



The Bannockburn Banner

PTA Newsletter



October 2010



Co-Presidents' Letter

We hope that the school year has started smoothly for your families and that your children are adjusting well to the new routines, having fun with friends, and learning interesting things. We hope, too, that you are feeling connected to the Bannockburn community.

The PTA would like to thank the teachers and staff for inviting us into their classrooms at Back To School Night and the Columbus Day Open House. We are also grateful to Stefanie Rothschild and Angie Zeidenberg for organizing our first Donuts for Dads, which gave dads, grandparents, uncles and others, the chance to have a morning treat with their kids before the Open House.

October is a busy time at Bannockburn. The PTA's Community Service Committee has designated October as Help the Homeless Month. Thus far, the kids have learned about homelessness in our County from a representative of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH); made posters to raise awareness about homelessness; and participated in a Mini-Walk at recess to raise money for MCCH. Toward the end of the month, BES students will participate in the Lunch Project, where they will prepare lunches for residents of a homeless shelter. Thanks to Susan Shipp, Kate Robinson, and Linda Lane for coordinating these activities.

On October 22, the PTA will sponsor our first-ever Walk & Lunch. This event, organized by Allison Harrison and Ellen Wright, is not only a fundraiser but also a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new parents in our community, and get some exercise!

There will be a Principal's Coffee on October 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Media Center, where you can grab a cup of coffee and hear firsthand from Mr. Walder about happenings at school.

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Bannockburn students make posters to raise awareness about homelessness.



Please save the date - October 19th

BES receives 25% of the proceeds from **California Tortilla's** Bethesda location - lunch and dinner. Bring your friends, family and tell everyone you meet. You must say the password, "Bannockburn" to be counted! Pass it on!

Co-Presidents' Letter

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On October 29 in the morning, thanks to our cultural arts co-chairs Jennifer Nordheimer and Stefanie Rothschild, the PTA will present our first cultural arts assembly of the year -- a storyteller named Antonio Rocha. Later on October 29, at 2:00 p.m., all grades will participate in Bannockburn's annual Halloween Parade. Parents are welcome to watch the parade, which will be followed by class Halloween parties.

Need some help wrapping gifts this holiday season? The PTA invites you to participate in our Sally Foster fundraiser, which runs through the end of October. Thanks to Susan Shipp for coordinating.

Leave the cooking to someone else for a night and dine out with other Bannockburn families at California Tortilla on October 19. Thanks to the efforts of BES parent Lidie Greenwald, California Tortilla will donate a percentage of the night's proceeds to Bannockburn. The PTA relies on fundraisers like these to provide many school programs. We encourage you to participate as much as you can!

The school directory will hopefully arrive via backpack by the end of the month. The Directory is free to all PTA members. A huge thanks to Lisa Nicholson and Liz Callihan for their efforts in putting together this great resource. If you haven't joined the PTA yet, it is not too late. Forms can be found at school and on the PTA website. The next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3rd at 7 p.m. Please join us then!

Jennifer McCarthy (mmcgate@verizon.net)

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PTA Co-Presidents, 2010-2011

Classifieds

Save \$2 on 2PM performances of Adventure Theatre's Production of Spot's Birthday Party with the code 2OFF2PM at checkout. Spot's friends Tom the crocodile, Helen the hippo and Steve the monkey will be there for the fun, games, songs and magic. Celebrate Spot's 30th Anniversary with Eric Hill's award winning books. Visit www.adventuretheatre.org for tickets or call 301-634-2270 and mention the discount.

Classifieds cost \$5 for up to 30 words – checks should be payable to the Bannockburn PTA and sent to the PTA treasurer. Send the text to chelleparsky@parsky.org.

The Bannockburn Banner

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by the Bannockburn PTA.

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Calendar

October 15	No School – MSTA Convention
October 17	Halloween Young Run
October 22	Power Walk & Lunch
October 27	Principal's Tea, 9:30 am
October 29	Halloween Parade and Class Parties, 2 pm
November 1	No School – Professional Day
November 2	No School – General Election Day
November 3	PTA Meeting, 7 pm
November 5	Individual Picture Day
November 10-12	BES Book Fair
November 11-12	Early Release Days/Parent Teacher Conferences
November 12	Craft Night, 7pm
November 24	Early Release Day
November 25-26	No School - Thanksgiving



Students cheer on participants in the Help the Homeless Mini Walk.

From Our School Counselor

Elizabeth Whiting

October is Respect Month

October has been Respect Month in the Whitman Cluster for a number of years now. Respect is one of the primary values of our school and cluster. I think at times parents and teachers get tired of hearing this but all of us need to remember that our children are relatively new to it. Most Bannockburn children can recite the good old golden rule of "treat others as you want to be treated". Students learn this at home and at school. It is easy to say but often harder for children to do. Sometimes that is because what they see in the adult world is not respectful. Therefore, a disconnect exists between what adults say children should do and what children observe adults doing. Adults are modeling behavior whenever a child is around. For instance, think about talking (or hearing a cell phone ring) during a movie. Most all of us think this is disrespectful and very annoying when others do it. If we do it somehow it doesn't seem annoying at all but something we need to do. Children who hear or see this will assume that it is okay to talk during movies, because adults they love do it. So many little examples present themselves. Each of them are teachable moments. All of us need to make sure we are teaching what we intend to teach and not the opposite.

Magnet Program Opportunities and Applications

October is the month to explore and apply for the Middle School Magnet Programs and for the Highly Gifted Center for 4th and 5th graders. Information packets came in the mail to your homes from the central MCPS offices, but all information and applications are also online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms.

Transportation is provided for students attending the Highly Gifted Center and the Middle School Magnet Programs next year. Students accepted into the Middle School Magnet Consortium must provide their own transportation if that student is from the Whitman area.

Parent and student information meetings are held throughout the month. All meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Spanish presentations will be available.

This is your PTA Newsletter

The Banner is one of the best ways to communicate with Bannockburn Elementary School parents. If there is anything you would like included in the newsletter, email your text and pictures to chelleparsky@parsky.org. You may also leave a disk in the PTA mailbox at the school office. Deadlines for the newsletter are generally the Friday following the monthly PTA meetings. Next month's deadline is Friday, November 5, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

Highly Gifted Center Program Information Meeting: October 26, 2010 at Seneca Valley High School
Middle School Magnet Application Programs
The Middle School Magnet Application Programs provide rigorous and engaging programs in Humanities and Communication and in Math and Science. Admission to these programs is competitive. Students submit an application, teacher recommendations, and grades, and take special tests in December.

Monday, October 18
Humanities and Communication Magnet Program
Eastern Middle School Magnet Parent & Student Information Meeting

Tuesday, October 26
Mathematics, Science, Computer Science Magnet Program
Takoma Park Middle School Magnet Parent & Student Information Meeting

The Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC)
MSMC is made up of three schools -- Argyle, Loiederman, and Parkland Middle schools -- each of which offers an innovative and challenging magnet curriculum. Argyle focuses on digital design and development; Loiederman offers a creative and performing arts focus; and Parkland provides students the opportunity to explore math and science through aerospace technology and robotic engineering. Admission is based upon a Choice (lottery) process open to all Montgomery County students who are currently in Grade 5.

Each MSMC school will hold individual open houses, providing information about the unique magnet programs offered by the school. Both parents and their 5th grade children are encouraged to attend.

Thursday, October 7
Parkland Middle School Magnet Open House

Thursday, October 14
Argyle Middle School Magnet Open House

Monday, October 25
A. Mario Loiederman Middle School Magnet Open House

The application deadline for all programs is Monday, November 8, 2010.



Bannockburn's Night at the Opera



Figaro, Figaro,
Figaro

