

Bryker Woods PTA Newsletter

February 6, 2012

Monday 2/6	Tuesday 2/7	Wednesday 2/8	Thursday 2/9	Friday 2/10	Saturday 2/11
		Chess Club begins after school. Pick-up in Library, 3:45 p.m.			

Principal's Corner

Dear Families,

There's something for everyone at BW! From Bryker Bee to Science Fair, and Family Dance Night in between, Panthers have had the opportunity over the past two weeks to share their interests and skills with our community.

We are so very proud of all the students who participated in the recent spelling bee. Students stayed after school for oral spelling practice of the National Spelling Bee study words—we applaud their hard work! Our appreciation goes to the coaches, Angela Sharpe, Monique Cavazos, Debbi Warren, Susan Olle, Meredith Dayon, Jan Spain, Matt Nelson, and Chris Mosser for facilitating the practice sessions. Many thanks to pronouncer, Donna Rinn; judges, Matt Nelson and Suzanne Burke (AISD Executive Director of Curriculum); and Rob and Molly Kohler for coordinating this traditional event for BW.

I enjoyed watching Kinder and 1st graders showcase their movement skills at Family Dance Night, as well as dancing along to "The Chicken Dance!" Thanks, Melody Long and Lynda Levis, for keeping Panthers moving and hosting this fun event.

Wow, 150 students voluntarily participated in Science Fair—thanks for coming out to view their amazing projects. Many thanks to Science Fair coordinators, Ginger Boreing, Venus Santos and Mandy De Mayo. Well done, Panthers, and "Go Science!"

Bryker Woods Forever,
Jane Kronke, Interim Principal

Zavala Mentor Program Volunteer Opportunity

Bryker Woods Parents,

Zavala Elementary, the sister school to Bryker Woods, is in need of mentors for the HOSTS program, a mentoring program that helps students who are either 1) below grade-level in reading, or 2) in the gifted and talented program. They already have a very organized program in place—they just need people to help run it. The volunteer commitment is only 30 minutes, one day a week, from February 13–April 30. Your time would be spent reading with a student, or playing math pentathlon games with the GT kids. Our kids at Bryker Woods get so much benefit from the great things you parents do for the school. Can you do the same for another, less fortunate, child?

The opportunities are Monday thru Thursday during school hours, and again, it only takes 30 minutes of your time. As with all volunteering within AISD, this would require a criminal history background check. If you've already completed one for Bryker Woods, you don't need to do anything else.

If you able to commit to mentoring one (or even two) of these great kids, please e-mail me and I can give you more details. If you have more general questions about our relationship with Zavala, please contact Traci Stone, our Zavala Committee Chair (traci81466@yahoo.com). I look forward to hearing from many of you.

From the Library

The Bookspring Read-a-Thon came to an end on February 3 and now it is time to collect those pledges and bring them to school. Turn your money into your child's teacher on or before Wednesday February 8. Thanks to all who participated. If your child raised \$40 or more, please be sure to mark the size T-shirt that is needed. In years past the T-shirts have run small, so keep that in mind as you circle the size.

I will announce the winning class (pizza party for the class that raises the most money) and the top reader (trophy) as soon as all pledges are in.

Donna Rinn
Librarian

Music News

Congratulations to all of the Kindergarten and 1st-grade student for hosting a fabulous Family Dance Night.

On Monday, February 6, the K-3rd students will be treated to a percussion presentation from Austin Symphony Orchestra.

Students will be learning the rhythms and culture of West Africa through Rhythm Path's "Day of Drumming Program" on Monday, February 13. Every student will have their own West African djembe drum to play. Facilitator David Cox will be at school all day drumming with each grade during Special Areas. Your student will most likely come home drumming and singing songs from West Africa! More details can be found at www.rhythmpath.com

AXBW

Arts By Bryker Woods is coming up real soon! March 22, that is. Everyone save the date for this unique-to-Bryker Woods event. Students should start planning their Talent Showcase acts NOW! Applications will be due in early March.

Melody A. Long
Bryker Woods Music Specialist

Chess Club

Chess Club starts Wednesday, February 8. If you signed up, please remind your child to attend on Wednesday right after school. Pickup will be in the library at 3:45 p.m. Questions? Please email brykerwoodschessclub@gmail.com.

Weekly Schedule of Farm to Table

Monday: Red-leaf lettuce and tomato in sandwich fixings
Tuesday: Tomato and lettuce in tossed salad, Grapefruit
Wednesday: Baked kale chips, lettuce and tomato in sandwich fixings
Thursday: Spinach
Friday: Oranges

Chef Salads

Tuesday: Chicken tender salad
Wednesday: Chef salad

Vegetarian Items:

Monday: Bean and cheese burrito
Thursday: Cheese enchiladas

Newsletter

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