

# BACH eLEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 13, 2016



## DEAR BACH FAMILIES,

I truly believe that technology is an amazing tool, not to be used to replace face-to-face interactions but to enhance them. Technology allows for interactions that otherwise would not have been possible.

During a recent PTO meeting, one parent commented that sometimes it is difficult to keep up with all of the information through Facebook, Twitter, websites and newsletters. That same parent asked, "If I could only choose one, which ONE communication would provide me as much information as possible about the important events/happenings at Bach?"

Bach's website is that ONE place to turn for important and current information. Each week I email the "Bach Weekly" to all of our families. It is also posted to our website. Our bi-weekly PTO newsletters are posted to our website. You can get to teacher websites through links on our Bach website.

According to the results of Bach's 2014-2015 Climate Survey, 98% of our families selected email as the best way for the school to communicate important information. School Messenger is used to email families urgent and most current information. Please read those emails regularly.

Our district website has valuable information and links to helpful resources. Have you read our Superintendent's Blog? Dr. Swift regularly posts to the blog and it can be accessed through the district's website. [You can click here to be taken directly to that site.](#)

I maintain an open door policy. I welcome opportunities to sit and talk with our families. I'm always willing to listen and to try and problem solve. My goal is to use technology as just another meaningful way to create connections and build relationships with our families.

Your partner in education,

*Alison Epler, Principal*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Science Olympiad Kick-off**  
MPR Friday, 1/15 2-3:45

**Martin Luther King Day**  
NO SCHOOL Monday, 1/18

**Lunchtime Enrichment Activities begin**  
Tuesday, January 19, Lunchtime

**MLK Assembly**  
Thursday, 1/21 9:30-10:15

**PTO Meeting**  
Media Ctr, Thurs, 1/21 6:30-7:30

**2nd Grade to Jiffy Mix**  
Wednesday, 1/27

**NO SCHOOL for Students**  
Monday, 2/1

**Movie Night**  
Friday, 2/5 6:30-8:30

**Parent Involvement Day**  
Monday, 2/8

**Student Count Day**  
Wednesday, 2/10

**NO SCHOOL Mid Winter Break**  
Monday-Friday 2/15-19

**Kindergarten Roundup**  
Tuesday, 2/23 6-7:30

**PTO meeting**  
MPR, Thursday 2/25 6:30-7:30 pm

**Wednesday, January 13th, M-Step results will be sent home with 4th and 5th grade students. With permission, I am copying a recent post from Dr. Swift's blog:**

### SETTING A NEW BASELINE: ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2014-15 M-STEP RESULTS

*Posted by Jeanice Swift at 12/21/2015 12:00:00 PM*

The Michigan Department of Education has recently released results for the state's new M-STEP assessment, given for the first time last spring. As we anticipated, scores and performance levels, for students and for our schools across the board, are significantly lower than before. In Michigan and across the country, assessments have been purposely shifted so that they test for proficiency on higher standards in English Language Arts and Math. These assessments represent a new benchmark, the bar has been raised significantly, and these results will form a new baseline from which we will grow and learn.

M-STEP is aligned with the higher standards Michigan has adopted which in many cases are a full grade level higher than the previous standards. Over recent school years, our teachers, students, and building principals have been focused on work to implement these more rigorous Michigan State Standards. These new Michigan State Standards are on par with other states and nations around the world and are aligned with the demands of career and college readiness as our AAPS families expect.

Not only are the standards higher, M-STEP also requires students to move beyond bubble sheets and multiple-choice questions to show their work. Students are required to demonstrate critical thinking, problem solving, and deeper knowledge through written responses. AAPS implemented an entirely new, tech-based format for online assessment this year that also represents a significant shift. Clearly, these new assessments are dramatically different from the kinds of '#2 pencil,' standardized assessments that adults may recall from their own school days.

We know that the nature of teaching and learning must continue to change to meet new, higher expectations for our students. Critical thinking

and complex problem solving form the context of these learning expectations. This work of ensuring higher performance for all our students to meet the demands they will face proves an important endeavor for our children, our economy, and our ability to compete in a global society.

Now that we have experienced M-STEP and assessing for more rigorous standards, it is our responsibility – teachers, principals, district leaders, and parents - to leverage the experience as an opportunity for meaningful learning as we move forward. These tougher assessments and higher standards will push all of us to stretch further academically than we might have under previous academic standards.

We will use this year's test results to inform our work, to achieve systemic learning and manifest genuine openness to needed improvements. We will improve our alignment to more rigorous standards, innovate our approaches, and continue to deliver the quality teaching and learning for which AAPS has long been known. This process will take time. We will embrace the opportunity for change, and we will not lose sight of the goal of educating our students to ensure that they complete high school truly prepared for a complex, global world.

It is clear that this year's standardized assessment experience is an opportunity to 'lean forward' to better understand, to continue to refine our work to update teaching and learning practice, curricula, and to ensure higher levels of achievement for all our students. The Ann Arbor Public Schools has long been a high-achieving district, and we will continue to improve through this time of change. This 2015 M-STEP data will form a baseline from which we will measure our progress moving forward. These current scores do not define us as an AAPS system; rather, they provide a starting place from which we will grow and achieve together.

## PLEASE HELP WITH LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Dear Bach families,

This winter Bach will host 6 weeks of lunchtime enrichment beginning **January 19th**. These activities will be offered inside and are optional for students to participate in. There will be a range of activities to accommodate various age groups. Each enrichment will have an adult supervisor. For some classes, such as baking, there will be a maximum number of students allowed.

In order for these enrichment classes to be successful we will need the support of the Bach Community. Many of you have hidden talents just waiting to be shared with our amazing young people. Some of you may want to come and just have fun. Others may not have time to be present but could help bring in materials for the activities.

Each enrichment will be approximately 25 minutes and there are a total of 4 rotations. The first classrooms to rotate through begin at 11:43am with the last starting at 12:55pm. Hopefully this will make sense when you open the spreadsheet.

**Please check out the Google Document for both the activities, volunteer slots, and the items needed. Room assignments for the activities will be available the day of when you check in at the office to volunteer on your given day.**

Please see the front office for donation drop-offs.

Thanks so much Bach Community for making this happen.

Sincerely,

**Bach PTO**

## MOVIE NIGHT IS COMING!

Bach's annual Movie Night is **Friday, February 5th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Bach kids and families are invited to put on their pajamas, grab a stuffed animal and blanket, and enjoy a family-friendly movie in the Bach Multipurpose Room!

## FUN RUN DONATIONS TOP \$18,000!

This fall's Fun Run donations are off the charts! The final Fun Run donations have been counted, and we are excited to report that we raised more than \$18,000 for Bach Elementary! This money will help pay for class field trips, theater productions, author talks, classroom supplies, and more great opportunities for all of our Bach kids.

Many thanks to our amazing Fun Run team: Allison Waugh, Michelle Braun, Barb Binetti and Rhonda Pillote. These women worked so hard to organize an incredibly successful event. And thank you to our kids and families who collected pledges and encouraged friends and families to support a great cause.

## SUCCESSFUL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

Bach held another very successful event in early December, the Scholastic Book Fair. Bach sold \$6,500 in books and other products and raised \$1,550 for the Media Center! Thank you very much to our book fair coordinators, Julie Burdine and Stacey Pomranky, and our wonderful Media Specialist, Kelsey Forrester, for all of the time and energy they put into this huge undertaking!

## PTO Meeting!

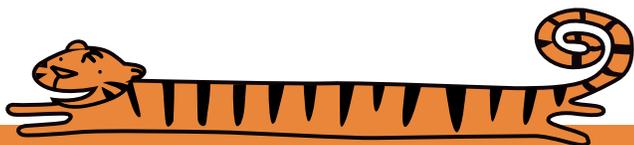
**Thursday, January 21st**  
**6:30 – 7:30 pm**  
Bach Media Center

FREE childcare is provided for school-aged children in room 28. Everyone is welcome!



## HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2016

The Heritage Festival is a biennial evening event to celebrate the cultural diversity of our Bach School community. This year the festival will be held on **Friday, April 15 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** and will include food samples, display booths, arts & crafts projects, music, dancing, and games from countries around the world. Your help is necessary to make this event a success. If you would like to be on the planning committee or if you know of a local cultural music/ dance group willing to perform at the festival, please email Kristin Burgard at [kristinb500@gmail.com](mailto:kristinb500@gmail.com). In early March your child will receive a backpack flyer on which you can sign up to bring food, create a booth, participate in the fashion or talent show, etc.



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.



**BACH ELEMENTARY PTO  
IS ON FACEBOOK!**



# 2015 FUN BACH RUN

## The Bach Community is awesome!

**THANK YOU** to the students, families, and community members for donating to our 2015 Bach Fun Run fundraiser. **We not only reached our goal, we exceeded it!**



FOR OUR AMAZING SCHOOL,  
YOU RAISED MORE THAN  
**\$18,000!**

And thank you to our local business sponsors for SUPPORTING BACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!



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## BRIGHT IDEAS FOR NON-SCHOOL HOURS!

Rec & Ed's after school classes are designed for your child to explore new interests, develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

Art, chess, dance, drama, engineering, science, sports, technology and yoga are some of the great classes offered after school this winter. Click [after school classes online](#) to view the classes available at your child's school.

When is the best time to enroll my child in after school classes? How does my child's teacher know that my child is attending an after school class? How do I get a scholarship? These important questions and others are answered on Rec & Ed's [After School Q & A page](#).

**Online registration is open now! Here are easy ways to find and register for classes offered at your school:**

- » View the after [school classes online](#)
- » Look at the [Rec & Ed Winter 2016 catalog online](#)
- » Check your child's backpack the week of January 4th. You'll find a flyer listing after school classes specific to your school.
- » If the after school classes do not fit your schedule, Rec & Ed also offers many activities for children and adults evenings and on weekends.

Rec & Ed wants every child to be able to participate in after school activities. Learn more about [our scholarship program and application procedures](#). Find out about the new, easy scholarship application process for families with children who receive Free and Reduced School lunch.

**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<br>Sat 9-6 Sun 11-5 | Mon-Fri 10-6<br>Sat 10-5 Sun 12-4 | furniture pickup<br>call 996-9155 |

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Thank you for allowing us to do your holiday shopping for you, and for helping the Bach School community at the same time!

**Holiday gift card sales earned \$1000!**

**Our total for the year is \$1500!**

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

**At no cost to you, there is no easier way to support Bach PTO!**

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



**Bach PTO**

Questions?

[scrip@bachpto.org](mailto:scrip@bachpto.org)

[www.bachpto.org/scrip/](http://www.bachpto.org/scrip/)

**SCRIP Store Hours**

Wednesdays

8:45 - 9:15am (lobby)

**The Burns Park Players Present**

January 29, January 30 & February 5 at 7:30 PM

February 6 at 4:00 PM

# My Fair Lady

More than 100  
Burns Park  
Elementary  
students  
perform in this  
production  
alongside the  
adult cast!

Proceeds benefit  
performing arts  
in AAPS!

Tickets (\$15) go on sale January 15  
at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com)

**Tappan Middle School Auditorium**