

BACH eLEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

OCTOBER 19, 2016



HELLO BACH FAMILIES,

The safety and welfare of our students and staff are our highest priority at Bach School. We practice safety drills throughout the year to help our students know what to do in an emergency. Each year we hold six fire drills, two tornado drills, and three lockdown drills.

These drills allow us to evaluate our emergency operation plans and improve our response skills.

For "lockdown" drills, we work with our School Resource Officer, Officer Martell, to practice in the event of an inside threat. This type of drill is practiced with the students and is designed to minimize danger to anyone inside our school should an emergency occur, and attend to the health and welfare of your children in the event of a crisis.

Exact dates and times of drills are not announced, but we have had at least one of each already this school year. You may want to talk with your children about these drills. Remind them that the purpose is to practice keeping students safe in a variety of situations. It is also a good time to remind your child about the importance of good behavior and staying quiet during drills so directions can be heard.

We hope to never be faced with having to carry out any of our emergency procedures. Hopefully by practicing these drills our students feel that much safer at school so they can continue to grow academically and socially. As always, I am thankful for and appreciate your support. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

—*Alison Epler, Principal*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ramsey to Westgate Library
Thursday, 10/20 12:30-2

4th grades to Eberwhite Woods
Thursday 10/20 1:30-3

Chappell to Library
Friday 10/21 10-12

4th Grade to Lansing
Tuesday 10/25 9-5:30

Early Release Day
Wednesday, 10/26
Dismissal at 11:53

Fun Run
During school hours 10/28
Sunday, 10/30 1-4pm

Halloween Parade
Monday 10/31 3pm

Picture Retake Day
Wednesday, 11/2 9-11

2nd grade to Exhibit Museum
Friday 11/4 10-2:30

Hearing & Vision Screening
Monday 11/7-11/10

No School - Election Day
Tuesday 11/8

Family Science Night
Friday 11/11

Quick Links:

A Few Ways You Can Help

- » Help fulfill a teacher wish list item
- » [Volunteer](#) for a PTO event
- » Donate food to the Bach Bags program
- » Enroll your grocery card in the [SCRIP](#) program
- » Buy a [SCRIP card](#) to use when you shop
- » Register for [AmazonSmile](#)
- » Shop at the [PTO Thrift Shop](#)

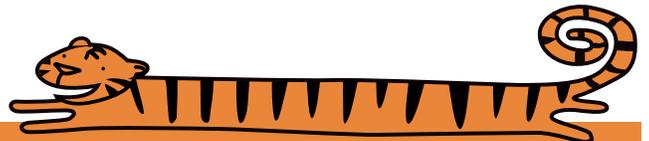
PTO Meeting TONIGHT, Wednesday, October 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Don't forget that this month's PTO General Meeting is this evening in the Multi-Purpose Room. Prior to the General Meeting, a PTO Board Meeting will be held from 6-6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend either or both. Board meetings are generally workshop sessions; this week's meeting will focus on our 2016-2017 budget, which will be voted on at the General Meeting. Free childcare for school-aged children is available in the Media Center beginning at 6 p.m.

The agenda for this week's meeting was included in Mrs. Epler's Sunday email message and appears below. For future meetings, anyone may submit an agenda item for consideration by emailing president@bachpto.org. In November, our PTO Meeting will return to the usual third Thursday of the month, November 17.

Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Approval of September minutes
3. Student Report(s)
 - Update on Little Free Library project and Drinking Fountain
4. Presidents' Reports
5. Principal's Report
6. Teachers' Reports
7. Treasurers' Report
 - Present 2016-2017 Budget
 - Vote on Budget proposal
 - Funding request: Compostable plates/cups for events
8. Committee Updates
 - Bike/Walk to School Day
 - PTOC Updates
 - Family Science Night Nov. 11
 - Fundraising: Amazon Smile
 - Philanthropy Busch's Change Can Make a Difference Coin Drive for Food Gatherers
 - After School Clubs
 - SpiritWear
9. Any additional new business/discussion
10. Adjourn



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.

Don't Forget to Return Your Directory Information Approval Form

Last week you should have received your family's "Directory Information for Your Approval Form" in your child/ren's backpack. This form displays the information you provided to the school district electronically. Please review this information for accuracy, then indicate which pieces of information you choose to have shared in the paper Bach School Directory that will be published soon and distributed to all families.

The deadline on the form is today, October 19, but please return them no later than Friday, October 21. If forms are not returned, Kim Kauffman needs to contact families individually, creating lots of extra work!

EARLY RELEASE DAY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26—11:53 a.m.



Don't forget that next week Wednesday, October 26, is an Early Release Day; Bach dismisses at 11:53 a.m. Looking for something to do that afternoon? The Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch is offering a "Paint a Watercolor Leaf" workshop for kids in grades K-5. The workshop will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room from 2-3 p.m. All supplies are provided and the event is free of charge.

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF

The Bach School Service Squad is leading a UNICEF fundraiser over Halloween. All students are being provided with an orange box and are invited to collect money for UNICEF while trick-or-treating, or any time between now and November 11. Participation is strictly voluntary. If additional boxes are desired, please contact Mrs. Gleason, Room 21. If you are handing out candy for Halloween, you might want to be prepared for students with UNICEF boxes as well. Thank you for your support of UNICEF!

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT IS COMING SOON!

Friday, November 11th from 6:00-8:00p.m., please come to the Bach Elementary Multi-purpose Room to enjoy our annual Science Night!

The Hands-On Museum will have a wide variety of experiments for kids and their families to explore together. Our Bach students voted on the theme this year, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) won by a landslide! Volunteers from Pioneer and Skyline HS will lead the assorted activities and projects that will demonstrate STEM principles in highly engaging ways. This FUN & FREE event is open everyone, so bring your family and friends out for an exciting evening of science!

For more information, please contact Co-Chairs Melanie Rountrey [mroundrey@gmail.com] or Cathy Leitner [cathyleitner@gmail.com].

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INSIGHT: IDLING

What is idling?

Idling occurs when a vehicle's main engine is running, but the vehicle is not moving.

What is unnecessary idling?

Idling is necessary at times, such as for powering heating and air conditioning in extreme weather conditions or running electronic and communication equipment in emergency vehicles.

Unnecessary idling is an avoidable practice that occurs mostly out of habit. Situations in which unnecessary idling may occur include warming up a vehicle, loading or unloading cargo or passengers, or while waiting in a queue. Unnecessary idling produces little or no discernible benefits, and releases harmful pollutants into the air, wastes fuel, and causes added wear and tear on vehicle components.

Why is unnecessary idling a concern?

Idling can strongly influence outdoor air quality at the local and community level. Unnecessary idling impacts human health, contributes to environmental degradation, and consumes natural and economic resources. The U.S. EPA reports that, "if everyone in the U.S. stopped idling for five minutes a day it would be equivalent to taking five hundred thousand cars off the road and saving 1.6 Million tons of CO₂."

An idling vehicle gets the worst fuel economy: zero miles per gallon. An idling car wastes up to 0.5 gallons of fuel per hour while an idling medium-duty truck wastes

0.4-0.6 gallons of fuel per hour. According to the U.S. Department of Energy it is more fuel efficient to turn off the engine and restart it if the vehicle will be idling for more than 10 seconds.

Vehicles warm up faster when driven gently for the first few minutes rather than when left idling.

Idling increases wear and tear on vehicle components, often resulting in costly repairs.

City Council's Public hearing & 1st vote on an idling reduction ordinance proposed by Sabra Briere occurred on October 6th and was passed:

http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2016/10/drivers_could_be_ticketed_for.html

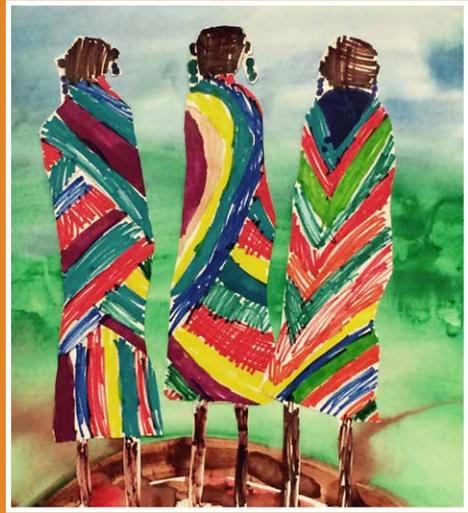
For more information, check out eWashtenaw's website on Idling:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/environmental_health/recycling_home_toxics/green_media/motor-smart/engine-idling-videos



Whooooooo is THIS FEATHERED FRIEND?

There's a group of Bach Science Olympians who undoubtedly have already identified this feathered friend who has received lots of attention in the morning on the playground. He is well-camouflaged in a tree near the bus drop-off area. If you look closely, maybe you can spot this Eastern Screech Owl!



**"CREATIVITY IS ALLOWING YOUR-
SELF TO MAKE MISTAKES IN ART."
— SCOTT ADAMS**

This statement sums up one of the big ideas in our art room. At the beginning of each school year I read *Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg to all my classes. It is a wonderful pop up book that shows how you can turn a mistake into something even better. My students love this book because of the magical quality the author shows us in creating something new out of an "oops". It is a great teaching tool to help instill flexibility, positive thinking, and creatively addressing unexpected situations. Another tool I use to teach confidence and mastery is directed drawing. The students and I draw together a subject matter. Even though the drawings will look similar, the students always have their own style and touch. The take away is that my students are thrilled with their results and their ability to be successful. I also tell them I never will give them a task to complete that they are not capable of accomplishing. I want all my students to know art is a safe place where it is ok to make mistakes and it is part of the creative process.

We have been busy creating fall-related art. Our changing outside world is a constant inspiration and valuable teaching tool. Scarecrows, leaf prints, autumn sunsets, owls, pumpkin patches, apples, spooky houses, and fall trees are just a few of the projects all grades have been working on. These projects have allowed us to use different art materials, processes, and tools such as printing, stamping, drawing with charcoal, collaging, and watercolor techniques. We have also been studying different cultures, such as the Maasai tribes of Kenya who wear beautifully colored textiles and famous artists such as student favorites Vincent Van Gogh, Henri Rousseau, and Keith Haring.

I hope you have a chance to notice some of our finished pieces hanging in our hallways.

Artfully yours,

Kim Furey

Here is the musical scoop for each of the grade levels:

KINDERGARTNERS ARE SO FANTASTIC! They are already so great at following our routine that any one of them could lead our vocal warm-ups and lead many of the songs on the song chart! We learn through a sense of play in the music room. Ask your child about Mary's Lamb, the First Responders (Emergency vehicles), how "Instruments Get Up In The Morning," and so much more! We celebrate learning. Ask your child about what makes Mrs. Bishop sing "Halleluiah!" Let the learning continue!!!

FIRST GRADERS are practicing their vocabulary about musical melodies. They have become sophisticated singers and even soloists! Can they play melodies that step? Skip? Leap? YES!

SECOND GRADERS have spent lots of their time learning songs and games that reinforce accented beat. They have learned about several musical "road signs" which help them navigate through written music. It is so rewarding to see how independent these kids are while following the musical notation in their own books! They have played musical instruments to 16 beat phrases and rocked to Percy Grainger's Country Gardens!

In Second Grade Humanities we elaborated on social studies lessons on communities by changing the song "I Bought Me A Cat" to create an urban version.

We sang lots of songs of rural and urban cultures. Up next is the study of rocks and minerals and sound.

THIRD GRADERS masterfully illustrated beat, rhythm, micro beat and macro beat. Their musical artwork is displayed in the upstairs hallway. Now they are learning to hear chordal harmony. Soon they will use bells and xylophones to accompany their own singing. Oh! Did any of your children ask you to purchase them a paw paw fruit? We sang and danced to a Michigan folk song about the paw paw patch. It's a catchy one! I brought in paw paws

I purchased from the Argus Farm Stand on Liberty. (I think they are already out of season now. It's a short one.) None of the kids had ever seen or heard of one. I let their classroom teachers try a bite of it in front of their classes!

FOURTH GRADERS are quite advanced this year in their understanding and practice of minor scales. We learned about the difference between parallel and relative minors. We continue to practice labeling the notes in sol-fege (LA-based). Now we are ready to do some Jedi mind tricks using THE FORCE of expressive qualities. These students are learning the power of changing tempo, volume, and articulation in order to change the meaning or context of music. Check out the Star Wars Expressive Qualities bulletin board upstairs. It's new this year.

FIFTH GRADERS have Humanities in place of Vocal Music as I explained in the previous newsletter. We acknowledged that many communities are changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day and sang a song entitled "1492." This song points out "...someone was already there." The ugly truth about Columbus' actions is shocking to some 5th graders. We keep that discussion brief!

Fortunately, we follow that song with a rollicking "Fifty Nifty". This song is a 5th grade tradition! Everyone needs to be able to show off how they can name all 50 states in alphabetical order! Next we learned a Korean Thanksgiving song and worked on labeling the sol-fege of its pentatonic scale. Finally, I can report that our students can play a drumline! They capably read three different lines of rhythms all at once. UM marching band, watch out!

Instrumental Music is preparing our 5th graders to bring their instruments home. These kids are enthusiastic, for sure!

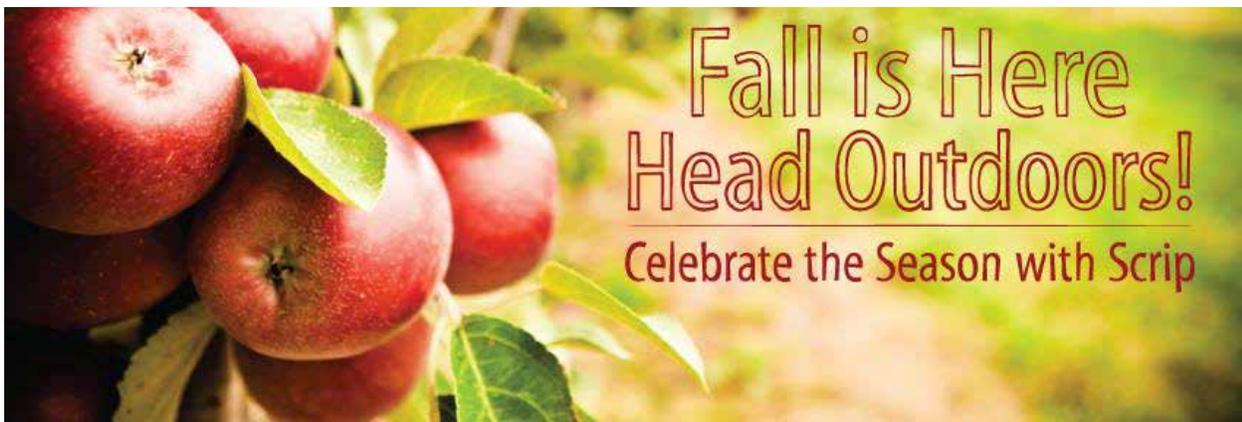
Kristi Bishop

REGISTER FOR AmazonSmile TO BENEFIT BACH!



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Bach every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experiences as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Bach PTO. More about AmazonSmile...

As the holiday season approaches, it's a great way to make your purchases mean more.



Thank you for making your purchases using Scrip and for helping the Bach School community at the same time!

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)

SAVE THE DATE



2016 FUN BACH RUN

WALK, JOG OR RUN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BACH AT OUR
BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

Friday, October 28 (run during school) &

Sunday, October 30
(1-4 p.m. obstacle course run)



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**SUPER FUN
OBSTACLE COURSE**

Walk, jog or run to raise money for Bach, and if you're up for a fun challenge on Sunday, test your skills on our **obstacle course**.



Donate online this year at:
bachpto.org/funrun



Or via these pledge envelopes (cash or check made out to Bach PTO).
Any amount is greatly appreciated. Questions? Email us! funrun@bachPTO.org



HUNGRY? Grab a bite at Conor O'Neill's any time on Sunday, October 30, and if you mention Bach, a portion of your bill will be donated back to the school!



Amazing obstacle course provided Wolverine Strength and Conditioning. a2xfit.com

Do you have Materials in Need of Translation?



TRANSLATE-A-THON!

The Translate-a-thon is a short, intense, community-driven event organized by the Language Resource Center in collaboration with the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan. Volunteers will gather on October 28, 29, and 30 to translate videos, websites, and print from museums, non-profits, and other organizations. You may also bring your own project!

Submissions for projects are still being accepted. For more information, visit <https://lsa.umich.edu/lrc/translation/translate-a-thon.html> or email lrc.content@umich.edu. To check out some the projects translated last year, visit https://lsa.umich.edu/lrc/translation/translate-a-thon/2015/projects.html#par_text.



Ann Arbor PTO THRIFT SHOP

a2ptothriftshop.org
2280 S. Industrial Hwy. 734-996-9155

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Ann Arbor Public Schools and student enrichment.

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