

# THE E-BUGLE

*The BCS Clearinghouse monthly publication*



April 2010

## A Message From The Co-Chairs, Susan Davis and Marnie Lewbel

Spring is here and your BCS PTSA has been very busy getting ready for the end of the school year and the beginning of the next! Most importantly, we had a hugely successful Blast in March. Many, many thanks to Ken Gilbert and Karen Best for their leadership in putting together a Blast that was fun for all, innovative in new cost control ideas and as successful as ever in funds raised. We also want to acknowledge the many, many parent, staff and student volunteers who work so hard to put this event together, with their time, monetary and auction donations and support of the Blast. Thanks to you, the PSTA will be able to continue to provide wonderful enrichment and support opportunities for our students and staff.

We have also just held our yearly elections. Our new officers for the 2010 - 2011 school year are:

Second Year Co-Chair:	Marnie Lewbel
First year Co-Chair:	Gina Herdegen
Income treasurer:	Susan Witkowski
Expense Treasurer:	Betty Croft
Recording Secretary:	Kim Wiggins
Corresponding Secretary:	Meli Zikakis

Thanks to all for stepping up these positions - we will be in good hands next year!

We hope that many of you have had the opportunity in the last few weeks to participate in the community conversation held by our district administration. School funding continues to be a critical issue for

*(Continued on page 2)*

**SCHOOL OFFICE**  
203-4444

**PRINCIPAL**  
Adam Hartley

**Asst. PRINCIPAL**  
Hal Heard

**PTSA CO CHAIRS**  
Susan Davis  
Marnie Lewbel

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Kyra Grathwohl  
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**SCHOOL START BELL:**  
8:20AM  
**SCHOOL END BELL**  
3:15PM  
**CHOICE HOUR END BELL**  
4:05PM

## Continued Message From The Co-Chairs, Susan Davis and Marnie Lewbel

our district and your involvement and voice in evaluating options that will help the district succeed are critical. Please be sure to keep an eye on announcements from the district for future opportunities.

Our budget process for next year is under way. We will be developing the budget for the 2010-2011 school year in consultation with the budget committee, Mr. Hartley and Mr. Heard, and our staff. The budget meetings are open meetings and anyone who would like to participate is welcome. Please keep an eye out for announcements in the next week for the timing of the meetings.

Our next and last meeting of the school year is May 13 at 1:15, immediately following Lunch with the Principal - hope to see you there. And bring a friend!

Susan Davis and Marnie Lewbel

## The following PTSA positions are open for the 2010-2011 school year:



**Social Committee Co-Chair:** Help plan and conduct 5 FUNTASTIC social events for our BCS community. One Co-Chair is already in place, but we would like to have one more. Please contact Teresa Rea at [reateresa@gmail.com](mailto:reateresa@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**Proud Dads:** Proud Dads has opportunities for Dads who would like to get involved - these opportunities include helping with our sports programs, such as Snow Club and chairing some of the various sections. Please get in touch with David Kiehle at [kiehle1@comcast.net](mailto:kiehle1@comcast.net) if you are interested.

**Reflections Chair:** This great program, which allows our kids an opportunity to participate in the state wide and national PTSA Reflections art program, needs a new chair. If you are interested, please contact Teresa Rea at [reateresa@gmail.com](mailto:reateresa@gmail.com).

**Room Parent Coordinators and room parents:** We still have some openings for room parent coordinators at the various grade levels. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Marnie Lewbel at [Marnie@lewbel.net](mailto:Marnie@lewbel.net).

**HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE **NEW**  
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Birmingham Covington School



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**WWW.BCSONLINE.INFO****

## BCS PTSA Reflections Contest Winners



Tess H and Jack G attended the Michigan PTSA Reflections Celebration at Livonia Stevenson High School on March 20th.

Tess achieved an Intermediate Award of Excellence and will represent BCS in Washington D.C. with her music entry.

Jack was honored with an Intermediate Award of Merit in Visual Arts.

Congratulations to Jack and Tess, and to all the BCS Reflections participants!

## BCS PTSA Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to our newly selected PTSA Volunteers of the Year!

This year we will be honoring Pauline Roberts and Mia Kennedy.

Mia has been a tireless volunteer for many years at BCS and has served as our immediate past President (2<sup>nd</sup> year co-chair), the Curriculum Related Committee Chair, and has produced the school play for the last three years, among other things. She is a wonderful role model for both students and parents.

Pauline Roberts, one of our 5/6 teachers has been instrumental in many of BCS's new and innovative projects. Together with Betsy Erwin, she has spearheaded the Green Committee, which will be honored soon by the awarding of Evergreen Status to our school. She has taken a leadership role on the Service Learning Task Force, looking for opportunities to integrate service learning into the curriculum for our students. Mrs. Roberts is also responsible for a wonderful new opportunity for our students next year - the service and language immersion trip to Costa Rica in February. Both will be honored at the PTSA District Council meeting in May.

Congratulations also to the many other nominees this year: David Kiehle, John Carlos Carvajal, Karen Best, Ken Gilbert, Diana Moak, BCS Web Redesign Committee, Janet Ames, Linda Weitzel, Kathy Walsh, Stacie Bowman, Marion Jones, Rosanne Rowley Ross, Linda Weitzel, and Cecilee Stein.

In order to acknowledge the outstanding work of the BCS Web Redesign Committee, the PTSA will honor the committee with a special commendation at the Volunteer Recognition Reception to be held next month. Many thanks to Student volunteers: Alex T, David R, Derek A and Parent volunteers: Bobby Glanton, Elizabeth (Liz) Sands, John Rivard, Laura Manson, Marius Manga, Meli Zikakis, Michelle Lakocy, Jeanne Jacobs, Pam Graham, Stacey Peters, Sue Mailing, Sylvia Sesostris, Ron Wingard, and Derek Croft.

## Facilities Committee improving our school grounds

The facilities committee will be fixing the BCS sign in the front of the school within the month. We will be installing new acrylic panels and hinges - a great way to get a new look! We will also be installing the peace pole that was co-funded last year by the community connections and PTSA.



## SPRING PICTURE DAY is Tuesday, April 27 - the BCS school code is AA0201.

All BCS students are invited to take a SPRING PICTURE on picture day. SPRING PICTURES are different from fall pictures because there are sixteen AWESOME AND FUN green screen backgrounds to choose from. It is a terrific chance to show off your child's personality. School appropriate props are also welcome! Please avoid wearing bright shades of green as it interferes with the green screen technology. Only students who have ordered online or who have a completed order form in hand will be photographed. Extra forms are available in the office.

# Elementary Science Olympiad

On Saturday, March 27th, thirty 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from BCS competed against eighteen teams at West Maple Elementary. The team worked hard and had a fantastic time. The following students brought home awards for their event. **Overall, BCS Team 1 placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Competition!!**

## 2nd Place

Starry Starry Night – Zach G & Don R

## 3rd Place

Jeopardy – Nathan C, Tyler E, Ben F & Philip H

Water Rockets – Morgan M, Leila O & Sierra W

## 4th Place

Jeopardy – Josh C, Kyle C, Nick C & Will K

## 5<sup>th</sup> Place

Barge Building – Philip H & Don R

Circuit Wizardry – Zach G & Marshall R

## 6<sup>th</sup> Place

Circuit Wizardry – Matthew W & Alberto W

Crime Busters – Tess H & Larissa M



3/4 Students  
Visit  
Henry Ford Museum



Model T assembly line



## 3/4 News

All 3/4 students will be travelling to local senior centers with their class to read their favorite book to a senior citizen. Parent volunteers will be needed to drive the children. Please contact your teacher or room parent for more information.

The 3/4 End-of-Year Party is planned for Thursday, June 17th, from 10am-2pm and we need your help! Please contact your room parent to volunteer. It will be a fun-filled, action-packed day!

## ATTENTION 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES- RESERVE THE DATE!!

Please reserve Thursday, June 10 for the *8th Grade Farewell Celebration!* The program will run from 6:30 - 8pm with a dessert reception from 8 - 8:30pm.

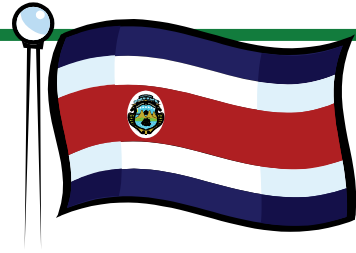
The 8th grade dance will follow from 8:30 to 10pm (the dance is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only).

Invitations, with additional information, will be mailed to the families of 8th graders at a later date.

## 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

The teachers at BCS would like to offer your children the opportunity to go on an exciting foreign adventure during winter break 2011. The focus of the trip would be taking part in an environmental service project but the children would also experience cultural and language immersion, character building exercises and learn leadership skills. The estimated cost for this trip would be around two thousand dollars. Please check out this website and if you would be interested in having your child take part in a trip like this please let us know. Before we take this any further, it is important for us to know if there would be any interest. You may email Pauline Roberts at [pr05bps@birthingam.k12.mi.us](mailto:pr05bps@birthingam.k12.mi.us)

Thank you! <http://www.costaricaexplorations.org/>



## Wacky Recess Friday June 11



Feeling Wacky??? Well, great news from the BCS PTSA Social Committee & Proud Dad's Club!

Wacky Recess returns this year with more crazy activities and BBQ lunch. Sink your friends in the Dunk tank...slam dunk into the shaving cream...work your magic to avoid dripping with raw egg!!

Proud Dads watch for your chance to sign up and be part of the fun. We can't do it without you!!

## BCS Welcomed New Students

New students and their families enjoyed their day off of school, on Friday April 16th, meeting BCS staff and their new future classmates at the BCS New Family Ice Cream Social.

Congratulations to Ryan H. and Teri S.: winners of BCS spirit wear t-shirts!

Welcome, everyone!



## BPS Wellness Google Group

Please consider joining the new BPS Wellness Google Group at [www.groups.google.com/group/bpswellness](http://www.groups.google.com/group/bpswellness).

The group was formed by the Birmingham Public Schools Wellness Committee. This committee has been responsible for helping to make the food our kids eat in school more healthy. Just recently, for example, the committee met with top managers of Prairie Farms Dairy to urge them to stop using high fructose corn syrup in flavored milks, and to reduce overall the amount of sweetener they are using in those milks. Prairie Farms were very receptive.

The Google Group is a great way to share information on health and wellness. The group is open to anyone, and all posts are public.

To start a new thread, simply send an email to [bpswellness@googlegroups.com](mailto:bpswellness@googlegroups.com). To participate in the group through the group site, visit [www.groups.google.com/group/bpswellness](http://www.groups.google.com/group/bpswellness).

If you choose to join, you can set your subscription to send a copy of every message posted to the group as the messages are posted, or you can choose to receive just one email per day, or none at all.

*Thank you to Clint Baller for this information.*

## Making the Ask: Getting Potential Donors to Donate

While nonprofit organizations seek funding in the form of grants, annual funds and events, individual donors constitute the largest source of funds for many organizations. According to the National Philanthropic Trust, Americans gave over \$300 billion to nonprofits in 2008.



Doug Stewart and Greg Gibbs, development professionals with years of experience “making the ask” to individual donors, offered advice to a standing-room only crowd of local nonprofit leaders and volunteers on Thursday, April 15 at CECAC’s final speaker presentation of the season.

For many people tasked with raising funds for a nonprofit, asking someone to make a donation can be a little frightening. According to Stewart a change of mindset is required.

“You’re not asking for money,” he said. “You’re offering an opportunity, a way to help this donor accomplish their dreams.”

Nurturing that relationship between the potential donor and the nonprofit is an important step toward making the ask. Creating the relationship that will lead the donor to support your organization can only be developed over time and with careful attention.

In a church setting, the arena Gibbs is most familiar with, the potential donor already has a relationship with the church. He has found success in using small group settings to lay the groundwork for the ask. The small gatherings are lead by a committed supporter and include no more than about 20 guests. The host explains why he or she supports the cause, who else is committed to supporting the cause and then invites the guests to join in giving.

For nonprofits, the small group ask might involve inviting guests to see a program in action, tour the facility, or make a monetary donation. Provide guests with brochures or other materials that describe your cause to take home with them. Once potential donors have had a chance to consider your proposal, follow up with a phone call.

The idea of building relationships can also be applied to corporate donors. Locally corporate giving has experienced a downturn but Stewart suggested staying connected with corporate donors who have donated to your nonprofit in the past and continue building that relationship for the future. With both previous and prospective corporate donors, Stewart suggested asking a series of questions to make sure your organization is providing the best donor experience possible.

What did you like best about sponsoring our (or another) organization? Why was that important to YOU?

What did you like least about working with that organization? Why was that a problem for YOU?

If we were to work together in the future, what would you like me to do differently? Why would that be important to YOU?

If I put a proposal together that included all of the things we just talked about, would you consider it?

With corporate donors, you aren’t trying to compete with other nonprofits based on who has the better mission. You’re listening carefully to understand how your nonprofit can meet the needs of the person you are talking to – and this is true for individual donors and foundations as well.

Building positive relationships between your nonprofit and a potential donor is vital preparation for making the ask. Even after you’ve secured a donation and sent a thank you note, the relationship is far from over. It is in your best interest to keep the relationship fresh and interesting by learning how they like to be communicated to and sending regular updates, inviting them to see programs in action and then surprising them by not asking for money. Engage in a conversation to find out if you are meeting their needs and fulfilling their philanthropic dreams.

And finally, Stewart said, “honor your role as the advocate for your organization.”

As fundraisers, whether paid or volunteer, you are creating a connection between donors and the organization you feel passionate about. You are benefiting donors, the nonprofit and the clients they serve.

Visit the CECAC website, [www.CECACbirmingham.net](http://www.CECACbirmingham.net), to view the PowerPoint presentation.

**Continued... Making the Ask: Getting Potential Donors to Donate**

**Mr. Doug Stewart** is the Executive Director of the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Family Foundation (since 2007). Over the past 22 years, he has worked at several non-profits. He was Director of Development for Children's Hospital of Michigan and U of M Health System and an instructor for the Michigan Non-profit Management Institute.

**Mr. Greg Gibbs** is the Director of Finance and Development for Kensington Community Church, which is headquartered in Troy and serves 11,000 worshippers at 5 locations. He is a former VP and current Consultant-at-Large for Cargill Associates, a national consulting firm serving the fund-raising needs of churches and non-profits.

***Community Education through Collaboration and Communication (CECAC)***

The mission of CECAC is to improve the quality of life for every individual by linking home, school and community through communication and collaboration. CECAC began as a collaboration between [Birmingham Public Schools](#), [Birmingham Community Education](#) and other school-based organizations. Since then, it has expanded to include a wide vari-

## **2010 Academic Summer School**

**SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY!**

**Attention 8<sup>th</sup> Graders: Earn High School Credits with any of the following courses:**

Computer Technology, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I / 3 TRI, Algebra I, Readings in Literature: American Wilderness Literature

**HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE: Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM-12:30 PM** (Exception: No Class on July 5, 2010)

**1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER:** June 22 – July 9 (*1<sup>st</sup> Semester Early Registration Ends May 28, 2010*)

**2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER:** July 12 – July 28 (*2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Early Registration Ends June 18, 2010*)

**REMEMBER:** Register during Early Registration and save \$30 per class!

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERINGS (Grades 6-8)**

**All classes are held at Seaholm High School, Monday-Friday** (Exception: No Class on July 5, 2010)

**FEE:** \$210 Non-Residents, \$190 BPS Residents

**Language Arts Review (Grades 6-8)** - June 22-July 12, 7:45-9:45 AM -OR- 10:00 AM-Noon

**Mathematics Review (Grades 6-8)** - June 22-July 12, 7:45-9:45 AM -OR- 10:00 AM-Noon

**Advanced Mathematics Preparation Workshop (Grades 6-7)** - June 22-July 12, 10:00 AM-Noon

**Literature Transition: From Books to Novels (Grades 6-7)** - June 22-July 12, 7:45-9:45 AM

**Transitional Mathematics (Grade 8)** - July 12-July 28, 7:45-9:45 AM

Brochures are available in Main Offices, Counseling Offices, and the Community Education Office. Registrations are being accepted on-line, by mail or by fax. Call Community Education at (248) 203-3800 for more information.

**Save time! Register on-line! [www.communityed.net](http://www.communityed.net)**