



# Bannockburn Elementary School Parent Teacher Association

## Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year!

On behalf of the Bannockburn Parent Teacher Association, welcome (or welcome back) to Bannockburn Elementary School! We hope you have all had a happy and healthy summer vacation.

The PTA serves an important role at BES, supporting students and staff in wide-ranging ways. We sponsor a school-wide Artist-in-Residence program; cultural arts and character education assemblies; Math Day and Science Day; community service programs; and social events (such as the Back-to-School picnic, Bingo Night and the Fun Run) throughout the school year. We run a robust before- and after-school clubs program open to all students. The PTA also provides funds for teachers and staff for classroom supplies, special programs, and training. Finally, we advocate for our school within various organizations at the County and State levels.

**Please join the BES PTA.** Dues are \$35 per family and \$30 per single parent family. A PTA membership form is included in this summer packet and will also be available at events at the beginning of the school year. You can also complete your membership form online at [www.bannockburn-pta.org](http://www.bannockburn-pta.org). Your membership entitles you to the BES PTA Calendar and Directory -- available only to PTA members. We can't do our work without your support!

**We invite you to join us at a few back-to-school events.** If you are new to BES, please come to the PTA Newcomers' Coffee on the first day of school at 9:30 a.m. in the media center. This is a great opportunity to meet other new families at Bannockburn as well as Mr. Walder and the PTA Board. On September 9, the PTA will sponsor a Back-to-School Picnic at 6:00 p.m. on the playground. Please see the flyers attached for more information. Also mark your calendars for the first PTA meeting of the year. It will take place on September 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the media center (following volunteer training at 6:15 p.m.).

**Sign up now for Bannocknet.** Bannocknet is a Yahoo! based list serve for Bannockburn families and staff. The school and PTA use Bannocknet regularly to communicate important information. (Please note, that joining the PTA and/or providing your directory information does not automatically add you to the Bannocknet listserv.) If you are new to Bannockburn or have not yet signed up for Bannocknet, please do it now. Just send an e-mail to [bannocknet-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:bannocknet-subscribe@yahoo.com). We will take care of the rest.

**Update your BES Directory information.** The PTA produces a school directory in October. This year we are using AtoZ Directories to publish our directory. PTA members will receive the traditional paper copy of the directory, along with a mobile app and web-based directory at no additional charge. We will send all families instructions for entering and reviewing their directory information at the beginning of September. Families that do not want to be listed in the PTA directory must opt-out by submitting the MCPS "Request to Withhold Directory Information" form to the school.

**Explore the PTA website.** We maintain a PTA website ([www.bannockburn-pta.org](http://www.bannockburn-pta.org)). You can use the website to get information about happenings at Bannockburn, print out PTA forms, join the PTA, register for clubs, and more.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us. Our email addresses are: [ljsorkin@verizon.net](mailto:ljsorkin@verizon.net) (Lisa) and [allisonharrison@aya.yale.edu](mailto:allisonharrison@aya.yale.edu) (Allison). We look forward to a fun and productive year!

Lisa Sorkin and Allison Harrison  
PTA Co-Presidents, 2011-2012