

THE FRIDAY FLYER

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

2002-2003, Issue 10

PTSA President Kristine Keski

March 7, 2003

FROM THE PTSA

Dear Bennett Families,

Go Bennett Bulldogs! Go Mariners! We are in full swing on our new fundraising event, the MARINER RAFFLE. We had a fun (and loud) pep rally assembly last Friday to kick off the event. We have had MANY students requesting additional raffle tickets to sell. This means we are doing great! We have one more week to sell raffle tickets so don't hesitate to request more tickets. You can return the unsold tickets at the end if you want. Great job to all of those students who are either selling tickets or cheering their team on! The tickets are only on sale until March 16th so remember to return the raffle proceeds, the ticket sales log, and the unsold tickets to school in the envelope on Monday, March 17th. We need all of the envelopes returned by Friday, March 21st! Good luck!

Our next General PTSA meeting is Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will run until 8:00 with a guest speaker until 8:30. Child care is provided. We will be electing our 2003-04 PTSA Executive Board so we would like a full house if possible. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their hard work in putting together a slate of recommended officers for next year. If you know anyone who would like to run for an office, please nominate them at this meeting and your votes will decide who will serve next year.

Mark your calendars with the date of March 19th, our next Skate King party. The kids really have fun socializing with their friends from School while they skate the afternoon away. A reminder to parents, you must either directly supervise your children at this event or arrange for a friend or relative to be at Skate King. Permission slips will be going home shortly.

The Young Scientist Week is March 24 - 28th. You should have already ordered your display boards and started planning your experiment. There are worksheets in the kiosk across from the office to aid your child in planning their experiment. You should also go on-line at www.bennettelementary.org/SP/science.htm. If you have additional questions or would like to volunteer for the family night during Young Scientist Week, please call Ann Huseby or Marion McDermott. Good luck again to all of the students making the effort to submit a project. We look forward to seeing the students proudly showing off their work!

Our final fundraising event for the year is the auction with a new format. This year it will be a Mini-Auction combined with the Spring Social (Sock-Hop) scheduled for mid-May. We will refer to this event as the Mini-Auction/Spring Social. We will be keeping the event at Bennett but will expand the evening to include a family dinner and the Mini-auction. The Mini-auction will include Classroom Keepsakes, Classroom Baskets and Staff donations. We will have a combination of a silent auction and a live auction which we are trying to keep to under one hour. We want this event to be the best FAMILY event it can be! We NEED a special individual to work with the auction committee who can coordinate the volunteers and make sure everything runs smoothly. I promise this will only be a 2 month commitment with very few meetings. Please consider volunteering for this if you can by calling Kristine Keski at 865-9758.

Finally, I would like to remind all of the wonderful families at Bennett that you and your children are what make Bennett shine! We have a terrific new building, playground and computer lab and fabulous teachers who really care about your children. There have been many planned and unexpected changes at Bennett over the past several years. The PTSA is changing their fund-raising events, the principals have changed the grade level teams, the school district is changing the curriculum and testing requirements, and many teachers are making changes for a variety of personal and professional reasons. All of this change can be unsettling if we let it. Remember that we all have the same goal, to provide the best educational experience for your children. Please keep open minds and open lines of communication with everyone involved in your child's education. The more information you share, the more positive progress can be made! Remember, we are all in this together!

Sincerely,
Kristine Keski, PTSA President

Page 1

Bennett
Website:

[www.bennett
elementary.org](http://www.bennett
elementary.org)

Inside this issue:

Young Scientist Week	2
Mariner Raffle	2
A letter from Dr. Riley	3
Bellevue Schools Foundation Grants	3
Bennett Calendar	4

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**National
PTA**

MARINER RAFFLE

The third of our four PTSA fundraising events for this year will be an all new fun and exciting raffle of Seattle Mariner tickets! We are asking each student to sell \$5 raffle tickets to family, friends, and neighbors for baseball tickets to the upcoming Mariner season. Raffle prizes will include 6 sets of 4 Mariner baseball tickets and 3 sets of 2 Terrace Club tickets. The GRAND PRIZE is a set of 2 Diamond Club tickets (valued at \$500) and an Ichiro autographed baseball!

- The selling of the raffle tickets will run from Feb. 28th through March 16th.
- All money/unsold tickets will be due back on Friday, March 21st.
- The final raffle drawing will be held on Monday, March 31st, 2003

To reach our goal, we are going to have each class work together as a "team". We will be having fun contests for the grade level teams, classroom teams and even several MVP awards. All students will be rewarded for their efforts whether they're a player or an enthusiastic fan!

Batters up! The competition has begun. GO MARINERS! GO BULLDOGS!

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Wilson at (425) 747-6973 or Dee Hoglund at (425) 957-0445. Thank you for your support, 2003 Mariner Raffle Committee.

Young Scientist Week

Free Parenting Class

A free parenting class for 10 Mondays beginning March 17 and going to May 19 from 6-8 PM is being offered through the Kindering Center. Free childcare is available also, so this is a wonderful opportunity to increase your parenting skills and learn more about effective communications, managing anger, self-esteem, growth and development, and behavior management. The Kindering Center is located at 16120 NE 8th Street in Bellevue. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Lois Ralph at 425-653-4302.

Joan Spencer
Counselor/School Psychologist
for Bennett Elementary

Young Scientist Week is now just over two weeks away! Get ready for all sorts of cool science activities with Bennett young scientists and Pacific Science Center scientists. Remember, all students that do a science project and bring in a project display receive a science achievement medal. Kids do not have to work alone - they can do a joint project with classmates or siblings.

If you still need help, go to the Bennett web site science page at <http://www.bennettelementary.org/SP/science.htm> and look for the Bennett Science Handbook (good for parents/guardians) and links to cool science web sites. 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.

Here are dates to remember:

- Science project display board distribution, March 10-14
- Young Scientist Week, March 24-28
- Bring student project displays and set up at school, Monday, March 24
- Family Science Night, Wednesday, March 26

Young Scientist Week Volunteers Needed!

Bennett students are not the only ones that get to have fun. Volunteer to help with Young Scientist Week! We need help with:

- Student science project display set up, Monday, March 24, 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
- Classroom help to facilitate science project sharing (times TBA by class)
- Family Science Night set up, Wednesday, March 26, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- Family Science Night hands-on science experiments (your chance to really get messy and have a blast), Wednesday, March 26, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- Clean up, Wednesday, March 26, 8:00 PM and Thursday, March 27, 2:00 PM

Sign up on the volunteer schedule that will be posted across from the Bennett office or call Marian McDermott at 653-1235.

Proposal for New Graduation Requirements

Dear Parents:

I have recently received a number of individual requests for information about my proposal on graduation requirements, and I thought it might be helpful to simply send the following clarifying points to all of you.

First, no proposal has been made to the Board of Directors nor has it been distributed among the public (or published on our website). My work on this began a little over a year ago and I wanted to have time to share it with teachers, curriculum developers, principals and other staff members before finalizing it and taking it to the board and the community. I am hoping to complete this work and bring the proposal forward by the fall of 2003.

Second, the proposal is fluid. I sent the staff one version last spring, I used a second version when I held this August's leadership institute for principals and others, and I sent yet another version to staff a couple of months ago. It appears it is time for yet another iteration since I have now had more discussions with more staff members and have some other ideas to try out. A couple of weeks ago I met with all of our secondary guidance counselors. A short time after that, I heard from our music teachers. And just this week, I met with our speech teachers. I will probably write some more over the midwinter break and send out information to staff again at the end of February/beginning of March.

Third, because we are starting to get a lot of public interest, we will publish information on our website and make some print materials available. Look for these on the same timeline, i.e., end of February/early March.

Fourth, the Forum that will be held in March at the International School is not sponsored by the district. Plenty of principals and curriculum folks will be there to lend a hand and share their voices (I have a board meeting that night), but more information about the event will have to come from those sponsoring it.

Fifth, from the outset, I have been talking about making changes for the Class of 2010, the current fifth graders. The school district is not considering changes for kids who are now in middle or high school. The state has made some alterations in their graduation requirements for the Class of 2008, but these are fairly minor. The biggest change from the state is the requirement of a culminating project, but we believe we will be able to meet this requirement without making significant changes in the students' class offerings or schedules.

Finally, the principals of all our schools – elementary through high – have a great deal of information about the work we have been doing on the proposal, so contact them if you would like to have a conversation about our ideas.

I think that's all for now. I will make sure you are notified when we post information on the website.

Sincerely,

Mike Riley
Superintendent, Bellevue Schools

Yearbooks are Coming and You Are In It!

It is time to order your 2002-2003 Bennett Elementary Yearbook! Order forms have been sent home with students and there are additional forms in the kiosk by the office. Yearbooks are \$11.00 and the due date is March 28th. Please return order forms to your teacher or to the office.

Thanks!

Tammy Stafford
(425)562-6619 or
t1stafford1@earthlink.net

NEW Bellevue Schools Foundation Grant deadlines!

Fall cycle - September 8, 2003 Winter cycle - January 12, 2004

We are replacing our Spring and Summer cycles. Due to increased demand for BSF grant awards our grants schedule is changing to better meet your needs. Please watch for an announcement regarding new opportunities and revised guidelines.

Visit our website www.bsfdn.org or call Dianne Cameron at (425)456-4199 for more information.

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.

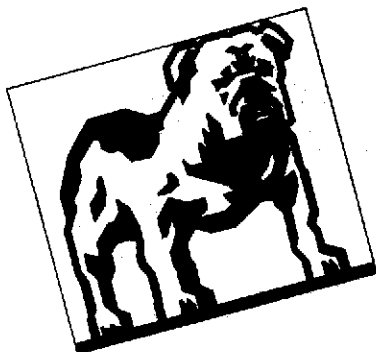
The deadline for the next issue of The Friday Flyer is **March 13**.

Please note: Due to no school on Friday, March 21st, the next Friday Flyer will come out on Thursday, March 20th.

Focus Day a Success!

More than 250 PTA members flooded Olympia on February 12th to advocate for Washington State's 1.5 million children and youth. They met one-on-one with their legislators and testified in support of WSPTA-endorsed legislation. Individual legislative district caucuses of PTA members were held as well as a group gathering with speakers, including Lisa Bond, WSPTA President, John Stokes, WSPTA Legislative Director, and Carol Taylor Cann, WSPTA Government Affairs Liaison, plus a showing of pertinent videos. The PTA advocates hosted a reception for State legislators where a Resolution was presented to the Washington State PTA by Senator Tracey Eide and Representatives Ross Hunter and Rodney Tom. The House and Senate Joint Resolutions praised the WSPTA for its advocacy accomplishments and continued efforts to improve the lives of every child in Washington State. On Tuesday the 11th, WSPTA leaders were guests of the Senate when its Resolution honoring WSPTA was adopted. All in all, the PTA presence was definitely felt in the Legislative halls and chambers on those days. Check with your local legislative chair, Regional Legislative Chair, or the WSPTA web site at www.wastatepta.org, for more details, and what to do next.

WSPTA, Every child. One voice.



Calendar

March 11: PTSA General Meeting

March 12: Reptile Man Assembly

March 16: Mariner Raffle Ticket Sales
End

March 19: Skate King

March 21: Professional Day, No School

March 24 - 28: Young Scientist Week

March 26: Young Scientist Family Night

April 8: Board of Directors Meeting,
including all committee chairs

April 9: Gears of Invention Assembly

April 14-18: Spring Break

May 5: Mexican cultural afternoon

May: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 13: PTSA General Meeting

May 14: Talent Show

May 16: Mini Auction / Spring Social

May 26: Memorial Day, No School