

# Bach Elementary School News

A publication of the Bach Elementary PTO



**September 19, 2012**

**Bach Elementary School**

**600 W. Jefferson, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 734-994-1949**

## Information From our Principal:

Dear Bach School Families,

Things are off to a fabulous start! Thanks to a dedicated staff, supportive parents and of course wonderful students, we were able to start the teaching and learning process on the first day of school.

Please remember that instruction begins at 8:48. The first bell rings at 8:45 which allows students to enter the building and get to their classrooms on time. Students **MUST** have a yellow pass from the office to enter their classrooms when they are late!

I wanted to thank all of the parents and students who helped us in the following ways:

- putting together the Opening Day packets•cleaning up the grounds and planting flowers(thanks to Pioneer Trailblazers too!)
- organizing the Opening Day Coffee
- organizing the beginning of the year picnic•putting up the Welcome to Bach School outdoor signs

Please remember that if after school plans change, you **MUST** send a note or call the office and let us know. Otherwise your child will be sent home the way they normally go home. If they normally stay for childcare, they will be sent there. This is very, very important. Students need to make their after school plans with their friends before coming to school in the morning.

We had our second all school assembly on September 17th when we celebrated Constitution Day. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang several patriotic songs. We also reviewed our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program. Fifth graders presented a narrative on the Constitution and fourth graders shared their illustrated interpretations of the preamble too!

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 9/18 NWEA testing window opens
- 9/27 Picture Day
- 10/3 Student Count Day
- 10/4 4th grade trip to Lansing 9am-5pm
- 10/5 NWEA testing window closes
- 10/7 PTO Meeting, 7pm
- 10/9 MEAP testing window opens
- 10/10 Bike/Walk to School Day
- 10/24 4th grade to Eberwhite Woods
- 12:15-3pm
- 10/26 MEAP testing window closes
- 10/27 Walk-a-thon
- 11/2 Science Night
- 11/6 Election Day (No School)

At Bach School we are dedicated to creating an environment that inspires learning. We strive to challenge each student to achieve full academic potential and maintain consistent standards for socially responsible behavior. We believe education is a share responsibility of the staff, students, parents, and the community. We value children as unique individuals and recognize their ethnic diversity and various learning styles as strengths.

## **PRINCIPAL LETTER CONTINUED:**

NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing has begun for Bach Students. This test is taken on the lab computers. Kindergartners begin taking the test in January. These assessments test in the areas of reading and math. The tests help teachers learn about how each student is achieving. The results will be used to guide instruction.

Curriculum Night was very well attended. This was a time to find out more about the expectations for your child/ren in their classrooms and sign up for a parent/teacher conference. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's teacher immediately so you can set up a parent/teacher conference. November 5th will be designated for an all school late afternoon and evening conference night.

Spanish School began placement evaluations last weekend for Spanish speaking students at Bach and other schools. Evaluations will take place through September 29. The Saturday classes begin on October 6. Students meet from 10:00-12:30 at Bach and have lessons in Spanish. Parents of third grader Felix Benki and Kindergartner Angel Benki, Teresa Satterfield and Jose Benki along with our fantastic ESL tutor Sandra Nuñez, coordinate this wonderful school experience.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving on our School Improvement Team. This team meets five or six times throughout the year and talks about student achievement and ways we can be most supportive of our students.

I wanted to be sure you noticed that beginning Thursdays, October 4-November 29th, a Bach School parent, Donna Mahoney, will be teaching a class in American Sign Language. The class will be held in Bach's Art Room from 3:50-4:30. Donna's son communicates using ASL and we know other students are anxious to learn more signs. Thanks Donna--we hope many students take advantage of the Rec and Ed class.

You may have noticed that the PTO provided "wish trees" for each classroom. Please pick a wish from a tree today! (Teachers are also including wishes in their newsletters). The tree on the lobby wall has been painted over and now is the home for Bach School Students' art work. Stop by and see it soon.

### **A few gentle reminders:**

Students may NOT charge the payment of hot lunches. Every child will be provided with a lunch if they do not have payment, but it may be different from the lunch indicated on the menu. You **MUST** fill out and return the Free and Reduced breakfast/lunch application every year to see if you qualify. **Even if you qualified last year, you must submit it again before the end of September or you will be charged full fees.**

We are unable to supervise students before and after school unless they are in our childcare program. Please contact Vickie Malcolm if you are interested in before or after school childcare at Bach. Vickie can be reached at 994-2298.

Our building safety plan helps to ensure the safety of all our students. Staff members greet students throughout the school and at the buses every morning and at the end of the day. We have identified two "trouble spots". One is the Jefferson Street entrance at the beginning and end of the day. **PLEASE** do not park here at all unless you are in a "legal" parking spot on the street. Also on 4th Street, remember you may **NOT PARK here unless it is in a "legal" spot.** Please do not leave your car unattended. Do not park on the crosswalks and do not let your children run across the street to your car. All of these are very dangerous. (A reminder that students are NOT allowed to go to the Jefferson Market without an adult.)

**PRINCIPAL LETTER CONTINUED:**

Safety Patrol members are on post!! Mrs. Ezekiel has included an explanation of our program. We thank you for respecting our safety patrol members.

Please return all forms and the green emergency card to the office immediately if you have not already done so. We need this information for your child's safety.

Thanks for being respectful of our **NO PEANUT** and **NO TREENUT** rule in common areas and **all** classrooms. Snacks and birthday treats of fruits and vegetables and small items such as pencils, a class book or game, help keep everyone safe. The health and safety of all our students is our number one priority. If your child has a specific allergy to food, bee stings or any other health concern, please be sure to let us know.

**Upcoming dates of importance--see attached calendar for other events:**

Picture Day is Thursday, September 27th. Mark your calendars now! Information was handed out at Curriculum Night. **YEARBOOKS are NOT** a part of the picture packages and can be ordered later in the year.

Student Count Day is Wednesday, October 3rd. Please be sure your child is here on this day so we can send our total school count into the state quickly.

Thursday, October 4th at 7:00pm is the PTO meeting.

MEAP test dates for grades 3,4,5 are October 9th-17th, with make up dates on the 18th-26th (more information in our next newsletter!).

Our newsletter editor is Katie Richards-Schuster. Her email address is: [kers@umich.edu](mailto:kers@umich.edu). Please send her things you would like included in upcoming newsletters. They will come to you every other Wednesday when school is in session. As a school we are sending as many things as we can via email to save time and money. Let us know if you need a hard copy of things or copies sent to two email addresses.

WOW, this newsletter has a lot of information in it. I promise they will get shorter.

Yours,

*Shelley*



# Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP



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## **BACH SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL NEWS**

Dear Bach School Parents,

A team of three fifth graders will be at the corners of Jefferson and Fifth St. and Jefferson and Fourth St. every school day morning and afternoon to help all children (and adults) cross the street safely. They can be identified by their bright green AAA safety patrol belt. They will begin on Wednesday, September 19.

They have been trained using the AAA Safety Patrol guidelines. They will not stop traffic, but will direct children to cross the street safely when traffic has cleared or has stopped and it is safe.

If you drive to school please pick up your child on Fourth St. and do not block the crosswalk. If you walk with your child, please cross at the corners, and use the safety patrollers. Please resist the temptation to cross in the middle of Jefferson to get to the market or your car. Kids will follow your lead and it could become dangerous for children.

Please be respectful of the important job these students have volunteered for and remind your child to follow their directions.

Thank you for doing your part to make Bach School a safe place to live and learn.

Sincerely, Mrs. Ezekiel

Safety Patrol Coordinator

## **BACH SCHOOL WALK-A-THON IS COMING SOON!**

**Tues-Fri, Oct 23-26, at Lunch/Recess and Sat. Oct 27, Noon-4pm.**

All walk-a-thon participants are entered into the Grand Prize Raffle. Walk at recess or lunch!

Extra prizes for top walkers and class participation.

Information materials and pledge envelopes will come home in October.

Parent volunteers needed for shifts on Recess Saturday Walking Days. Watch for sign-ups!

**NEW TEACHER SERIES:  
A NEW FACE IN THE ART ROOM AT BACH  
WELCOME KIM FUREY!**

I grew up in a suburb of Minneapolis, received a BA in design from Iowa State University and my teaching certificate from Nazareth College in Kalamazoo. I have lived in Ann Arbor for 24 years. My first teaching job was teaching art for Vicksburg Community Schools, just outside of Kalamazoo. After moving to Ann Arbor, I had an interior design business for 15 years before going back into teaching. I have been a teacher assistant at Bach for the last 8 years and also did 5 long-term substitute art assignments for the Ann Arbor District. I am beyond thrilled to be teaching art here at Bach, my second home. Teaching art is my passion and it gives me great joy when I see my students gain both understanding and enjoyment from art. Picasso once said, "every child is an artist" and, I am committed to give my students confidence, and a deeper understanding and enduring passion for making and appreciating art. In my free time I enjoy traveling to museums and galleries, reading, entertaining and exercising - especially walking with my dog, Louise. I also still do some interior design work. My only child, Jake, just graduated from college in May and is working in Chicago, so I am lucky to have the excuse of visiting this wonderful city often.

**ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE!**

The district and individual school Annual Education Reports (AERs - formally PA 25s) are available on the district website.

They are labeled 2011-12 because it contains testing data from last year.

To view report, please use the following link:

[http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/ins.research/annual\\_education\\_reports](http://www.a2schools.org/aaps/ins.research/annual_education_reports)



## **UPCOMING PTO MEETING**

**Thursday, October 4th  
7:00 to 8:00 pm**

Everyone is welcome! Come and make new friends and re-connect with old ones! Join us as we finalize this year's budget.

**Free childcare provided**

**Hope to see you there!**



## **GOT NEWS TO SHARE?**

The next newsletter date is October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please send newsletter items to [kers@umich.edu](mailto:kers@umich.edu) by Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon. Newsletter items can also be placed in the "Newsletter" box in the Bach School Office. Thanks!



## **DON'T FORGET: PICTURE DAY IS SEPT. 27<sup>th</sup>**

A few volunteers are needed to help with Picture Day! Can you help out for an hour or more, especially in the morning when the younger students have their pictures taken? Let Kim Kauffman in the office know if you are available.

Thanks!

## **KNOW ABOUT SCRIP?**

Scrip is one of the best ways to support Bach! It's simple, easy, and raises funds for Bach as you do your everyday shopping! Learn more about various retailers and how to buy scrip.

### *Grocery Scrip Spotlight: Busch's Fresh Food Market*

***Do you shop at Busch's?*** If so, you can support PTO! Each year Bach families raise over \$10,000 by participating in our grocery Scrip program and purchasing the things they normally would buy from their favorite supermarkets. Below you will find instructions on how you can help raise money for Bach by shopping at Busch's, this week's grocery Scrip spotlight store.

Busch's Cash for Education program is linked to its MyWay customer loyalty program. To participate in the Cash for Education program, you must link a Busch's Cash for Education Card (available in the Scrip store in the Bach School lobby on Fridays between 8:45 and 9:15 AM or upon request by emailing [scrip@bachpto.org](mailto:scrip@bachpto.org)) to your Busch's MyWay account by doing the following:

1. Go to [www.buschs.com](http://www.buschs.com) and click on the "Cash for Education" icon on the right side of the page.
2. *If you currently have a MyWay account*, click on "Register Your Cash for Education Card" and then log in to your account. Enter your 14-digit Cash for Education Card number (located on the back of the card beneath the bar code) in the box labeled "Busch's Cash for Education Card Number." Click "Register Card." You are now registered for the Cash for Education program.
3. *If you do not have a MyWay account*, click on "Sign up for MyWay today." Enter the requested information. Activate your account by clicking on the link provided in the email that will be sent to you after you complete the account registration process. Link your new MyWay account to your Cash for Education card by clicking on the "Cash for Education" link on the right side of the page and then entering your Cash for Education card number as described in step 2 above. You are now registered for the Cash for Education program.

Take your Cash for Education Card with you on each shopping trip to Busch's. At check-out, tell the cashier you would like to charge your Cash for Education Card for the amount of your purchase. Swipe your Cash for Education Card twice and then pay using your preferred payment method. Bach PTO earns **5%** on each purchase made by cash, check, or PIN-based debit card and **3%** on each purchase made by credit card.

If you have any questions about Busch's Scrip program or any other grocery Scrip program, please contact the Bach School Scrip Coordinator at [scrip@bachpto.org](mailto:scrip@bachpto.org). Thanks for your support!

## **PTO Scrip Store Hours**

**Fridays 8:45 - 9:15am (main lobby)**

# Scrip cards now in stock!

We are at your service to make your Gift Card shopping experience easy. Conveniently, we now have cards **IN STOCK** (see list below). Learn about our grocery Scrips fundraising programs. Pick up orders & purchase gift cards in stock. Questions or need additional ordering options? Email: [scrip@bachpto.org](mailto:scrip@bachpto.org)

Ace Hardware (4%)	\$25 \$100	Lowe's Home Improvement (4%)	\$25 \$100
Amazon.com (4%)	\$25 \$100	Macy's (10%)	\$25 \$100
Barnes and Noble (9%)	\$10 \$25	Meijer (3%)	\$25 \$50 \$100
Best Buy (3%)	\$25 \$100	Nicola's Books (10%)	\$10 \$25 \$50
Bruegger's Bagels (7%)	\$10	Noodles & Company (8%)	\$10
Chipotle Mexican Grill (10%)	\$10	Panera Bread (9%)	\$10 \$25
CVS Pharmacy (6%)	\$25 \$100	PetSmart (4%)	\$25
Downtown Home & Garden (5%)	\$25 \$50	People's Food Co-op (5%)	\$25 \$50
Gandy Dancer (9%)	\$25 \$100	Qdoba (7%)	\$25
Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy, Athleta (9%)	\$25	REI Sporting Goods (8%)	\$25
Goodrich Quality 16 (4%)	\$10	Sam's Club (2%)	\$25 \$100
Gratzi. Palio, Real Seafood, Mainstreet Ventures (9%)	\$25	Shutterfly (9%)	\$25
Great Harvest Bread (8%)	\$10	Starbucks (7%)	\$10 \$25
Home Depot (4%)	\$25 \$100	Subway (3%)	\$10 \$50
iTunes (5%)	\$15 \$25	Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea (7%)	\$10
L.L. Bean (15%)	\$25 \$100	Target (2%)	\$25 \$100
Land's End (16%)	\$25 \$100	Wal Mart (2%)	\$25 \$100
Learning Express Toys (5%)	\$15 \$25 \$35	Whole Foods (5%)	\$25 \$100
Little Caesar's Pizza (8%)	\$20		

## **BACH CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	17 Constitutional Day	18 NWEA Testing Begins	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 SCHOOL PICTURE DAY	28	29
30	OCT 1	2	3 STUDENT COUNT DAY	4 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Trip to Lansing (9-5)  PTO Meeting 7pm	5	6

## **UPCOMING DATES- OCTOBER & NOV**

- 10/9 MEAP testing window opens
- 10/10 Bike/Walk to School Day
- 10/24 4th grade to Eberwhite Woods 12:15-3pm
- 10/26 MEAP testing window closes
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