

Shelly Belcher - News from Bower Hill PTA

From: Bower Hill PTA
To:
Date: 4/30/2009 10:52 AM
Subject: News from Bower Hill PTA

What's the Buzzzzzz?



Bower Hill PTA Newsletter

April 2009

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**DISTRICT WIDE ART
 SHOW**
**Peters Township High
 School**

May 15-16, 2009

Friday 5:00 - 8:00

Saturday 9:00 - 5:00

A Message from the President Rochelle Saxon

Even though much of March did not look or feel very spring like, you could definitely feel spring in the air at Bower Hill. On March 20th the Kindergarten teachers in collaboration with the Character Counts committee, held a spring tea. The purpose of the tea was to share character education information and ideas with the area preschool directors. The guest speaker at the event was Ron Axelrod, one of the judges who visited our school last year when we were being considered for the national character award. The tea was catered by The Springhouse with desserts provided by Bethel Bakery. I want to say a special thank you to Laura Spornak who gave countless hours organizing the food and decorations for the special day. It looked like spring had certainly arrived in the Kindergarten Commons! Also, thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.

On March 25th and 26th Kindergarten registration for the 2009-2010 school year occurred. It was exciting to see all the new and "not so new" faces that came to register their little ones for school. I want to thank our handful of efficient volunteers, who helped to make the day an organized success.

Join Our Mailing List!

**PTA 2008-2009
WOW
Bower Hill
Reflections Program
Winners**

Congratulations to all that participated in this year's Reflections Program !!! This year was a great success ! There were 145 entries from 105 students at Bower Hill. The Awards Program was held on February 6th. All participants received a medal for their entry. In addition, each winner in the following categories received a medal and Barnes and Noble gift card for placing in their category.

**The Local Winners in the
Primary Level (K-2)
were:**

Visual Arts

1st place- Cassidy Sweeney
2nd place- Emma Paris
3rd place- Daniel May
4th place- Alma Beckwith
5th place- Nate Mitchell

Literature

1st place - Aiden Dowdall
2nd place - Maya Debski
3rd place - Ryan Lebscher
4th place - Kyle Kroboth
5th place - Michael Bruggeman

Photography

1st place- Rachel Farrell
2nd place - Aidan Dowdall

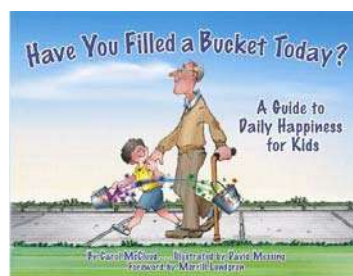
On April 1st the PTA had its monthly meeting and we were fortunate enough to have Dr. Robert Freado, the principal of McMurray Elementary, as our guest speaker. Dr. Freado spoke about McMurray and how to help our 3rd graders transition to 4th grade smoothly. The parents were able to ask questions about the school and discuss any concerns. Also, at the PTA meeting we held our board elections for the 2009-2010 school year. Next years officers (beginning July 1st) will be Christine Belfiore- Secretary, Diane Lavine- 2nd Vice President, Tina Luttringer- Treasurer, Rochelle Saxon- President, and Michele Szewczyk- 1st Vice President. *Please note: The next PTA meeting will be May 13th at 9:15 am not May 6th.

A Message from the Principal Kelly Gustafson

Just an update about the recent Buzzzzzz at the Bower Hill Bee Hive:

- First grade students celebrated the culmination of their recent Mexico curriculum unit with a fiesta. In addition to the classroom fiesta, the children broke piñatas and had a fabulous dance lesson taught by our very own dance instructors, Mrs. Hanak (Speech & Language Teacher) and Sr. DiBiase (World Language Teacher). Who knew we had such talent at Bower Hill?!

- As I had mentioned in last month's newsletter, our Kindergarten Team organized a beautiful Tea Party for the area Pre-School Directors and Staff members. Ron Axelrod, national speaker from the Character Education Partnership, spoke about the 11 Principles of Character Education. Bower Hill faculty members presented mini-sessions detailing the various ways to incorporate character education within a student setting. The theme for the event was sparked by a children's book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" by Carol McCloud. Everyone received a bucket filled with goodies! This book can be found on Amazon.com or at a local bookstore. I highly recommend it for your family or to give as a gift to someone. The second book that was given, "Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon" by Patty Lovell was also a teaching tool for a life lesson.



We all carry an invisible bucket. This bucket contains our feelings. When our bucket is full, we feel great; when it's empty, we feel empty. A bucketfiller is someone who says or does nice things for other people. By doing this, they are filling other people's buckets and filling their own bucket at the same time. On the other hand, a bucketdipper says or does things to cause other people to feel bad.

3rd place - Rachel Farrell
 4th place - Rachel Farrell
 5th place - Rachel Farrell

Music

1st place - Jakob Cervenak

The Local Winners in the Intermediate Level (3-5) were:

Visual Arts

1st place - Joshua Trombitas
 2nd place - Michael Sil
 3rd place - Kendra Keene
 4th place - Rhiannon Jackson
 5th place - Nicole Munne

Literature

1st place - Julie Bocetti
 2nd place - Ava Corey-Roberts
 3rd place - Alec McConnaughy
 4th place - Madison Beltz
 5th place - Allyson Bulseco

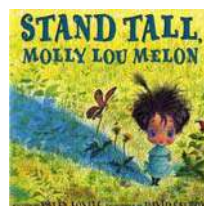
Photography

1st place - Finn Sanders
 2nd place - Finn Sanders
 3rd place - Genna Luster
 4th place - Jareo Weyers
 5th place - Julie Bocetti

The Area Council winners encompass all of the Peters Township schools. Pleasant Valley and McMurray Elementary School winners were judged against Bower Hill winners.

The Area Council

This simple but profound philosophy applies to every aspect of life.



Molly Lou Melon may be tiny, clumsy, buck-toothed, and with a voice "like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor," but she doesn't mind. Her grandmother has utmost confidence in her, and tells her at every turn to believe in herself. "Sing out clear and strong and the world will cry tears of joy," Grandma says. But Molly Lou's self-assurance is put to the test when she moves to a new town, away from her friends and beloved grandmother. During her first week of school, Ronald Durkin taunts Molly Lou Melon in the dull-witted but sharp-edged manner of career bullies, calling her "shrimpo" and "bucky-toothed beaver." Our heroine barely flinches as she systematically sets out to prove herself, and Ronald Durkin ends up feeling pretty foolish. Any child who is less than perfect will cheer with joy to meet Molly Lou Melon, a girl who doesn't let anything--or anyone--shake her belief in herself.

- Congratulations to the Bower Hill Kindergarten Team. They have been invited to do a workshop at the Character Education Partnership National Conference in Virginia this upcoming Fall. The conference planners have asked them to share their creativity with schools from across the United States. We are so proud of this invitation!
- May is also a very Buzzzy month, I will share more activities and details in next month's newsletter.

Lots of Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Our Valuable BHLMC Volunteers

A special thank you to our library volunteers this year. You've faced hundreds of books without any fear!

You've checked our students in and out with a smile
 And were always willing to go that extra mile!

Chris and Wendy, you coordinated each day
 And we give you three cheers, Hip! Hip! Hooray!

Library Volunteers: Please drop by the BHLMC during the week of April 19th to pick up a special Volunteer Thank You!

winners from Bower Hill
in the Primary Level (K-
2) were:

Visual Arts

1st place- Daniel May
3rd place- Emma Paris

Literature

1st place - Ryan
Lebscher
4th place - Aiden
Dowdall

Photography

4th place - Rachel
Farrell
5th place - Rachel
Farrell

Music

2nd place - Jakob
Cervenak

The Area Council
winners from Bower Hill
in the Intermediate
Level (3-5) were:

Visual Arts

3rd place - Nicole Munne

Photography

2nd place - Finn Sanders
3rd place - Finn Sanders
5th place - Julie Bocetti

The students who were
awarded medals at the
Area Council level will
now proceed to the
District Level judging,
which happens
sometime in the next
few weeks.

Get ready for next year's
PTA Reflections
Program !!!!! The 2009-
2010 Reflections
Program Theme is
"Beauty is".

Thank you again to the
students, parents,

In appreciation,
Mrs. Myra Oleynik
BH Library Media Specialist

Mrs. Lisa Marutz
BH Library Secretary

Music Room Announcements

The Elephant Child performance in March was a huge success! Many thanks to all those involved, Bower Hill staff, teachers, parents and especially the second graders. A special thank you to all of the parents who worked so hard to transform the gym in to a jungle, helping to make this performance special for our young musicians.

Third Grade's Spring performance is now fast approaching. Third grade families, be sure to mark your calendars to enjoy this space-tastic performance by Bower Hill's third grade students.

Third Grade Spring 2009 performance - May 22, 2009

9:45 performance by students of Mr. Killen, Miss
Glunt, Mrs. Hanig-Jones, and Miss O'Brien

2:15 performance by students of Mr. Marquis, Miss
Duvall, Mrs. Sacco, and Miss Juarin

A group of volunteers met April 7 to start planning scenery set up for the third grade concert. They are off to a wonderful start, and if you have already sent your name and number in to help, thank you. If you are able to help in anyway, (artistic skills not necessarily required!) please send a note in to your child's classroom teacher. Help is especially needed on Wednesday May 22 for gym decoration. If you can stop by after school to help please let us know.

Peters Township School District is presenting an Arts Festival. It will feature the varied artistic talents of students throughout the Peters school system at the High School on Friday, May 15 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be work showcased from Bower Hill students, so please plan on stopping over to enjoy this event.

Notes from the BHLMC

April 12th is National DEAR Day in honor of Beverly Cleary's 93rd Birthday!

Ramona Quimby invites families, friends, and communities to come together for 30 minutes and read!

Also a great time to sign your child up for a public library card if you haven't done so already to get ready for Summer Reading. For more ideas and reading lists

<http://www.dropeverythingandread.com/index.html>. You and your family may also enjoy the activities found at www.beverlycleary.com. Enjoy this 30 minutes of family time together and start a new tradition.

Everybody Loves a Bargain!

teachers and the PTA for making this year's Reflections program a great success.

BOX TOPS

Keep sending in your box tops. So far our school earned \$6,845!!! If you need more box top sheets, either stop in at the office or go to the box top web site. www.boxtops4education.com. Look for collection sheets.

Our Half Price Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon -- Mark your calendars for the Week of May 18th, volunteers needed for set-up on the Friday, May 15th which also happens to be Reading Olympics Day. Check your child's backpack for the class visitation schedule. Click here for more details:
<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/bhlmc>

Parents and students may visit our new Alexandria OPAC (online public access catalog) from home directly from the PTSD website under K-6 Quick Links>Library Links>BH Alexandria System or simply click here <http://alexandria.pt-sd.org:8093/> from home.

April is also National Poetry Month! Make sure your child brings a small poem to school on April 30th for "Poem in Your Pocket Day!" You'll find some great ones on Bower Hill's favorite poetry site, www.gigglepoetry.com Include poems in your child's lunch bags all month long. You can even rate a few poems for Bruce Lansky's next book while you're at it!

Celebrate Earth Week with our annual Recycle Your Reading Paperback Book Trade in the BHLMC!
Drop off Day is Tuesday, April 21st. Students are invited to bring 3 gently used PAPERBACK books that are age appropriate and paperbacks only. Students will receive a trading ticket on Tuesday's Drop Of Day and then will bring that same ticket to school on Earth Day, Wed. April 22nd, to select from hundreds of recycled books!

Break Free from TV!
The Center for Screen-Time Awareness has designated the week of April 20th as TV Turnoff Week. Break free from TV and other screens around your home this week and go outside and play, wash the car or read a new book together!
Click here for two video messages from Acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson on how to lead a healthy life by example and the connections between childhood obesity and television viewing time.
http://www.tvturnoff.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=8

A Reminder to all who signed up.....

"Bee" Part of the Fun!!!!

Bower Hill PTA "Bee-stro" Family Dinner Event,
Italian Theme, Friday April 24th 5-8pm
Bower Hill Cafeteria and Multi Purpose Room

Catered by T. Ferrieri's, Lawrence, PA 724-969-6001

Adult Menu: \$ 8.00
Child's Menu: \$ 5.00

T Ferrieri's Signature Pasta Sauce on Penne Pasta, Pasta with Garlic and Oil with Mixed Vegetables, meatball or hot sausage, mixed mesclin salad, tomato basil and mozzarella salad, garlic bread.
Drinks included.
Dessert cake squares provided by Carrie Gallagher, Carrie's Creative

Cakes Design, www.carriescreativecakes.com

Entertainment/Activities:

The activity table will feature theme art activities presented by Abrakadoodle.

Back by popular demand, the Bee-stro is pleased to welcome back, the juggling and circus entertainment of Mike Spisak and Ken Wills.

If you would like to donate items to be placed into a basket or create a themed basket of your own, for our Chinese Auction Raffle at the "Bee-stro", please contact Melanie Bleiweis at 724-969-1128 or mbleiweis@verizon.net. Proceeds benefit Relay for Life. We are looking for some great volunteer help, too. Call or email Melanie

MCMURRAY ELEMENTARY IS WELCOMING 3rd GRADE PARENTS!

All are invited to attend the last McMurray Elementary PTA meeting of the school year being held on Tuesday, May 12 at 9:00 A.M. Get a sneak preview of some of the fantastic programs that McMurray Elementary has to offer your children and learn about volunteer opportunities for the 2009-2010 school year at McMurray!

Hospitality will begin at 9:00 A.M. with a wonderful breakfast provided by our PTA members. The general membership meeting will begin at 9:15 A.M. The meetings are held in the LGI room, across the hall from the PTA volunteer room. If you don't know where that is, McMurray's friendly office staff will be glad to point the way! Just ask! It will be a great time to renew old acquaintances and make some new ones.

Babysitting will be provided!

Hope to see you there,

Geeta Welden, McMurray Elementary PTA President

The McMurray PTA is sharing the attached information through the PTSD. This event is not initiated by the PTSD.

Peters Township PTA Pajama Drive 2009

April 22- May 1

This program collects and distributes new pajamas and books for children in need.

Please bring in NEW pajamas and/or a new book. Drop boxes are located in main entrances of all PT schools.

For more information, please visit www.pajamaprogram.org or call Emma, Max, or Sam at 724-941-5331.

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