
Z, Stormbreaker: The Official
Script
- Reyes, Veronica.....Love, Ruby Valentine
- Rifkin, Julia.....The Trouble Begins
- Rokosz, Alex.....David Beckham, Tea with Milk,
Warriors: Forest of Secrets
- Romagna, Dana.....The John Hancock Club
- Samuelian, Julia.....Matilda
- Schmelzer, Nicholas.....Vinne and Abraham
- Seaver, Catherine.....Callahan Cousins: Keeping Cool,
Penny From Heaven
- Selmo-Johnson,Big Chickens, Mr. Revere and I,
Laurel & Emma Why is it Raining?
- Shuster, Anna.....Callahan Cousins: Summer Begins
- Slavin, Ben.....Warriors: Midnight, Moonrise, &
The Darkest Hour
- Slavin, Jake.....Book Fair Day

- Snell, Matthew.....Warriors: The Lost Warrior &
Twilight
- Takayama, Kai.....River of Life, Sholom's Treasure
- Vernick, Maya.....One Well
- Viale, Gabby.....Our Seasons
- Wholey, Erin.....Animal Poems, Duke Ellington
- Zarkadas, Victoria.....Anatole
- Zinssner, Benoit.....Happy, Happy Chinese New Year!



Other Fundraising Items:

We're pleased to announce a new way to earn money for Wellington when you grocery shop. Please send in your original cash register receipts from Shaw's and we'll get 1% of sales.

You do not need to pay with Shaw's gift cards (although we'd love it if you did!) to participate. No matter what payment method you use, the receipts can be redeemed for cash that funds programs and supplies for our kids and staff! Collection bag for your Shaw's receipts can be found at the Donation Station in the main hallway. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! Volunteers can help add up the receipts.

Please contact Patty Guzikowski at pguzi@msn.com.



Save The Date for The Foundation for Belmont Education's Spring Event

Plans are well under way for The Foundation for Belmont Education's 9th Annual Spring Dinner & Live Auction to be held on April 5, 2008.

The theme for 2008 is "T3: Technology Tools for Teachers." This event is the centerpiece of the Foundation's fundraising activities. The goal for 2008 is to raise of \$90,000 to help support the



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initiative of placing a Smart Board in every classroom (please refer to the Foundation’s website at www.fbe-belmont.org to read about the Smart Boards at Chenery).

The Foundation for Belmont Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to making a difference in our public schools. Creative, effective, supported teachers. Engaged students. A tradition of educational excellence. Belmont Public Schools at their best. The Foundation for Belmont Education is dedicated to these goals. Thanks to donations of all kinds, as a result of thousands of Belmont residents and businesses over the last 14 years, the Foundation has granted over \$1.3 million to the Belmont schools, supporting 375 projects initiated and organized by the administrators, teachers, and staff.

The event this year will feature a reception with dinner “bytes” from Neillo’s Catering, lively live auction by Neal Fay, and dancing to the sounds of DJ, Herb Wing. Last year’s event was attended by 360 people. We hope for 400+ attendees this year (this will not be a sit-down dinner, as in the past).

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, or donating an item to the auction, please contact Carolyn Boyle (caroloynfboyle@yahoo.com) , Heidi Sawyer (heidi.sawyer@verizon.net) or Ginny d’Arbeloff (v.d’arbeloff@verizon.net). Thank you for helping to make a difference in the Belmont schools!



WHAT WE WERE UP TO THIS PAST AUTUMN:

The Pumpkinfest was a huge success. Thank you to everyone for making the Pumpkinfest a great success. We had a wonderful afternoon and lots of support from the Wellington community. In particular, thanks to Mike and Liz Carracini, Marianne Kelly, Cindy Burns, Jill Sublett, Mary Murphy and Jimmy Tatten for all the help with organizing and setting up the event. See you same time next year!

“Let’s Dance!” Wellington boogied on. . .

The first “Let’s Dance” event was a HUGE success! We raised over \$2000 to help support the PTO’s efforts to improve physical education and the playground area at Wellington.

Thanks to all the volunteers who donned colorful hats and pitched in! A special thanks to our very own Mr. S and DJ DQ (Daniel Quinn) for offering up some great entertainment! We had a huge number of students (and some parents) on the dance floor moving and grooving! What a fantastic family evening. Many thanks to all who made it happen.

••••• **Schedule of Events** •••••

