



The Bannockburn Banner

PTA Newsletter



September 2010



Co-Presidents' Letter

A very warm welcome to all new and returning Bannockburn students and their families. The first weeks of school have started smoothly as students settled in to their classes and spent time with new and old friends.

New parents enjoyed the first morning at the PTA's Welcome Coffee, getting to know each other and chatting with Mr. Walder and our PTA Board. Thank you to Hali London for organizing this event.

We had record attendance at our first PTA meeting on September 7, where we discussed the great and creative programs the PTA will bring to Bannockburn students and their families this year. We have many new fundraising and social events that we plan to try out this year, and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

On September 13th we will open up our first online club registration program. Corkey DeSimone, a Bannockburn parent, has created a wonderful new website for the Bannockburn PTA at <http://www.bannockburn-pta.org>. (Thank you, Corkey!) We will be using this site to reduce our distribution of paper at school and to disseminate useful information about PTA-related activities. Information on all PTA-sponsored clubs as well as information about other clubs offered at Bannockburn will be available on the website with a link to register for all Bannockburn PTA clubs online. What could be easier? A huge thanks to Susan Eagle and Stephanie Seiberg for all their hard work on our clubs program this summer and fall. We look forward to your feedback on this new way to sign up for all our great clubs.

September offers many fun and important events. The first School Improvement Meeting will be held on September 20 at 3:45 p.m. At this meeting, parents, teachers, specialists and Mr. Walder make plans for our school's future. Back to School Night is at 6:30 p.m. on September 22. This is a unique opportunity for parents to get to know their child's teachers, who will discuss their

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Join the PTA's yahoo group listserv at:
groups.yahoo.com/group/bannocknet.



School is off to a great start.

Welcome Back to School Everyone!

Please join the Bannockburn PTA if you have not already done so. Our membership goal this year is **90%**. The PTA relies on membership dues to provide many of the services we have all come to take for granted.

Did you know that the PTA:

- Sponsors a broad range of after school clubs as well as scholarships to these clubs for children in need
- Provides three to four cultural arts and character education assemblies every school year
- Funds the Artist-in-Residence program
- Supports teacher training and provides funds to teachers for classroom supplies
- Sponsors Math Day, Science Day, the Science Fair and the Geo Bee
- Organizes many community service projects such as sandwich making for the homeless, the Longevity Walk, Pennies for Patients and Jump Rope for Heart
- Finances community-building events, including the Back To School Picnic, Craft Night, Parent Cocktail party and the other family social events
- Advocates for your children's education before MCPS, the Board of Education, the County Council and the Maryland State Legislature

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Co-Presidents' Letter

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plans and expectations for the year. That Friday, on September 24 at 6:00 p.m., will be the ever-popular, annual PTA Back-to-School Picnic, where families can bring a picnic or purchase food from Potomac Pizza (no pre-ordering this year!), dance under the stars to our DJ and meet the Bannockburn staff in a fun and informal setting. Thank you to Angie Zeidenberg and Stefanie Rothschild for coordinating this event. On September 29th at 9:30 a.m., Mr. Walder will host the first of his monthly Principal's Coffees, which give parents an informal opportunity to talk with him about school issues.

Back-to-school events at BES will conclude on Friday, October 1 with a program about which the Bannockburn PTA is quite excited: Bannockburn Elementary School's "A Night at the Opera." This performance, which will take place at 7:00 pm at Whitman HS, will feature 2010 Artist in Residence, Yvette Lewis, and all Bannockburn students from K-5. The children will perform selections from well-known operas including La Boheme, Don Pasquale and Aida. It will truly be a night to remember.

The PTA funds events like this as well as Cultural Arts and Character Education assemblies, community service programs, after school clubs, and additional training, supplies and class supplements for our teachers. We're also there on Math Day, Science Day and the Geo Bee, sharing and celebrating in our children's success.

The PTA subsidizes many time-honored favorite community events such as Craft Night and Bingo Night as well as numerous other social events. The support of the Bannockburn ES community is vital in making these events happen. You can support these efforts by joining the PTA and participating in PTA fundraising activities, such as the annual BES apparel sale, organized this year by Suzy Sanders.

We appreciate the efforts of Bannockburn families who contribute their time and talents to these and other PTA projects. A special thanks to Grace Park for spearheading PTA membership, Liz Gouldman for creating our snazzy PTA calendar, Lisa Nicholson for collecting and inputting BES families' data, and Liz Callahan for creating our upcoming BES Directory. We appreciate the efforts of all PTA members and volunteers. Your support is needed and appreciated by the students, teachers and staff of our wonderful Bannockburn Elementary School community.

We are looking forward to a fun and productive year. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. We hope to see you all soon!

Jennifer McCarthy (mmcgate@verizon.net)
Lisa Sorkin (ljsorkin@verizon.net)
PTA Co-Presidents, 2010-2011

Spiritwear Sale Extended

The deadline for Bannockburn Spiritwear orders has been extended by one week to September 24th. However, don't wait! Order now to be sure that you don't miss the deadline! Order forms can be found on the PTA's website at <http://bannockburn-pta.org>. This year students can choose from tee-shirts (royal blue tie-dye or solid royal blue), navy flannel bottoms, a navy zip-up, hooded jacket or navy nylon shorts, all with the Bannockburn name printed on them. This is a great way for students to show their Bannockburn spirit and for families to help support PTA programs. Completed orders can be returned to school via your child's travel folder or dropped off in the office. Checks should be made payable to the Bannockburn PTA. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at suzy4010@aol.com.

Classifieds

Rent the Bannockburn Clubhouse for Your Next

Event: The Clubhouse is located at the corner of Bannockburn Drive and Laverock Drive, just off MacArthur Boulevard in Bethesda, Maryland.
<http://bannockburncommunity.org>

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.

Calendar

September 22	Back to School Night, 6:30pm
September 24	Back to School Picnic, 6pm
September 29	Principal's Tea, 9:30 am
October 1	Early Release Day, 1pm Dismissal
October 1	Artist in Residence Performance, Whitman, 7pm
October 5	PTA Meeting, 7pm
October 8	Help the Homeless Mini Walk
October 11	Donuts for Dads, 8:30am
October 11	BES Open House, 9:30am—noon
October 15	No School—MTSA Convention
October 17	Halloween Young Run, 9am

The Bannockburn Banner

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by the Bannockburn PTA.

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From Our School Counselor

Elizabeth Whiting

My family and I went camping/hiking/llama backpacking for a week at the Wind River Range and Wilderness area of Wyoming this summer. Whenever we do something like this, it reminds me how important it is to spend time away from electronics and newspapers. How refreshing it is to not hear traffic but rather the rain on your tent at night or the wind in the pines. How wonderful to look at the wildflowers, lakes and mountains and not the computer screen. How accomplished we felt when we all made it to the top of the passes and were rewarded with beautiful views. It was a wonderful week for the Whiting family, something we all enjoyed. It was a quiet time to be together, share that campfire and spend hours talking as we hiked along. I think it is important for all families to create times like this when obligations and duties cannot intrude on your family time, whether that is a picnic in the park, a family game night at home or a camping trip.

As Bannockburn's counselor, I am available as a resource for any child or family in the school. Parents can call me at school (301-302-6555), email (Mary_E_Whiting@mcpsmd.org) or write a note. Children may request to see me by putting a note in my counselor's Box in the Media Center, by notifying their teacher, or by asking me when they see me around the school. I do sometimes forget if I don't write the request down at the time. So please be sure to tell children to remind me if I don't see them promptly. The principal, teachers or other staff use me as a resource as well and I may see children at the request of that staff person. The reasons children see me are as varied as the children themselves. Each is unique.

I have many friendly lunch bunches with children. I think these are important for me to get to know the students and for them to feel comfortable with me. They are also very useful for helping students meet new friends and cement friendships with students in other classrooms. It can be hard to meet a new friend in the cafeteria with the number of children in the room and the noise. A child might need to wait awhile for a lunch bunch as these can be popular. I may invite students to a lunch bunch or a child can request one. Either way, I like to have this personal time with as many students as possible.

Fall Parenting Classes and Seminars

Parenting classes and special lectures are beginning.

The Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) offers classes that run several weeks as well as one time workshops. A class on "Raising Children to be Resilient" begins Monday, 9/30 at 7:30 and continues for 4 weeks. For a full list of classes and programs please see the website www.PEPparent.org.

The YMCA Youth and Family Services seminars take place at local libraries or at the YMCA Ayrilawn Center. The next one is "Back Talk, Eye Rolls and Attitude" at Davis library also on 9/30 at 7:30.

The Youth and Family Services and Suburban Hospital fall seminar is "Surviving until Graduation; An Evening of Solutions with Deborah Owen-Sohocki, co-author of Positive Discipline: A Teacher's A-Z Guide." Registration for this program is at 301-896-3939.

Many other talks and programs are offered in our community. Some programs require fees and others are free. All programs encourage parents in their task of raising children. Try one. Who doesn't need some encouragement in this big job?

Center for Talented Youth

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth offers a variety of services and opportunities for students in grades 2-8. A test is required and there are fees for both the test and the programs. More information about CTY, their testing program, and courses can be found on their website: www.cty.jhu.edu. Brochures are also available in the front hall at Bannockburn.

Welcome Back!

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MCPS does not pay for many of these "extras" we have come to expect and that our children enjoy. We need your support.

Joining is easy – Just click on the link and follow the instructions - <http://www.bannockburn-pta.org/aboutourpta/jointhepta.html>. This year you can join online or via paper. If you have any questions please contact Grace Park (dualittoast@yahoo.com).

Thanks for all of your support!

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, October 8, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

Reading the Banner online saves money and trees!

The PTA is committed to reducing it's use of paper. As part of that effort, the newsletter will be distributed via Bannocknet and the website for the remainder of the school year. Join the PTA's yahoo group listserv at: groups.yahoo.com/group/bannocknet or send an email to mparsky@yahoo.com.

Paper copies are available upon request.

If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please fill out the form below and send it to school.

Please continue to send me a paper copy of the *Bannockburn Banner* via the Wednesday envelopes.

Youngest Student's Name: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____