

BACH elementary SCHOOL NEWS

JUNE 7, 2017



What a difference a year makes in the life of a child. I reflect back over the butterflies many of us were feeling those first few days of school and the challenges transitions bring for us all. Change is hard, but it is inevitable. We have grown in new ways this year. For some, we have made new and lasting friendships. For others, they have overcome obstacles and discovered new areas of interests. Parents and care givers have had numerous opportunities to see our children thrive in one of the many enriching programs offered at the school supported by the PTO. This is only possible from the support from the volunteers and the financial contributions made from families, individuals and supporting community members throughout the year. It takes hours of time to coordinate Science Olympiad, there are whole weekends devoted to writing a newsletter, countless hours sending out notifications to keep parents informed, and then there are those super heroes who decide to chair events such as the upcoming Ice Cream Social. Others volunteer by coordinating room activities or by attending a field trip. This is what I have learned. I know Bach to be a place where we look out for each other. I know Bach to be a place of giving. I know Bach to be a place where children can be challenged to pursue their dreams and passions. I know Bach to be a place where my children will make diverse friends and be exposed to a variety of cultures and ethnicities. I know Bach to have passionate teachers, dedicated administration, and a terrific group of children and their care givers. I ask you to reflect back upon your year and share what Bach means to your family.

We have new changes to our board this year. Newly elected are Ellen Pritchard as a lower elementary representative, Kerry Sheldon as an upper elementary representative, Christen McPherson as vice president, Joanna Costello-Saile as assistant treasurer, Emily Deedler as PTOC representative, and Allison Waugh as the wish tree coordinator. Those returning are, Laurie Nutt as room parent coordinator along with Janelle Honeycutt, Stacey Pomranky as treasurer, and myself as the president. We are still in need of a secretary, a multicultural representative, and a fundraising coordinator. In addition, we do not have anyone to take on our social media accounts keeping Facebook and our PTO website up to date. Please think about serving on the best PTO board in town!

Financially we will end the year in the positive by about \$1,000. We recently approved spending our excess reserve dollars on teacher wish lists items above and beyond what they would typically ask for in a school year and fresh new paint throughout the entire school. We will keep \$15,000 aside for emergencies. We also have two new murals that will be painted over the summer, one in the main entrance and the other in the multi purpose room. This work is being done by the graciousness of Rebekah Modrak and Nick Tobier, both professors at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design and who are also Bach parents and Bill Burgrd who is an Ann Arbor based freelance illustrator and designer and a lecturer at the University of Michigan Stamps School of Art and Design.

We could not have made this year as successful as it was without all of you. I hope you will come celebrate your time as a volunteer with baked goods and beverages brought to you by your current PTO board Thursday June 15th from 8:30am-9:30am just inside the main entrance. Thank you for a stupendous year!

My best,
Emily Preston Rahim
PTO President

Wednesday, 6/7

5th grade & Kdg buddies, AADL 1:30-3:30

Thursday, 6/8

Tarchinski/Houston, Dairy & Wurster 2-3:30

Mrs. Ramsey Retirement Reception, 4-5:30 in MPR

Friday, 6/9

Ms. Smith graduation 9-10:30am

Mrs. Ramsey to Almendinger 10-11:30

Ice Cream Social 6-8:30

Monday, 6/12

2nd grade picnic, big playground 11-12:30

5th grade to Vets pool 12-3:30

1st grade picnic at Almendinger 12:45-3:45

Tuesday, 6/13

Kdg Picnic 9:30-12

2nd grade Hands On Museum 12:30-2

5th grade Spelling Bee 2-3:30

Wednesday, 6/14

4th grade picnic, Almendinger 11:15-3:30

3rd grade picnic, Almendinger 11:30-3:30

Ward to Dairy 1:30-2:30

Thursday, 6/15

5th grade to Dairy & Wurster 1:30-3:30

Franzen & Mr. B graduation 1:30-2:30

Friday, 6/16

Last 1/2 day of School - dismissal at 11:53

MINDFULNESS & YOGA IN THE CLASSROOM BY ANNE WARD

I am a teacher in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I teach a class of 20 vibrant second grade students who love to learn! We begin each day together with a bit of mindfulness. Connecting to our breath helps to get us calm, centered, focused and ready for our day.

I find that mindfulness has been the greatest tool for helping my students become aware of the world around them. When my students take time to be still, they can begin to identify their feelings and also notice the feelings of others.

These moments of "pause" have given my students time to consider and choose behaviors that are kind and loving. We are definitely a work in progress, but mindfulness gives my students another resource in their social-emotional toolbox.

This summer I hope to extend my mindfulness practice with my students by learning how to teach them to use yoga in the classroom as well.

My Project

I have been accepted to a Breathe For Change training in San Francisco June 22-July 8. Breathe For Change (B4C) is a non-profit organization that empowers educators to enhance well-being in their lives, classrooms, and school communities. B4C offers the world's only 200-hour wellness and yoga teacher training designed specifically for educators.

At this training I will study powerful mind-body wellness practices like yoga, mindfulness, and breathwork - and learn self-care, social-emotional learning, and community building strategies that will positively impact my life, classroom and entire school.

Upon graduation, I will receive an official Yoga Alliance Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT-200) certification. I will also be certified as a B4C Wellness Champion, which qualifies me to facilitate wellness and social-emotional learning in my school community.

My Funding

The tuition for this training is \$2,500 (minus a \$1,000 need-based scholarship from B4C = \$1,500). Michigan is a long way from California! I will need to pay for my flight (\$400 - Southwest Airlines) and lodging for the entire 17 days (\$3,000 - AirBnB). My total expenses will be \$4,900.

I really hope to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. But, I will need your support to make that happen. Thank you for taking the time to read my story and also thank you for considering making a donation. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

https://www.gofundme.com/Anne-Ward?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email&utm_content=c-ta_button&utm_campaign=upd_n

A few pieces of art from Bach Art Night remain on the shelves across from the office. If one belongs to you, please find a time in the next week to claim your masterpiece and take it home. Thanks!

SERVICE PROJECT WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Mrs. Bell's class is working on a community service project helping the Humane Society of Huron Valley. We took a field trip to the Humane Society and learned about all the things they do for our community. We would like to help. One of the items that is needed are old towels.

We would appreciate it if you would donate old and ragged towels in the donation boxes by the office, both entrances to the multipurpose room, the second grade hallway, and near Mrs. Bell's door (Room 22) And help the animals at the Humane Society!

Please adopt a shelter animal and help the Humane Society achieve their goal of finding homes for 4,000 pets this year!

If any questions please send an email Mrs. Bell at bellt@aaps.k12.mi.us



Thank you!

The PTO would like to thank all of those who have volunteered this year. You are invited Thursday June 15th to a coffee/tea and pastry send off located just inside the main entrance to celebrate our accomplishments.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life about what we give."

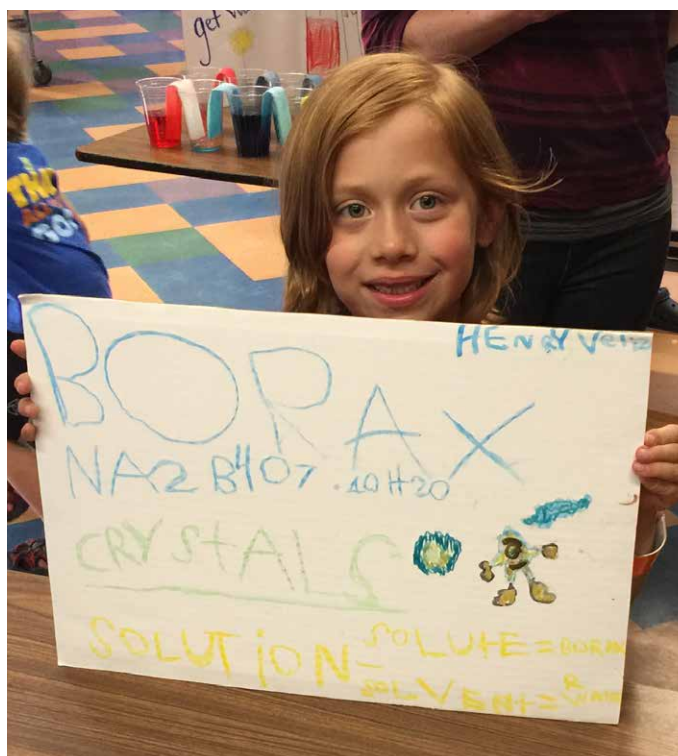
—Winston Churchill

"Thank you to all who make Teacher Appreciation a special day."



KINDERGARTEN Science Fair

Kindergarten Science Fair was a huge success! How much sugar should kids have every day? What happens to a gummy bear is water? How long does it take mold to grow on our food? Volcanoes, robots, geodes, M &M rainbows and more!





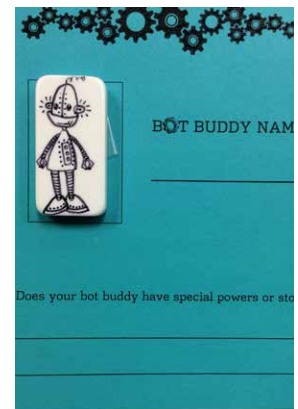
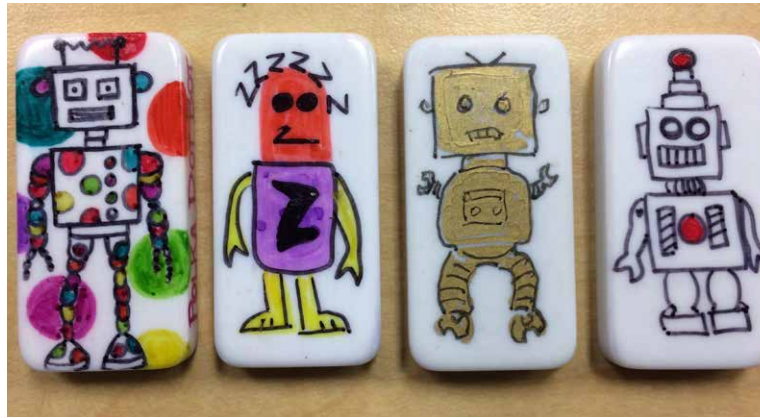
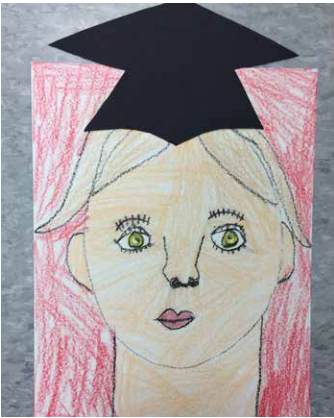
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
BACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH 6:00 - 8:30PM

A bounce house, inflatables, carnival games, live music by A2 Music Center Rock Band School students, & music spun by DJ Del.

Concessions - Free admission
\$10 for a games & inflatables wristband.

Free wristbands will be available in the office in advance for those that have a financial hardship.





"The art of being kind is all the world needs"

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

I didn't have a chance to post after I returned from my leave, but I wanted to thank everyone for all the kindness and understanding I received while I was away, and when I returned. I received wonderful emails, cards, and letters from staff, parents, and my students. Thank you all for thinking of my mother and me during this time. I especially loved all the hugs and warm greetings I received my first days back.

We have started to wind down, reflect, and finish up our last projects. The year has gone by quickly and I feel I absolutely have the best job. Everyday I feel privileged to share and to teach the joys of art and art making with my eager, creative, productive, and hardworking students. Thank you students for making it a truly enjoyable and rewarding year.

During the last month we have accomplished a variety of projects. The last of the clay projects have been finished by 4th and first grade. In addition, 4th graders created self-portraits modeled after the style of Rene Magritte. 3rd graders also created self-portraits portraying themselves as super-heroes. 2nd graders are doing peacock drawings with a shaving cream marbled background technique. Kindergarteners studied Claude Monet and painted in his impressionist style pond pictures with a Japanese bridge. They are also creating "gradua-

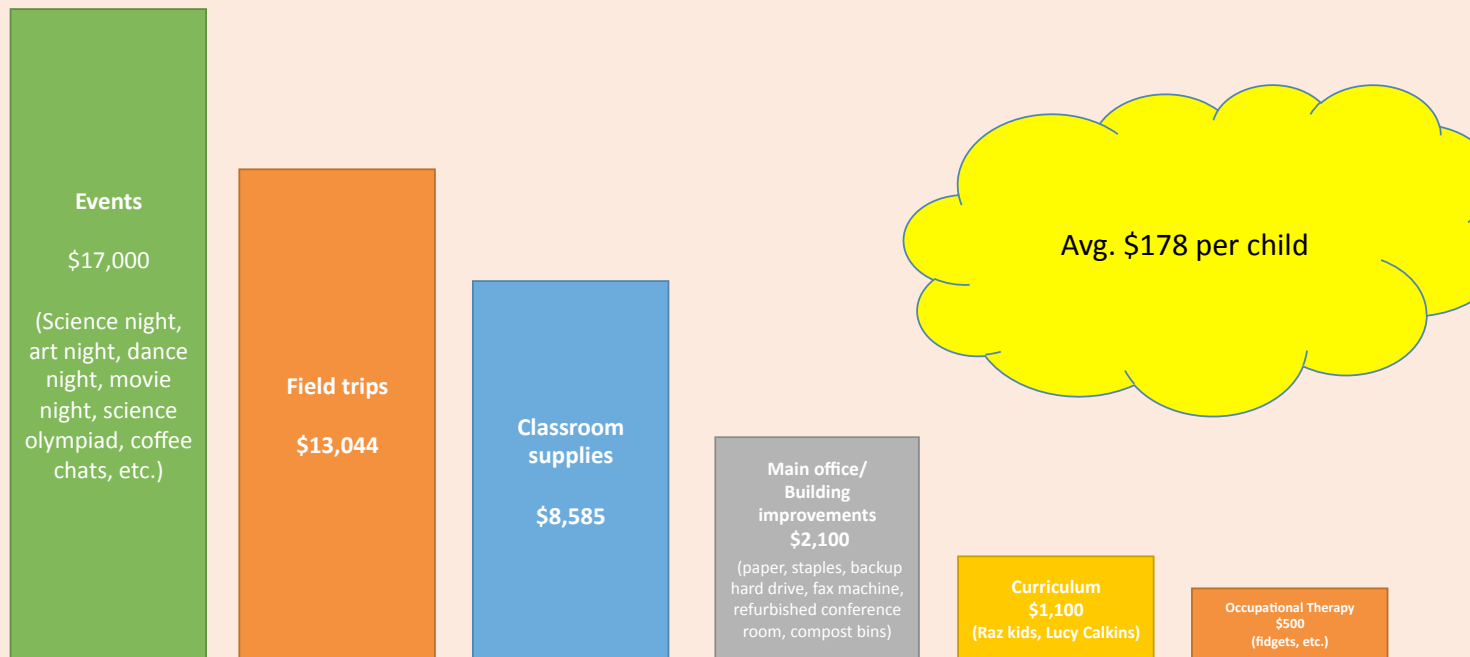
tion" self-portraits. Fifth graders are finishing their abstract sculptures.

2nd graders through 5th grades are doing a service project for University of Michigan hospital. They are creating "Bot Buddies" using dominos and sharpies. They are turning an ordinary domino game piece into a magical robot friend for patients to use as a touchstone or fidget. They have to name their robot buddy and write a story about them. They are loving this experience of making something to give away.

As we count down the last days to summer vacation, I can't believe how much my students have grown this year not only physically and emotionally, but also artistically. All of my students have shown effort, positive attitudes, and an enthusiasm for art as we have studied artists and cultures, learned and mastered new techniques, and explored different mediums. With each new project, I am constantly amazed by our students' abilities and willingness to do their best work. Not only have my students grown in so many ways, but I have too. My students have taught me new things, but they also inspire me to try my best everyday. Happy summer everyone, I hope it is filled with memory making moments, and maybe even some art-filled experiences too...

Artfully yours,
Kim Furey

Where did PTO spend money in 2016/17?



EXCERPT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY 4TH GRADE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE PRESIDENT.

This group of boys chose to work on immigration reform and they decided to write a letter to the president voicing their thoughts surrounding immigration.

Dear Mr President,

We are the student council of Bach Elementary School. We are very concerned of the Muslim refugee ban against muslim refugees and the wall between the U.S and Mexico. We think that it is not right, and it is not fair to do this. With our letter, we will explain why we think this.

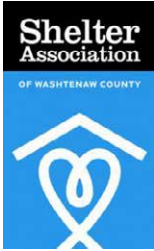
Think of it this way: You are an immigrant from Mexico. You have been struggling all your life in Mexico. Your living conditions are terrible. You live in a cardboard house. Then you learn about a country named America. You hear wonderful names about America like The Land of the Free, Home of the Brave, and The American Dream. Now you decide to immigrate to that country. You settle in America, but there are people who don't welcome you.



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.

The local Student Council group initiated a drive to collect items for the Delonis homeless shelter. They hung up posters around the school to collect most needed items like tooth paste, tooth brushes, trial size shampoos, soap, lotion, NEW (original packaging) twin sheets, pillow cases, socks, undergarment, toilet paper, half prized bus tokens, hand sanitizer, foot powder, etc.

The collection box is across from the office.



Shelter Association of Washtenaw County Wish List

Thank you so much for your willingness to help! The items listed below will go directly to the men and women we serve. **Please note we cannot accept toiletry items that have been opened. We also cannot accept used clothing or used bedding, towels or wash clothes.** Please see note below. If you have questions about donating items not on the list please contact us at 734-662-2829 ext 221.

We definitely need:

- Unopened hotel/trial size soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- **New** twin blankets, **new** sheets and **new** pillow cases (please no comforters, down or wool)
- **New** towels & **new** wash clothes
- Foot powder
- **New** Socks & **new** undergarments in original packaging
- Hand Sanitizer
- Half price bus tokens, 30 day bus passes
- Gift cards to purchase boots (Visa/Mastercard)

We can always use:

- Clorox type wipes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Facial tissue
- Plastic utensils
- Sturdy, disposable plates, bowls and cups
- Combs/brushes
- Deodorant
- Razors/shaving cream
- **New** backpacks
- Bottled water

We sure would like:

- Gift cards (Meijer, Target, Kmart, etc)
- Rain ponchos
- Shower shoes, flip flops, etc.
- New sport bottles for clients to carry water
- **New** sleeping bags
- Nail clippers
- Chap stick
- Pens, notebooks

Seasonal items:

- **New** hats and **new** gloves
- Pocket hand warmers

As part of our ongoing bed bug prevention program, and due to space limitations we are not able to accept used clothing, used bedding or used bath towels and wash cloth donations of any kind.

These items may be taken to Kiwanis (665-0450), Salvation Army (332-3474), St. Vincent DePaul (761-1400) or Ann Arbor Thrift Shop (662-6771). These organizations have processes in place to prevent the spread of bedbugs.

Our clients receive vouchers allowing them to get clothing items at these locations free of charge. Additionally, the money raised by the Thrift Shop through the sale of gently used clothing and other items is used to support the agencies assisting those experiencing homelessness.

Due to health code regulations we are unable to accept food items unless it is a commercially packaged snack item (chips, store bought cookies, etc). Food Gatherers operates our Community Kitchen please contact them (761-2796) for donations of other food items.

Thank you for your support!

GROCERY SCRIP SPOTLIGHT:

Please remember that you can continue to raise money for Bach while purchasing things that you would normally buy over the summer.

It's easy. Here's how!



You must be a MyWay member to participate in the Cash for Education program. Designate “Bach PTO” for all 4 quarters on your **Busch’s My Way online account** at www.buschs.com/community and a percentage of your grocery purchases will automatically get allocated to Bach School.



Pick up a **Kroger Plus Shopper’s Card** (if you do not already have one) from any register at Kroger’s. Link your card to Bach PTO by going online: www.kroger.com/communityrewards. Bach's Organization Number is 82780.

Use your Kroger Plus Shopper’s Card at check-out on each shopping trip. Bach PTO earns a variable percentage on each purchase.



Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select “Bach PTO”. This site will look identical to the usual Amazon site, and upon choosing us, you will see our name at the top left of your web page. Note: You must always access Amazon through the Smile site in order for Bach PTO to receive benefits



At check-out, simply tell your cashier to credit your purchase to Bach PTO. Bach PTO earns 3% on each purchase.

Questions? Please contact: scrip@bachpto.org



Bach PTO



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

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Sat 9-6 Sun 11-5

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