

BACH elementary SCHOOL news

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016



HELLO BACH FAMILIES,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. I am proud to be a part of this school community where positive energy and hard work is the norm. Our Bengals started the school year strong because of the great care from our teachers, staff, and parents. A2gether, let's make it a great year!

For the safety and support of our students, please take time this weekend to read through our first newsletter. It is full of important information for all new and returning families.

Student Safety – Drop off and Pick Up

- » Your first stop in our building should be to the office so we can welcome you and provide you with a visitor sticker, a quick visual to others that the office staff knows you're in our building. If you forget and are in the halls without a visitor sticker you will receive a gentle reminder from any adult in our building.
- » Drive and park safely. Being the exception only increases the danger to our students, families, and staff. Children and families are safest when you are free from the distraction of your cell phone.
- » 4th Street parking is for immediate drop off and pick up. Do NOT leave your cars on 4th Street. We need traffic to flow to allow more cars to safely drop off and pick up on the curb. Students should only cross at designated cross walks.
- » 5th Street parking is for buses only.
- » Where can you park to walk your child to the building? Spots are available for you on Jefferson St and Neighborhood parking. Park only in designated spots to avoid blocking students' view of oncoming traffic. You will be asked to move.

Please remember that our parking rules are in place for the safety of our students. If the rules are not followed, staff members will give a gentle reminder and drivers will be asked to move their cars to a safe spot. Please receive these reminders with patience and gratitude for their work to keep ALL kids safe.

Thank you for your part in making the start of our school year a great one.

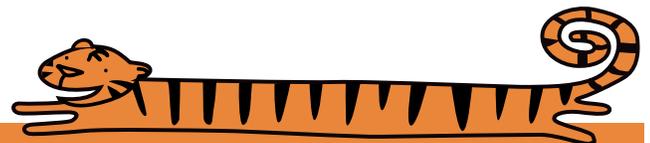
—*Alison Epler, Principal*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Picture Day
Monday, 9/26

Bike or Walk to School Day
Wednesday, 9/28

**5th + Mr. B & Mrs. Franzen to
Farmer's Market**
Wednesday, 10/5 9-10:30



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 shared 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.

LETTER FROM THE PTO

Dear Bach Families,

Welcome to the school year! We are excited to be this year's co-presidents of the PTO. The PTO is open to all families and is a great opportunity to get involved in Bach. This year we are looking to engage as many families as possible in PTO events and activities. Some of the events in the next few months to look out for include:

- » **Fun Run (October)** An event that is fun, focused on health, and is also a fundraiser for the school. See more information on page 10.
- » **Science Night (November)** A free night of science activities brought by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
- » **Student Art Event (December)** a new event focused on celebrating our children's artistic talents.

In addition to events, the PTO encourages parents to be involved in various ways- we're hoping that everyone can do one thing- whether small or large to show the importance of families to Bach. Each newsletter will list various ways for parents/families to be involved. Ideas to consider:

- » Be a room parent, volunteer for a PTO event, help with the library
- » Have lunch with your child at school (everyone is always welcome!)
- » Write "kindness heart" to show gratitude for a teacher, staff, or student (find hearts in school—or make your own to put up on the school billboard)
- » Attend the next PTO meeting
- » Help fulfill a teacher wish list item
- » Join in the fun run!

PTO meetings are another way to participate. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00. We are looking to host speakers on items of importance to our families as well as to share information about school activities and discuss school issues. If you have an idea for a speaker topic, please email us at: president@bachpto.org

We are here to support families. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas- we want to hear them. Please don't hesitate to catch us at school or email us with your thoughts. No idea/issue is too small.

Again, welcome to the school year. We look forward to working with you to make this a great year!

Nieka, Emily & Katie

Picture Day is Monday, September 26

Pick a favorite outfit and practice a smile for school picture day on Monday, September 26. Order forms were handed out last week at Curriculum Night or sent home in your child's backpack. If you need a new flyer, additional copies are available in the office. Order forms with cash, money order, or check (payable to Lifetouch) should be returned to school prior to picture day. You may also see package options on-line and place your order at www.mylifetouch.com with Bach's Picture Day ID: LM456100Y0.

We also need a few volunteers to help on picture day. Volunteers will help organize order forms, bring students from their classrooms, and help them look their best. Help is needed from 9 a.m. until early afternoon. Email nieka@varnum.org if you are able to help.

Social Media and Privacy

Many of us enjoy sharing photos of friends and family via social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). It's tempting for parents and family to want to share cute photos we take at school events or when we're volunteering at school; however, there are currently about 30 Bach families who have requested that Bach School/PTO not share images of their child/ren on social media. Our PTO policy is that we will not share any recognizable images of these students on our Facebook page, Twitter feed, Newsletter, or other social media. It never hurts to check in with other families before sharing photos of their children on Facebook, etc.

Rec and Ed Classes offered at BACH!

Are you looking for enrichment activities for your student? Rec and Ed offers a variety of classes at Bach both before and after school hours. Most classes begin the week of October 6.

Fall classes at Bach include:

Before school:	Chess	(K-5)	Thursdays 7:45-8:45 a.m.
After school:	Break Dance	(K-5)	Mondays 4-5 p.m.
	Chinese	(K-5)	Tuesdays 4-5 p.m.
	Kid Yoga	(K-5)	Tuesdays 4-5 p.m.
	Art Around the Globe	(K-5)	Wednesdays 4-5 p.m.
	Earth, Moon, and Beyond	(K-5)	Thursdays 4-5 p.m.
	Little Hoopers Basketball	(K-2)	Fridays 4-5 p.m.

After school classes begin the week of September 26; morning chess begins October 6. For more information about Rec and Ed classes and to register, visit <http://recedafterschool.weebly.com>. For scholarship information, visit <http://www.a2schools.org/Page/4133>.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Bach Elementary is proud to be an “Evergreen” school, the highest level designated by the Michigan Green Schools Program. We know, however, that we can do even more to be careful stewards of our environment. From additional recycling to compostable partyware at school events to larger building-wide initiatives—we’ve heard many wonderful ideas and would like to find a way to coordinate, plan, and prioritize. If you are interested in being part of this conversation, please contact John Beeson at powerofsun.johnbeeson@gmail.com.

A FRIENDLY COMPETITION: BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Box Tops for Education is a nationwide program that allows schools to earn up to \$20,000 per year by collecting the Box Tops logos from hundreds of grocery items. Each “Top” is worth 10 cents that Bach can use for books, computers, anything we need! That might not seem like a lot, but if each student collects just 25 Box Tops, we’d earn almost \$1,000! Look in your child’s backpack for a collection sheet and return it to your child’s classroom teacher by Friday, October 14. The classroom that collects the most Box Tops will earn an additional recess!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The PTO has several volunteer spots open for this school year. Perhaps one is a perfect fit for you? Several, including Webmaster, SCRIP coordinators, Dance-a-Thon Chair, and Student Science Fair Chair require only limited daytime availability. Question? Contact president@bachpto.org.

SCRIP Gift Cards Co-Coordinator (work with our experienced SCRIP team on this important fundraising effort)

SCRIP Grocery Program Coordinator

PTO Website Co-Webmaster

Lunchtime Assistants (assist with milk sales, opening lunch items, etc.)

Student Art Show/Fair Chair/Committee members

Student Science Fair Chair/Committee members

Heritage Festival Co-Chair/Committee members

Photographers and Videographers

MULTICULTURAL/INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you speak a second language or want to help with multicultural activities? Bach School and the PTO have many exciting plans for the coming year and we want to be sure that all Bach families feel included in our activities and community. Our needs may include:

- » Callers to explain/remind about key school events
- » Translators for our newsletter
- » Buddy families for international/ELL families who could use a little extra help
- » Volunteers/Coordinators for International/Heritage fun nights
- » Translators for Parent Teacher conferences

There is some funding available for translation, but it does not cover everything, so if you are able to offer your services to help out occasionally, please contact Jennifer Howard jenniferlynnepward@gmail.com or Josephine Chi jchi@rocketmail.com

SAFETY PATROLLERS BEGIN TO SERVE

5th grade AAA-Trained Safety Patrollers will be at their posts Monday, Sept. 19. These students have volunteered to work hard and help all Bach School students cross streets safely. Parents and guardians can be a big help as they do their job. If you walk with your child, please honor the patroller's directions. Please always cross at the cross walk. You are our students' role models. If you drive, please use the 4th Street drop off and be aware of all the walkers.

Thank you for your service, patrollers.

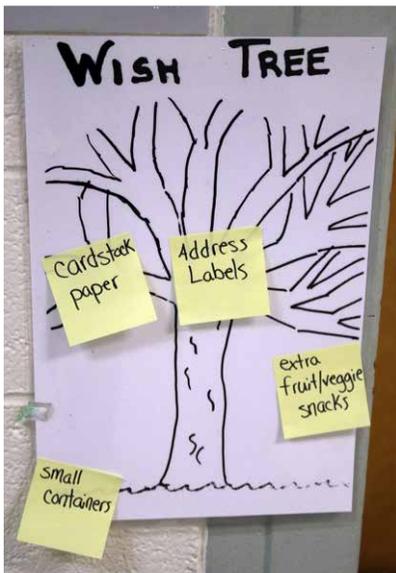
Mrs. Ezekiel

Kindness at Bach

You may remember that last spring, our Big Playground mural was vandalized. Without being asked, Jeff Kaynor volunteered his services and restored the mural for free. Moved by his act of kindness—and the many others we witness every day—Bach teachers, staff, and the PTO plan to dedicate this school year to inspiring and recognizing kindness around us. You'll hear much more about this as the year goes on—both from classrooms and from the PTO—but next time you're at Bach take a moment to:



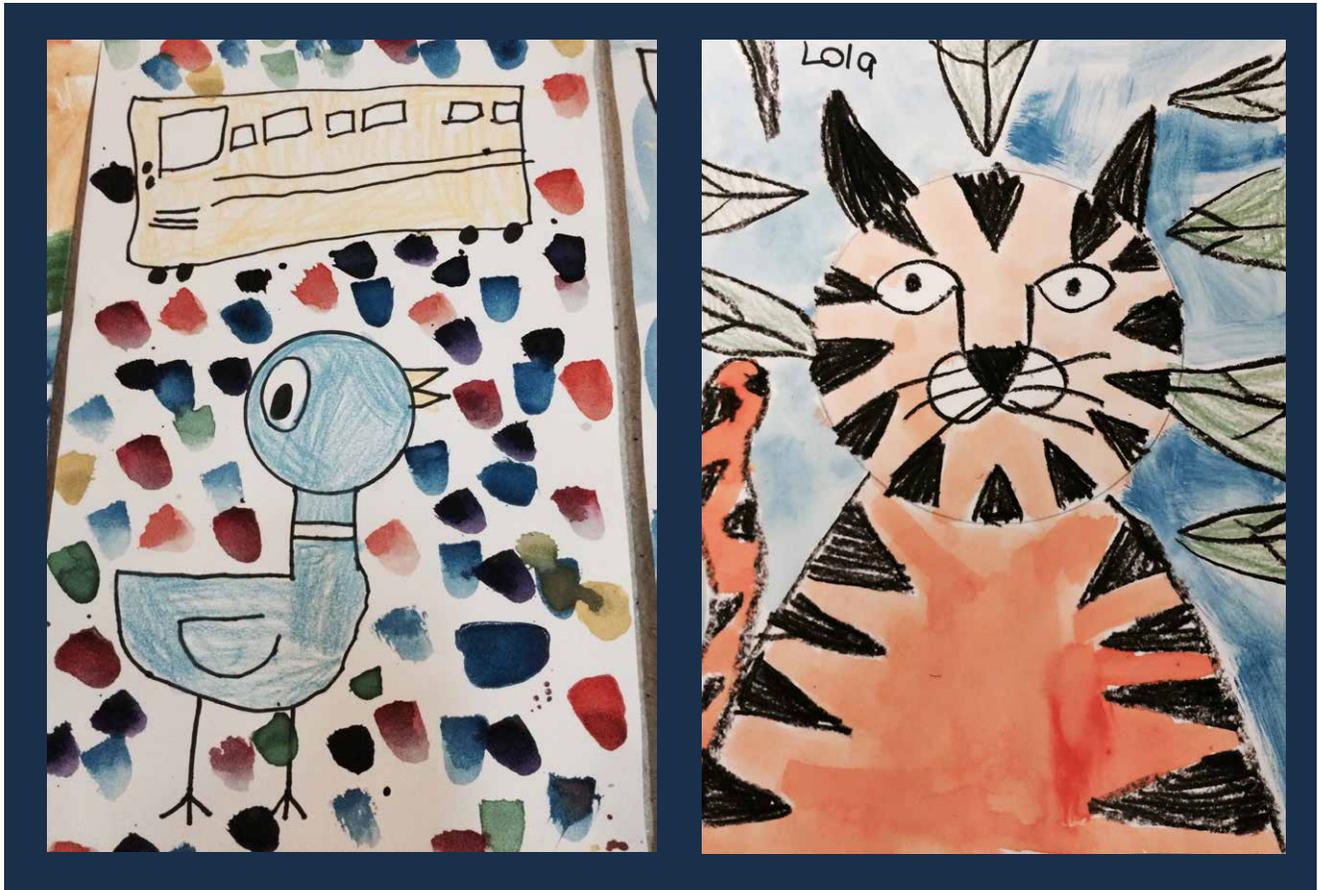
Read the personal messages on a bulletin board near the main office created by teachers and staff to celebrate their special talents.



Consider fulfilling one of your child's teacher's "wishes" from the wish trees outside many classrooms.



Add a heart to the wall outside the main office to share one of your own acts of kindness.



WE HAVE HAD A FANTASTIC, PRODUCTIVE START in the art room this school year. It has been wonderful greeting my students and meeting my new ones. We are starting to settle in and are getting used to the schedule along with new and old routines. Everyday Bach students show creative effort, positive attitudes, and enthusiasm for art.

At the beginning of the year, much of our art time is devoted to basic housekeeping tasks such as making portfolios, and getting reacquainted with our room. We were able to fit in some art projects too. Kindergarteners drew and painted a Bach tiger along with line turtles. 1st graders drew and painted a Don't Let Pigeon Drive The Bus. 2nd graders created painted paper, and drew and painted a Statue of Liberty in honor of Constitution Day. 3rd graders are creating a "repousse" dot. 4th graders are working on "pop art" flags and their own "superstar" project. 5th graders, along with all the grades, are working on a mural project.

In the Bach art room we experience learning through the elements of art and principles of design. We will learn how art has affected civilization throughout time, and how understanding art in the past inspires the great thinkers of our future. Art at Bach School reflects classroom learning...math, science, social studies, and language arts as well as art history, famous artists and techniques used in making art. We will strive for our own creativity through activities that challenge our imagination. We will help each other to do our best work, to stay focused, to work respectfully, and to have fun. I have no doubt that my fabulous students will continue to inspire each other and me!

Artfully yours,

Kim Furey



So Much More Than Gas and Grocery

Shopping with SCRIP gift cards is an easy way to support the Bach PTO!

You pay face value, your gift card is worth face value, and Bach PTO earns a rebate. We offer a great variety of brands in addition to your weekly gas and grocery purchases. From dining and entertainment to home improvement and beyond, we have all your shopping needs covered! It's really that simple!



Visit ShopWithScrip.com to find a complete list of national and regional retailers. Create a new account by using enrollment code: BB3C892921797

Conveniently, we have cards IN STOCK for many of our popular stores!



Bach PTO

Questions?
scrip@bachpto.org
www.bachpto.org/scrip

SCRIP Store Hours

Wednesdays

8:45 - 9:15am (lobby)



Bach Bike/Walk to School Day Wednesday, Sept 28, 2016

(Rain date Thursday, Sept 29)

Join in the fall Bach Bike/Walk to School Day to encourage and support young people to bike or walk to school!

All bikers and walkers are invited to arrive at the Bach playground at 8:40 for a group photo!

Bike/Walk Route Planning: The National Center for Safe Routes to School provides helpful information, including safe route planning, at walkbiketoschool.org/. Please consider planning a group ride or walk with other families in your neighborhood.

Bike/Walk Safety: Parents are responsible for children's safety traveling between home and school, so please accompany your young biker(s) and walkers to school. All children must have a helmet and a bike lock. Bach cannot be responsible for unsecured bikes. Parents may also bring a child's bike home. Please do not leave bikes at school overnight. **Let your bus driver know** if your child won't be riding. **PARENTS: BE A GOOD EXAMPLE—WEAR A HELMET!**

Questions?

John Beeson, Erica Briggs, Kelly Fitzsimmons—Bach BWTS Day coordinators, biketoschoolday@bachpto.org or 734.945.0442.

Tips and tricks for riding with kids: Riding with kids slows you down, and that's not a bad thing. Beyond creating future bike riders, ingraining street skills, and engaging in physical activity, biking with kids is fun. Here's how to make the most of it. <http://pfb.peopleforbikes.org/take-a-brake/coasting-with-kids/>



2016 **FUN** **BACH** **RUN**

**SAVE THESE DATES FOR OUR
BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!**

Friday, October 28 (run during school) **&**
Sunday, October 30 (1-4, obstacle course run)

Walk, Jog or Run to raise funds for Bach!

Head over to Connor O'Neill's any time on Sunday,
and a portion of your bill will be donated back to Bach!

More information and pledge envelopes will be coming home soon
If you have a question that just can't wait - email us! funrun@bachPTO.org

Money raised is used to pay for field trips, theater productions, author talks, teacher supplies, and to sponsor more than ten family events each year. These programs would otherwise go unfunded.



Sunday's amazing obstacle course provided by our friends at Wolverine Strength and Conditioning. Locally owned and operated. Visit them today at a2xfit.com



Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP

a2ptothriftshop.org

2280 S. Industrial Hwy. 734-996-9155

SHOP DONATE FUNDRAISE

A non-profit resale shop with all proceeds benefitting
Ann Arbor Public Schools and student enrichment.

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