



Bulldog Bytes

Beaver Lake Middle School
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Happy Holidays to our Beaver Lake Families!

As we move into this very busy holiday season, we have some exciting and important events running at the school and in our community! Be sure to mark your calendar for our new **Talent Show** that will be on December 4th at 6:30 pm. This will be a fun event where our students have the chance to showcase their talents. For those who will be performing, we can't wait to see you on stage. If you are not planning to perform, please come for great entertainment and to support our talented students!

It is also that time of year again for our annual **Food and Gift Card Drive!** From December 8th through the 12th, your family can participate in this important holiday drive that benefits those who have challenging needs this holiday season. To donate a gift card, simply have your child drop it in the envelope of their FIRST period teacher. Some recommended places to purchase gift cards are QFC, Fred Meyer, Target, gas stations, and other similar merchants. Please be sure to include an attached receipt with the gift card.

We will also be collecting food, and students can drop your donations off at the stage in the mornings before school. Our focus items for this year are cereal, canned fruit, and canned protein. Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm! Everything collected by the kids this week will stay right here in our community and directly helping our neighbors.

We are also very excited about our plans for inviting speakers for our upcoming meetings. We recognize the need for our parents to stay updated with current and relevant information. We are considering options related to raising kids safely in a digital world, the Mindful Education curriculum, improving our kids' social awareness and ability to communicate effectively, and continuing to increase our children's preparation for current emergency situations. Stay tuned as we firm these plans and schedule meetings to include these speakers and topics.

If you're still interested in participating in shaping the direction of the PTSA, it's never too late to be involved! One important and timely opportunity is to be a part of the Nominating Committee for next year's PTSA Board of Directors. This is a fun and interesting way to influence the future of the Board, and it is easy to participate with little time involved – and best of all, the actual time commitment doesn't occur until after the holidays! If you have interest in this important role, please contact Kelly Huber (kellyahuber@aol.com) or Nga Selbig (selbig@comcast.net).

Enjoy the excitement and community fun of the holidays!

Pam Gross & Tina Yerges
BLMS PTSA Co-Presidents

"Like" us on Facebook at Beaver Lake Middle School PTSA and find us at our website... www.beaverlakeptsa.org



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A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THE BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for sharing their time to help with set up, sales and take down. They include Amrutha Kanumuri, Barbara Fuller, Barbara Wood, Dawn Zhao, Debbie Hung, Ganga Pingili, Gloria Marinescu, Jennifer Laramore, Karen Mangold, Kathy Mileski, Kim Olsen, Laurel Shane, Lauri Kinnan, Lili Young, Lorie Piper, Marilou Dacey, Sharlene Ayabe, Sharon Hastings, Sierra Martinson (NJHS student), and Susan Brandes.

We are excited to report that we exceeded our goal! Many thanks to all of you who shopped at the book fair or online. All purchases help our Librarian Amber Peterson increase our reading options in the library. She is grateful that our BLMS community supports the Scholastic Book Fair so she can have the best library!

Cheers,
Co-Chairs Kari Ovena and Teresa Czaja



STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH

Calling all cooks for Dec. 12th Staff Appreciation Lunch. This month's theme is cozy soups, hearty chili, tasty salads and scrumptious goodies. If you are interested in sharing one of your favorites, please contact me, and I will add you to the SignUpGenius link.

Thank you!
Teresa Czaja, teresaskate@comcast.net



PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCE FORMS

For absences of three or more days, forms are available online or in the main office. The forms need to be completed and turned into the office at least one week prior to the departure in order for the absence to be excused. As you are planning your Winter Holiday travels, please keep this in mind. You can turn your completed form into the main office as soon as you have confirmed your travel dates. If an absence is unexcused, your student will still be able to complete all major assignments, projects, and assessments for credit, but will receive no credit for the daily work. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Francis.

SMARTER BALANCED PRACTICE TESTS

By 2014-15, the state of Washington will implement Common Core Standards specifying key concepts students must master in math and language arts. As such, a new online assessment system, Smarter Balanced, will replace the current tests (MSP, HSPE, and EOCs) administered to third- through 11th-graders in reading, writing, and math. To help students prepare for the switch, Smarter Balanced practice tests are available at SmarterBalanced.org now through the end of summer. It's important for students to practice in a low-risk environment so they can become familiar with the digital format as well as the change in how their skills and knowledge will be assessed. We will be creating opportunities for students to practice at school but we also encourage you to have your student's logon and practice at home. The more familiar our students can become with the test and the tools, the better. <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>





BLMS FOOD AND GIFT CARD DRIVE STARTS NEXT WEEK! DECEMBER 8-12

Beaver Lake cares about its community! It's time to put those words into action as our annual Food and Gift Card Drive is here once again. We have so much to be thankful for, but unfortunately for many families in our community, others have much less. We, as a Beaver Lake community, get the HUGE privilege of doing something about this! We get to make positive change happen, and brighten the lives of many this holiday season.

Are you ready to dive in and do your part? We hope you'll join us next week as we work to serve those who really need our help!

Okay, here are the details...

The BLMS Food and Gift Card drive kicks off first thing next Monday morning. ASB students will be on the stage as students come into the commons, ready to accept generous food drive donations.

All non-perishable food is welcome, but the Issaquah Food Bank is requesting three items of focus. They are canned meat (such as tuna or chicken), shelf-stable milk (the kind that doesn't need to be refrigerated), and Peanut Butter. We can't wait to see you prove that BLMS Bulldogs have extremely huge hearts for those in need!

For gift card donations, students will find a big envelope in their first period teacher's classroom. They'll take it to class and drop it in the envelope. Donations will be picked up by ASB each morning next week.

Do not put names on the gift card donations, but is HUGE to remember that **we need your gift card RECEIPT taped to the card**, so that we know the exact amount of your donation. Ideal gift card donations are not for luxury items, but for essentials such as food, gas, and clothing. General gift cards such as VISA and MASTERCARD are also great, because the recipient can choose which items they can be put toward.

Let's do something BIG Beaver Lake! We can't wait for next week! And you probably guessed by now, we're...Raising the Bar of Excellence! Start planning your donations today!

BLMS ASB/Leadership





Your PTSA DOLLAR\$ At Work: Bucks for Bulldogs

Thank you BLMS PTSA Community for your donations to the Pass-the-Hat Fundraiser. Your generously donated dollars helped provide many items to the BLMS staff through the 2014-2015 Bucks for Bulldogs grant program.

The Bucks for Bulldogs grant program is a significant part of the BLMS PTSA budget. This year, thanks to the INCREDIBLE support from our community, we were able to provide over \$6,000 in grants to teachers and staff at BLMS. These dollars are over-and-above the PTSA funding for student assistance, clubs, staff appreciation, family events, and more.

Below is a list of the items, supplies and tools that your students are benefitting from day in and day out thanks to Bucks for Bulldogs. We have an amazing and generous community and an even more creative, supportive and caring faculty and staff at BLMS. Congratulations Beaver Lake Community! YOU made this happen!

Applicant	Department	Items Requested	Amount Granted
Bates/Pritchett	Lang. Arts	A Midsummer Night's Dream Books	\$ 246.98
Brown	LRCII	Shredder and Bags	\$ 103.57
Burke	LRCII	Staplers	\$ 31.24
Cho	School	Lunchroom table	\$ 1,916.25
Daniels	Lang. Arts	Books: Expository Writing(2),Research(1)	\$ 61.20
Francis	Yearbook	Kodak Photo Paper	\$ 34.75
Gianforte	Arts	30 Aprons	\$ 263.57
Israel	LRCII	Beads, Tongs and Clothespins	\$ 114.74
Jones	Spanish	Small Classroom Caddies	\$ 35.51
Leung	SLP	Plastic Bins and Pom Poms	\$ 74.81
Ortiz	Science	Large white boards, graphing white boards	\$ 377.06
Peterson	Library	Books for 7th Grade Genre Talks	\$ 230.33
Rapoza	School	Ink and Toner for class and office use	\$ 1,000.00
Rendon	Math	Marcy Cook Tiles and Packets	\$ 154.18
Santos	Humanities	Fit Pro Balls w/stability legs	\$ 828.12
Vail	Music	6-Cello Storage Rack	\$ 563.35

GRADING DAY EARLY RELEASE

First Bell	7:33 am
Final Bell	7:40 am
1st Period	7:40 - 8:07
2nd Period	8:12 - 8:35
3rd Period	8:40 - 9:03
4th Period	9:08 - 9:31
5th Period	9:36 - 9:59
6th Period	10:04 - 10:25

NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



STANDING OVATION!!

Sending a special thanks to Stacy Cho, Stephanie Scott and Ganga Pingili for coordinating our first ever Talent Show at BLMS, which takes place Thursday, Dec. 4. Good luck to all participating!



December 3, 2014

3 Ways to Shop and Give this Season

Give great gifts and support great education when you participate in one of the Issaquah Schools Foundation business partner promotions. Thank you!

1. **Glassybaby** – These hand blown collectible tea lights and glass votive candleholders make the perfect gift for teachers, friends and family. Through December 24, use code 'ISF' in-store or online and 10% of your purchase will be donated to the Foundation. [Check out the Glasbaby Holiday Collection.](#)
2. **Barnes & Noble**—Give the gift of reading to a student from the Foundation's VOICE Mentor or Pre-K Summer School Programs. Next time you visit Barnes & Noble at Pickering Place, add a Holiday Book Drive purchase to your order. Books are available for as little as \$3 at checkout. Promotion runs through December 31.
3. **Fred Meyer** – Whether you're shopping for decorations, school supplies or groceries, your purchase can benefit your student when you participate in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program. Link your card at [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#), then each time you shop, you'll help improve educational resources for your child.

2 Ways You're Changing the Status Quo

1. Technology

Did you know that **only 8% of high schools in the nation are certified to teach AP Computer Science Classes? Thanks to you, Issaquah high schools are among the elite eight.** This fall, 742 high school students are studying computer science and/or web design on the campuses of Issaquah, Liberty and Skyline High Schools. [READ MORE](#)

2. Communication: *Voz de la Comunidad*

When Issaquah Valley Elementary moms Margarita Leas and Marisol Visser saw the frustration caused by language and cultural barriers they pledged to develop a solution. The result--*Voz de la Comunidad*--a Spanish language magazine designed to bridge the gap between Spanish-speaking families and the greater Issaquah community. [READ MORE](#)

Have Extra Money in Your Charitable Budget? Consider a year-end gift to the *All in for Kids* Annual Fund Campaign. Your donation will help us raise the final \$45,000 required to meet our current commitments, fully fund Academic Enrichment Grants and offer yearlong mentor support to Start Strong participants. [DONATE NOW.](#)

[Click Here to see how your gift supports learning at your school.](#)

Our Heartfelt Wish for the Happiest of Holidays. Enjoy your winter break.