

BACH elementary SCHOOL news

NOVEMBER 2, 2016



HELLO BACH FAMILIES,

You and your child's teacher share a unique partnership. You both have the same goal in mind: the well-being of your child. Parent-teacher conferences at Bach provide you with the opportunity to share things about your child that his teacher may not know. In turn, you may discover new things about your child as a learner.

The following tips adapted from the Harvard Research Project, an online resource, may help you make the most out of the fifteen minutes you have with your child's teacher:

- » Be prepared to have a conversation. The purpose of the conference is not to listen to your child's teacher talk the entire time. Be willing to share your thoughts as well as ask questions.
- » Be objective. More than likely, your child's teacher will share his strengths as well as areas in which he can improve. While we naturally want our children to excel in every aspect of school, this is not often the case. Come prepared with your own thoughts about his strengths and weaknesses. Discuss them with his teacher.
- » Be supportive. Your child's teacher wants him to succeed as much as you do. Ask her how you can reinforce her efforts at home and, if applicable, help her problem-solve situations that may exist in the classroom.
- » Be realistic about data. You will receive your child's fall NWEA reading and math scores. Keep in mind that these scores provide one data point about his progress. When coupled with his performance on tests, quizzes, homework, and everyday assignments, they help paint a larger picture. Each student will be working with his/her teacher to set goals in reading and math as well as action plans for achieving those goals. You will hear more about this process at your child's conference.
- » Talk to your child. If your child is not present at the conference, he will most likely be curious about what you discussed. Be sure to emphasize the positive, but do not hesitate to point out some of the challenges you may have discussed. Remind him that you and his teacher are united in an effort to support him.

Here's to a productive and successful conference for you, your child, and your child's teacher! Teachers will be holding conferences any time now until November 14th. Common evening conferences will be held Monday, November 7th. Remember to stop in and see specials teachers.

—*Alison Epler, Principal*

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Coffee Chat, MPR

Thursday, 11/10, 9-10am

Family Science Night

Friday 11/11

4th & 5th grades to UMS

Wednesday, 11/16 10:30-12:30

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help with the Teacher Appreciation dinner on **Monday, November 7th**. This is the night that the teachers stay late for parent teacher conferences. We love to let them know how much we appreciate their time and their care for our kids by providing them with dinner. This year we are exceptionally thankful to Caroline Kaganov and our friends at Conor O'Neill's for providing the food for the teachers! When you see Caroline, please thank her.

We still need some help with drinks, desserts, and paper products. We also need parents to help us set up and clean up. [Please visit the signup genius to let us know how you can help.](#)

Thanks in advance for contributing your time and food. The teachers really appreciate the dinner! Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas.

—Grace VanderVliet (gracevandervliet@gmail.com) and Barb Hiltz (bshiltz@umich.edu)

GOT BOOKS?

In 2015 Bach families collected 4,088 books for Rx for Reading Detroit, a non-profit children's

literacy initiative run by a Bach parent that works to expand access to children's books for low-income families in Detroit and Ypsilanti. Rx for Reading needs your help again! Over the past two years Rx for Reading had distributed over 50,000 books to children and families, but the need is just as great as ever. Many of the children they serve have no books of their own.

Please consider donating your new or gently used children's books to Rx for Reading. There is a collection bin in the front lobby of Bach where you or your child can place the books. Every book makes a difference!

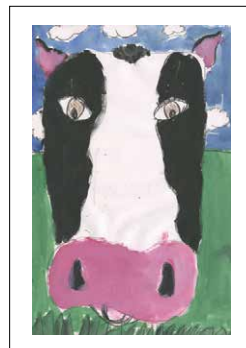
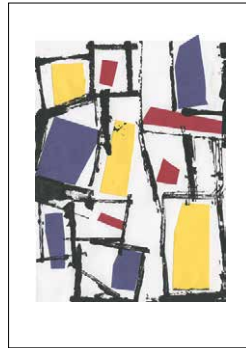
Read more about Rx for Reading: <http://rxreading.org/> "Environmental Stewardship Insight:

RAISING READERS
ONE BOOK AT A TIME

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INSIGHT: WASTE NOT

Throwing away things wastes resources. It wastes the raw materials and energy used in making the items and it wastes money. Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts and can cause serious problems. Reducing waste means less environmental impact, less resources and energy used and saves money. There are many things one can do to reduce one's waste, and more local authorities have schemes, often doorstep collections for recycling glass, paper and plastic.

BACH ART CARDS! Blank note cards featuring the art work of Bach students from Kim Furey's art class. Celebrate our kids art, and support the Bach PTO! **All proceeds from the sale of the cards go to the Bach PTO, funding the wonderful programs they support, thank you for your support!**



\$10

**for pack of 15
cards & envelopes,
includes one each of the
above designs.**

NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE

GROCERY SCRIP SPOTLIGHT:



Do you shop at *Busch's*? If so, you can support Bach PTO! Sign up for Busch's MyWay program either in store or on-line at www.buschs.com/account/signup. Under their Cash for Education program at www.buschs.com/community, designate "Bach PTO" for all 4 quarters and a percentage of your grocery purchases will automatically get allocated to Bach School. Each year Bach families raise approximately \$10,000 by participating in our grocery Scrip program and purchasing the things they normally would buy from their favorite supermarkets. 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. Thanks for your support



Give thanks for great rebates this fall. Use SCRIP when you go grocery shopping for holiday get-togethers and earn money for Bach!



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)

This week's Music Notes will center around what families can do at home to foster their child's love of music!

1. SING. Sing in the car. Sing while cooking dinner. Sing lullabies to bed. Sing while raking leaves. Sing with your child as much as possible!

2. PUT ON SOME MUSIC AND DANCE. Dance on your way up to brush teeth. Dance after dinner. Dance while picking up toys.

3. INVEST IN INSTRUMENTS. Electronic keyboards are not terribly expensive and can be very motivating for kids who are really into technology. Headphones can save your sanity as well! Recorders are only a \$5.50 investment. I'll even give your child tips if they want to play for me here at school. Private lessons are not just a good way to learn an instrument, but they are also the chance for your child to have another positive and encouraging relationship with a role model. Usually if an elementary kid starts private lessons on an instrument it is for piano, violin, or guitar. But maybe your child has another idea.

4. BE A GOOD AUDIENCE for your performing kids.

5. SEEK OUTSIDE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES! There are a multitude of music, drama, and dance organizations in Ann Arbor that would benefit your child. Check out Rec & Ed for some inexpensive ones. Ask me for more!

6. ATTEND PERFORMANCES! Between UMS, The Ark, Ann Arbor Symphony, Wild Swan, and The University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance there is something happening about every day. Find something you love to share with your child. Then try something new. (Also, UM student recitals are free. They would love bigger audiences! And the quality of performers is fantastic!)

7. ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN DANCE LESSONS. Again, Rec and Ed is a great resource. So is the YMCA. Physically responding to music is a wonderful way to develop musicality. And it burns some kid energy!

8. SEEK OUT SOME FABULOUS WEB VIDEOS to share with your child. I love OK GO videos. They are amazing. YouTube occasionally makes a big splash here in the music room. I will be happy to give you some good ones!

9. PUT PROGRAMMATIC MUSIC on at home and tell the story that goes with it. OR hopefully your child can share with you the stories we've enacted to orchestral music here at school.

While we study multiple genre of music here at Bach, for programmatic pieces that ignite a dramatic imagination, I give you a list of sample Classical music pieces we study in certain grades:

K Faeries and Giants from "Wand of Youth Suite No. 1" (Elgar)

1 Carnival of the Animals (Saint-Saens)

2 In The Hall Of The Mountain King From Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46 (Grieg)
The Nutcracker (Tchaikovsky)
The Firebird (Stravinsky)
The Magic Flute (Mozart)

3 Appalachian Spring (Copland)
The Planets (Holst)

4 Star Wars Soundtrack (Williams)
William Tell by Rossini

5 Camille Saint-Saens Danse Macabre
Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah by Handel

I look forward to hearing stories of your family's musical journey together!

—*Kristi Bishop*



2016 FUN RUN!

THANK YOU to the Fun Run Committee members for their tireless efforts in coordinating our major fundraiser, to the dozens of volunteers who counted laps, to the community supporters for their generous donations, and to the enthusiastic kids and families who ran, walked, and "obstacled" hundreds of laps! Please turn in your pledges as soon as possible and stay tuned for results on which classes tallied the most laps!



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.

SHOP	DONATE	FREE
Mon-Fri 9-7 Sat 9-6 Sun 11-5	Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5 Sun 12-4	furniture pickup call 996-9155

Find us on Facebook  Follow us on Twitter 

Athletic Equipment • Books • Clothing • Toys
Furniture • Household Goods and More

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](#)



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.