

Bryker Woods PTA Newsletter

January 23, 2012

Monday 1/23	Tuesday 1/24	Wednesday 1/25	Thursday 1/26	Friday 1/27	Saturday 1/28
	Science Fair registration forms due.				

Principal's Corner

Dear Families,

We are pleased to welcome Will Devereux as a member of the BW crossing guard team! Thanks, Will, for helping ensure the safety of our Panthers as they journey to and from school each day. More good news on safety—the City of Austin has repainted the crosswalks at 35th and Jefferson for our students walking and biking from Ridgelea and Oakmont neighborhoods.

Please give a warm Bryker Woods welcome to Pete Diaz, who recently joined our wonderful custodial staff. Our appreciation goes to Pete, Linda Herrera and Clifton Dukes, for making sure our campus is safe and shining!

Bryker Woods Forever,
Jane Kronke, Interim Principal

Chess Club

Chess Club registration: please return registration before January 27. Note: the form is two-sided, so don't forget to finish both sides. The flyer (light-blue color) came home in last week's folder. There are some extra forms in the main hallway flyer area.

Teacher Treats

Third grade families will host the first Teacher Treats of 2012 on Tuesday, January 31. Check your class list serves for the sign-up sheet or contact Melissa Krakauer mkrakauer@msn.com for more information.

Grocery Card Fundraiser

Remember, it doesn't cost you a penny! The grocery card committee is ready to pass the torch to another group of parents. This fundraiser raises approximately \$11K–\$13K each year (approximately 14–17 percent of our PTA budget) and does so without costing parents any money or volunteer time. The current committee has been running this program since its inception, which was approximately three years ago. We feel it is time to let others take the reins and make this program bigger and better. It does not require a lot of time and is a great way to meet and get to know several of our wonderful BW families.

Brief descriptions of our duties as the grocery card committee are as follows:

- A program manager, responsible for marketing the program to parents, placing orders for cards, and depositing checks.
- A processing director, responsible for maintaining an excel spreadsheet of all the orders and for sorting the cards when they arrive.
- A distribution director, responsible for distributing cards to parents and teachers.

We all work together and help each other with all of the duties. So give it a try and make new friends or grab a couple of friends and form your own committee—it is a very rewarding volunteer position. We would like whoever is interested in serving on this committee next year to shadow us this spring and see how the program works. We could use the help now due to one committee member still caring for a child just recently released from the hospital and another committee member taking a job that consumes much more of her time than before. So if you are interested or have any questions, please call or email us. Our contact information is below:

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Holly Weise

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Science Fair 2012

Science Fair is around the corner—Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Registration forms are due Tuesday, January 24. Please turn them in to your teacher. If you don't have a registration form, you can find one on the Bryker Woods' PTA website: <http://www.brykerwoodspta.org/science-fair.html>. You can also pick one up in the front hallway, across from the cafeteria.

If your child hasn't decided yet whether to participate, provide encouragement! It's a lot of fun! All students—Kindergarten through 6th—are encouraged to participate. You can turn just about any “how,” “what,” or “why” question into a project. Why does cutting an onion make you cry? Do dog owners really look like their pets? How does static electricity work? What is the most popular milkshake?—chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry? The topics are endless. Help your child to tap into a topic/question that interests him or her.

www.brykerwoodspta.org

Kindergarten through 3rd Grade can submit a Collection (e.g., a display). Fourth through Sixth Grades are strongly encouraged to submit either an Exhibit or an Experiment. An experiment tests a question (“hypothesis”), while an exhibit demonstrates how or why something works. You can find details, examples, do’s and don’ts, and much more information in the Science Fair Information Packet that was sent home last week and is available on the Bryker Woods PTA website: <http://www.brykerwoodspta.org/science-fair.html>.

Go Science!

Mandy De Mayo, Venus Santos, Ginger Boreing
Science Fair Coordinators

Green Tip: HEB grocery bag bins accept used grocery cards and plastic “wallet waste”

Did you know? Over 75 million pounds of PVC material from plastic cards enters our waste stream each year. If you are one of the many PTA members that raise money through grocery card programs, you know how much new plastic that generates. Cards from the Randall’s and H-E-B can’t be recharged, are not recycled at check-out, and most of them end up in our landfill!

What you can do: Bring all plastic “wallet waste” cards to school and we’ll recycle them for you OR deposit them in H-E-B’s grocery bag recycling bins. Other items the H-E-B bins accept are: plastic newspaper sleeves, dry-cleaning bags, six-pack rings, and plastic wrap, such as around paper towels and toilet tissue.

All-School Yearbook Cover Contest and Presales!

This is a reminder that all cover entries are due Friday, January 27, by 4:00 p.m. We hope there are so many that the judges will scratch their heads in wonder about which five will take the lead. Please ensure your illustration meets all criteria and register it personally in Room 5! Work hard, have fun, and get yours in because you can’t win if you don’t enter!

Also, the moment you’ve been waiting for will soon be here! Yearbook presales will commence next Monday, January 30, and continue through February 20. You’ll want your own copy so you can collect autographs on the gorgeous pages designed by Elyse Hall, 3rd-grade member of the editing/creative team. Look for signs popping up in the hallways and an order form in next Monday’s folder!

Newsletter

Please send calendar items, submissions, and suggestions to bwptanewsletter@gmail.com. —Julien Devereux,
Newsletter Editor