

PTSA CLEARINGHOUSE

August 2011

Dear BCS Families,

It is with great pleasure that we extend a big WELCOME to our new families and welcome back all returning families for the 2011-2012 school year. We are glad you're here. We are very excited about the upcoming school year and to be serving as Co-Chairs of the PTSA Clearinghouse.

PTSA Promise To Participate:

Did you know that BCS is the most active and vibrant parent community in the Birmingham school district? Every year, hundreds of BCS parents commit their time, their energy, and their creativity to our school. At BCS, we ask every parent – moms and dads - to pledge to participate in at least one volunteer opportunity on the **Promise to Participate** Form included in your registration packet. Whether you have 30 minutes or several hours, your ideas, your time, and your talents are truly needed. There are endless possibilities in ways you can lend a hand and your participation is essential to our continued success.

Not sure how and where you can help? We can match your interests and time constraints to needed tasks. Interested in a leadership role? We are still looking for Co-Chairs for our 8th Grade Celebration, Technology, Wellness, and Student Leadership Committees. Look for us at registration to discuss all of our volunteer opportunities and to answer any questions you might have.

Keep in mind that by volunteering, you will get to enjoy interacting with your children, become friends with other parents, and accomplish things that truly make a difference. We promise that the time you give will be worth your while – and fun!

BCS Directory and E-mail Communications:

Remember to stop by the Directory table at registration to confirm your family's directory entry. Even if your address, phone numbers, and email addresses have remained the same from last year, you must check the entry and verify its accuracy. The information you provide allows us to publish the directory quickly AND the PTSA to communicate with you from the very start of the school year. This is also the most efficient way for our Room Parents to keep you informed of classroom activities and PTSA sponsored events.

Every BCS family is provided with one paper copy of the directory. Additional paper copies of the directory may be purchased for \$4. New this year, the PTSA will also be offering a PDF version of the directory. Each PDF file can be downloaded to one device. The cost per PDF is \$3.

Direct Donation Campaign:

With continued district budget reductions and significant state funding cuts, PTSA support is more critical than ever before. The *Direct Donation Campaign* at registration is the first of our two primary fundraising efforts. Our second major fundraising event is the *BCS BLAST and Silent Auction* in March (watch for details during the school year). The PTSA budget is determined each year by the success of these two fundraising efforts. Funds raised by the PTSA provide equipment, technology and programs that help to maintain the unique learning experience offered here. Once again, last year was an extremely successful year for both the Direct Donation Campaign and the BCS Blast! We remain overwhelmed by the generosity of BCS families, especially given the ongoing challenges facing our Michigan economy.

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Your support of our direct donation campaign is vital, as **100%** of your tax deductible donation goes directly to the BCS PTSA Clearinghouse budget. Please note, the amount of \$100 is a suggestion for your consideration. Please contribute at a level that works for your family. All contributions are greatly appreciated and put to work for the benefit of BCS students! At BCS everyone's contributions, monetary or otherwise, are equally valued and appreciated.

Take a look at what the PTSA has already funded for this school year. To view our complete 2011-2012 approved budget, visit www.bcsonline.info and click on the PTSA tab.

- Computers, scanners, and technology upgrades for 7-8 Engage curriculum
- Moodle Hosting software
- iPods, iPads, memory card readers, laptop cameras
- Proud Dad's Intramural Sports
- An assisting music instructor and sheet music for the band and orchestra
- 3-8 grade science supplies
- Educational materials for all grade levels, including *Time for Kids*, Story Works, Spelling City Subscription, LA novels and math magazines
- Programs and team competitions for our students: Engineers in Algebra, Battle of the Books, Lego Robotics, Forensics, Science Olympiad, MathCounts, Future Cities, the *BCS Pulse Newspaper*, the *BCS Yearbook*, Reflections, and a theater production
- Zon Interactive Mandarin Chinese Choice Hour Program
- 3-6 Classroom Library Sets
- 3-4 Engineering Technology Supplies for Assembly Line Project
- iPod Nanos, Pocket Edges, and learning software for the LRC
- PE and Athletic Program Equipment
- Many more great opportunities for our kids!

Plan to attend these September PTSA hosted events:

Tuesday September 6th: Welcome Back Coffee 8-9:30am

Thursday, September 15th: Lunch with the Principal 12:30 and PTSA meeting 1:15pm

Friday, September 16th: Ice Cream Social 6:30-8pm

We would like to thank you in advance for your continued support of the PTSA Clearinghouse. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. **Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you at Registration on August 17th and August 24th!**

Warm BCS Regards,

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