



# Bulldog Bytes

Beaver Lake Middle School  
25025 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Issaquah WA 98029

PTSA 2.6.33 [www.beaverlakeptsa.org](http://www.beaverlakeptsa.org)  
[blmsptsa@gmail.com](mailto:blmsptsa@gmail.com)

January 2015  
Volume 9, Issue 5

Hello Beaver Lake Families!

Happy New Year! May 2015 bring you happiness and health! As we kick off a new calendar year, we are already thinking about next year and putting together a new board for 2015-2016. The first step is to form a nominating committee. This is a great opportunity for you to make a short term volunteer commitment, in a job that makes a big difference. We need 3-5 members by January 19th, who would like to meet (maybe over coffee?) a couple of times to recruit a slate of new board members. We have a deadline to form the nominating committee, because they must be approved at the General Meeting before they begin work. The committee will have a couple of months to get their work done. If you are interested in joining, or if you know someone who would make a great candidate, please contact Pam Gross or Tina Yerges.

## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

We have an exciting new speaker coming to our next General Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the school library.

Anne Livingston: An Issaquah parent and the author of the blog KidsPrivacy. She writes about raising kids in a digital world. What kids at this age are doing online, what risks they may encounter, and what parents can say & do to help their child make responsible choices. Her site is full of tips and scripts for how to teach kids about protecting their personal information, managing their digital profiles, achieving digital balance in their lives, building healthy relationships online, and staying safe and secure. Recently, she published her first book, *Talking Digital: A Parent's Guide for Teaching Kids How to Share Smart and Stay Safe Online*.

We hope you can come and learn a little bit more about this ever changing digital world our kids live in. As always, we will begin with cookies and some chat time with our principal, Stacy Cho. We'll then move on to business, nominating committee approval and then our guest speaker. We will also be having a drawing for a fun treat for new members. We are almost at our goal for membership, if you haven't joined yet there is still time. Just go to the BLMS website at <http://beaverlakeptsa.org/Home>.

Finally, we want to thank you for the support you gave BLMS PTSA in 2014. We've already done so much in the first 4 months of school. We hosted an exciting Battle at Beaver Lake, a successful Book Fair and held our very first Talent Show with so many fantastic acts. We also were able to grant so many teacher/staff requests with our Bucks for Bulldogs program. All these wonderful events and grants were possible through our Pass The Hat donations. Remember, it's never too late to make a donation, and all are put back to good use here at BLMS and essentially benefit your kids.

Here's to a New Year and all that we can accomplish as a community. Thank you for your dedication to your student, our BLMS community and those that we can positively impact when we work together.

Cheers,  
**Pam Gross & Tina Yerges**  
BLMS PTSA Co-Presidents

"Like" us on Facebook at Beaver Lake Middle School PTSA and find us at our website...<http://www.beaverlakeptsa.org>



### PTSA Co-Presidents

Pam Gross  
[grosspam@msn.com](mailto:grosspam@msn.com)  
Tina Yerges  
[tinayerges@msn.com](mailto:tinayerges@msn.com)

### Treasurer

Bona Park  
[chris\\_bona@msn.com](mailto:chris_bona@msn.com)

### Secretary

Sarah Ransom  
[rsansom99@hotmail.com](mailto:rsansom99@hotmail.com)

### Co-VP Volunteers

Kelly Huber  
[kellyahuber@aol.com](mailto:kellyahuber@aol.com)  
Nga Selbig  
[selbig@comcast.net](mailto:selbig@comcast.net)

### Co-VP Membership

Chrisann Penz  
[chrisannpenz@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisannpenz@yahoo.com)  
Krystl McCandlish  
[krystlm@hotmail.com](mailto:krystlm@hotmail.com)

### Fundraising Chair

Julia Yu  
[huinanyu@gmail.com](mailto:huinanyu@gmail.com)

### ISF Chair

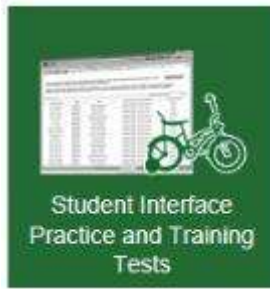
Julia Yu  
[huinanyu@gmail.com](mailto:huinanyu@gmail.com)

### Communications Chair

Andrea Piotraszewski  
[apiotras@gmail.com](mailto:apiotras@gmail.com)

### Webmaster

Jay Freer  
[jayfreer@hotmail.com](mailto:jayfreer@hotmail.com)



## SMARTER BALANCED STATE TESTS – PRACTICE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE AT BLMS FOR PARENTS WITH THEIR STUDENTS

This past winter break, we encouraged all families to set aside just one hour to help your child become familiar with the new online Smarter Balanced state test. On Tuesday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, one hour before our PTSA General Meeting, we are providing an opportunity for parents, with their students, to come to our computer lab in the library to explore the training tests. School staff will be available to answer questions. Training tests in both Math and English/Language Arts are [available online](#) and will allow your child to experience what the Smarter Balanced test is like, and be introduced to all the tools needed to take the test online. We are coordinating with our teachers to develop a schedule that will allow additional opportunities for our students to practice the online Smarter Balanced tests during school as well. To access the training tests, (<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>) please login as a guest. Select the appropriate grade level on the login form. The Smarter Balanced website has additional information on the new tests including a [helpful FAQ](#).



- Fri., 1/16: Honor Roll, Root Beer Float Day
- Mon., 1/19: No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Tues., 1/20: Smart Balance Tests Practice at 6 p.m. in computer lab
- Tues., 1/20: PTSA General Meeting at 6:30pm in school library. Special Parent Ed Speaker Anne Livingston talks teaching kids to be safe online
- Fri., 1/30: Staff Appreciation Lunch



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Our next Honor Roll celebration will be Friday, Jan. 16th during lunch time. We need 10 volunteers to help serve the RB floats.

Our upcoming Staff Appreciation Lunch will be Friday, Jan. 30th. The theme is **SUPER BOWL** food. We are optimistic that we will have *more* to celebrate than just our great staff! Please contact Teresa Czaja to receive a link to the sign up form.

For both opportunities, please contact Teresa Czaja at [teresaskate@comcast.net](mailto:teresaskate@comcast.net). Thank you!





### Happy New Year!

Our community rocks! Your donations topped off our **All in for Kids** Annual Fund campaign in December, allowing us to begin 2015 with even more support of our students and schools. Because of you, the **Start Strong Program** for freshmen will be expanded and we'll be able to fully fund our **Academic Enrichment Grants**. THANK YOU for continuing to elevate education for every student in the District. Our best wishes for a fantabulous 2015.

### Mail Call

If you made a donation to the Foundation during calendar year 2014, please keep an eye out for your tax-receipt letter. It should hit your mailbox by Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Call us at 425-391-8557 if your copy does not arrive by this date.

### Planting the Seed

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the **Annual Nourish Every Mind Luncheon, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** at Issaquah Community Center and/or **Nourish Every Mind Breakfast, Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** at Eastridge Church. The Breakfast and Luncheon are THE BEST ways to learn about the District/Foundation partnership and see how students directly benefit from your investments. Plus, both events are inspiring and fun!

If you'd like to join us as a Table Captain or event volunteer, please contact Audrey Clark, [Audrey@isfdn.org](mailto:Audrey@isfdn.org).

### Empty Closets = Full Tummies

**Value Village** is opening a store in Issaquah and has selected the Issaquah Schools Foundation as its local nonprofit partner. **All clothing and household goods donated at the Issaquah store February 17-21 will result in a cash donation to the Foundation. We'll direct the money to the Basic Student Needs program which provides food, health care, clothing and school supplies for students in need.** Stop by 5530 E. Lake Sammamish Parkway with your donation, and thank Value Village for supporting our students.

### Cracking the Code

Thanks to your donations, computer-coding instruction will soon be available at several elementary schools. The Foundation has approved training for 19 elementary teachers so they can bring **Scratch programming** into their classrooms. Developed at MIT, Scratch is a programming language that allows children to design interactive media using stories, games and animation. The Free Scratch Coding Clubs will be piloted at four elementary schools this spring. With their launch, Foundation donors will bring computer programming to students as every level – elementary, middle and high school.

