

THE FRIDAY FLYER

A bi-monthly newsletter of the Bennett Elementary School PTSA 2.3.22

2002-2003, Issue 9

PTSA President Kristine Keski

January 31, 2003

FROM THE PTSA

Dear Bennett Families,

Our quiet holiday season is over and we are in full swing on our PTSA winter and spring events. We will certainly miss Cindy, Bobby, Marta and Kate Mueller! They have spent many wonderful years here at Bennett! We had a good-bye dessert for them before they departed for Houston. Thanks to Paula Miller, everyone left with some warm memories and even a tear or two. We will miss them!

We would like to thank Carol Losi for coordinating the Reflections Art program. We had many children honored locally at Crossroads Mall. We also have several students who have entries going to the state level for judging. Congratulations to all of the students who put their hearts into their projects this year. You have shown us your own vision of what courage means! Certificates and artwork will be coming home shortly.

The next big event we have coming up is the MARINER Ticket Raffle. Sara Wilson, Dec Hoglund and their committee are doing a great job procuring Mariner tickets for the raffle, including Diamond Club seats! They have been working with the Mariner's head office for some FUN prizes for the student salespeople. We will be sending information home February 10th. The raffle will kick off with an all-school Mariner day including a ballpark theme lunch and an entertaining assembly on Feb. 28th! Thank you everyone for your enthusiasm and support of this new fund-raiser.

Young Scientist Week is coming up March 24-28th. The Washington State PTSA recognized Bennett's annual event last year with the 'Taking Significant Action' award. Ann Huseby and Marion McDermott are already underway to make this year's Young Scientist Week a big success. Whether your student is a kindergartener or a non-scientist, going through the process of setting up an experiment, studying the results and presenting the findings is a wonderful way for children to become more confident in their abilities. These small accomplishments add up over the years to make a self-confident young person! You should see their proud, shining faces when their friends and families tour the exhibits!

Thank you to Laurie Cottle for organizing our January Food Drive. We are so lucky to live in Bennett neighborhoods and it is always important to take responsibility for our community as a whole. We also thank Norma Gilbert for committing her time and energy to help Crossroads' families have more comfortable homes. Please donate household items, furniture and truck usage if you are able!

We would also like to thank the Multicultural Committee headed by Getit Banai for the French Cultural Afternoon held Thursday, Jan. 23rd. We have a wonderful mix of cultures represented by Bennett students and it was fun to learn more about the French culture and cuisine. The next Cultural Afternoon will be in March so look for fliers at the end of February!

Thank you to all of you parents and staff for the extra hours you spend in the classrooms and on committees helping to give Bennett students an enriched education!

Sincerely,
Kristine Keski
PTSA President

Bennett
Website:

www.
bennett
elementary.org

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**National
PTA**

Young Scientist Week After-School Workshops

The PTSA Science Team is sponsoring two after-school workshops to help kids get started on their projects for Young Scientist Week. The workshops are free and will be limited to 30 kids each (unless there are more volunteers willing to help out). Signed permission slips are required to participate – if your child's permission slip got lost, there will be extras placed on the shelf across from the office. The science workshops will be held in the art room.

Dates and times are:

Tuesday, February 4, 2003 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Wednesday, February 12, 2002 1:10 – 3:00 PM

To volunteer or reserve a spot, call Ann Huseby at 747-8140 or Marian McDermott at 653-1235.

To find out more about Young Scientist Week, check out the science section on the new Bennett web site at <http://www.bennettelementary.org/SP/science.htm> . If you are unable to connect to the web site from home, you can access it from any King County library or kids can access it from the computers at school.

Family Writing Event

All Bennett families are invited to join Laura Kvasnosky (Young Authors Guest author) for an evening of family stories on February 25th from 6:30-8:00. Mrs. Kvasnosky will facilitate as families work as teams to illustrate and then write a treasured family story. Materials will be provided. Refreshments will be enjoyed as you read and celebrate your finished pieces. Please RSVP with your child's classroom teacher for each individual from your family that plans to attend. RSVP's need to be made by February 21st.

Thank you.

Bennett Young Authors Committee

Highlights from Bellevue PTSA Council Meeting January 6, 2003

February 12th is the PTA Focus Day in Olympia. Charter buses will be available for parents to ride down in. Contact Dennis Gerlitz, Bellevue High School legislative rep, for information.

The Every Child is a Winner Fair will be held sometime in March. We are again working with the City of Bellevue.

Nominating committees are hard at work working on the slate of officers for each school as well as for council positions. When someone calls you asking you to volunteer, please consider saying YES!

Our meeting schedule is Feb. 3 at 9:30am, Mar. 3 at 7pm, Apr. 7 at 9:30am. All meetings are held at the ESC, the district headquarters. Please plan to attend!

Training Classes at Lake Washington

Warehouse training begins Feb. 11, 2003 it meets in the evening. The office class begins March 3, 2003 and meets daily 9:30-3:30pm.

Contact:

Christina Harter

Career Specialist

Family Workforce Development Center

425-739-8385

christina.harter@lwtc.edu

Hopelink's Financial Management Classes have been rescheduled for Wednesday nights from 6-7:30, March 5, 19, & 26 and April 2, 9 & 16.

Contact:

Jessica Baden

Family Development Program Coordinator

Hopelink

14812 Main St., Bellevue WA 98007

Phone (425) 943-7577, Fax (425) 644-9784

2003 MARINER RAFFLE

The third of our four fundraisers for this year will be an all new exciting, fun, spirited raffle of Seattle Mariner tickets! Each student will have the opportunity to sell raffle tickets to family, friends and neighbors for the upcoming Mariner season. The classroom in each grade level that sells the most tickets will receive something special. On **February 10th** permission slips and detailed information will be sent home with all the students. The permission slips will be due back to the school by **February 14th**.



We will have a Mariner Day Rally after winter break the **week of February 24th** and information packets will go home with the students that same week. The selling of the raffle tickets will begin on **February 28th** and run **through March 13th**. All money will be due on **Friday March 14th**. The final raffle drawing for the prizes and Mariner tickets will be held the week of **March 17th**. There are many opportunities to help out with this new and exciting fundraiser! Please contact Dec Hoglund (425-957-0445) or Sara Wilson (425-747-6973) if you are interested in helping out!

Go Mariners!

Focus Day

WHY GO TO OLYMPIA ON FEBRUARY 12?

Here come some numbers. K-12 funding is about 42% of Washington state's General Fund. The General Fund has a \$2.4 billion deficit. If K-12 takes a proportional hit of the \$2.4 billion deficit, that would be around \$1 billion. We have about 1 million Washington school kids. \$1 billion divided by \$1 million equals a \$1,000 deficit, per student! If a school has 500 kids, then it's hit would be \$500,000. That's a heck of a hit against one small school! If a school has 1,000 kids, then the hit would be a cool million dollars. That's real money, when you look at a school's budget!

In order to have a "voice" in Olympia, we have to get to know our legislators. More importantly, our legislators have to get to know us, their constituents. It's all about Relationships. Those with Relationships have Access. Those with Access have Voice. We must all ask our local members person-to-person, just like I'm asking you right now, to come with us to Focus Day. Please. It's important. Ask your friends, to come us to Olympia on February 12th. It's critical.

If you are unable to go to Olympia on Focus Day, please write or call your legislators: Here is a list of our legislators and a sample letter below.

Senator LUKE ESSER
48th Legislative District
Legislative Office: 211 Newhouse Building
P.O. Box 40448; Olympia, WA 98504-0448
Telephone: (360) 786-7694; Fax: (360) 786-7524
Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000
e-mail: esser_lu@leg.wa.gov

Rep. ROSS HUNTER
(D) 48th Legislative District
Olympia Office:
PO Box 40600
319 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7936
E-mail: hunter_ro@leg.wa.gov Committees

Rep. RODNEY TOM
(R) 48th Legislative District
Olympia Office:
PO Box 40600
441 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7848
E-mail: tom_ro@leg.wa.gov

Sample letter

Dear (Legislator) :

While we understand there is a current economic crisis, leaving the Legislature with the daunting task of cutting \$2 billion from the budget, it is not the time to do this on the backs of Washington's children. Two years ago, the voters of Washington with more than a two-thirds majority passed initiatives to support our public education system. I-728 and I-732 garnered more support than any other initiatives in our history. This overwhelming support is a mandate that you cannot afford to ignore. At the same time, the downturn in the economy has increased the need for social services for families. As this Legislative session gets underway, I urge you work towards an equitable balance in the budget keeping the health, education and safety of children paramount in your decisions.

Thank you,

From The Editors

Editors: Karla Ostlund and Janan Carter

We are pleased to serve as editors of The Friday Flyer this year.

Send submissions to thefridayflyer@yahoo.com. Please do not send formatted text produced in a word-processing document. It's easiest if you just type the information directly into the body of your email program. Please advise us of any specific formatting request in your email.

The deadline for the next issue of The Friday Flyer is February 7th.

Bennett Has a New Web Site!

<http://www.bennettelementary.org>

Bennett Elementary has a new web site and its very own domain!

Go to <http://www.bennettelementary.org> and check out the new look! Many thanks to Bennett parents Gitit Banai and Tom Gordon for their hard work getting this new site up and running

LOOK WHAT WE BOUGHT WITH CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS!

At our last PTSA General membership meeting, the members voted to purchase several items using points accumulated from collecting Campbell's Soup labels.

Those present at the meeting ranked these based on information from committee chairs, teachers and principals.

We will be able to order the following:

1. Electric Staplers (2)
2. Two-Way Radios (6 sets--1 set per grade cluster)
3. 1200x Microscope (1)
4. Alpha Microscopes (6)
5. Sony Digital Camera (1)
6. Panasonic stereo (1)
7. Gears (set of 6--for science projects)
8. Emergency Radio Lights (3)

Thanks to all who submitted requests and voted for these items.
And keep collecting and turning in those soup labels (and box tops)!

Message from Norma Gilbert, Bennett Staff Member:

I have been blessed to help families in the Crossroads area to upgrade their standard of living. People will call to let me know that they have a beds, dinette set, etc. to give away. I will then find a home for the items. Because of the small apartments bunk beds work best for the children. What I am in desperate need of is a van or truck with a canopy to move furniture. If you would like to be on call for pick-up and delivery OR if you happen to have a van or truck sitting around and would like to donate, please call me at 456-4807. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Calendar

Feb 11: Board of Directors Meeting (incl. all committee chairs)

Feb 12: Focus Day in Olympia (sponsored by PTA)

February 17- 21: Mid-Winter Break

February 25: Family Writing Event, 6:30pm-8pm - Author, Laura Kvasnosky

March 1-14: Mariners Baseball Ticket Raffle

March 5 or 6: Cultural Afternoon

March 11: PTSA 4th General Meeting

March 12: The Reptile Man Assembly

March 19: Skate King

March 21: No School

March 24 - 28: Young Scientist Week

April 14-18: Spring Break

May 16: Mini Auction / Spring Social

