

BWPTA News



Bryker Woods Elementary School

www.brykerwoodspta.org

March 1, 2010

Help! I Have Silent Auction Phobia

A patient recently told her psychiatrist that the PTA asked her to volunteer for the silent auction, but the thought made her blood run cold.

Her doctor suggested word association. What comes to mind when you hear silent auction?

1. Too. Much. Work.
2. Rejection from donors.
3. Filling out forms, forms, and more forms!
4. Hours of driving around town.
5. Surely, someone else will do it.
6. I'm waaay too busy right now.

The good doctor diagnosed his patient with "*silent-auction-misunderstandous*", a common malady affecting parents of children with active PTAs.

Dr. Helpusallraisesomemoney explained that asking for silent auction items is not nearly as difficult she might imagine. The "ask" letter is already written and simply needs to be emailed or dropped off to businesses provided to her. One volunteer accomplished her "asks" in less than 30 minutes. No problem.

Dr. H clarified that she would not be asking for herself, but on behalf of the PTA, for the students -- for the future of our community! -- so they could get the best education possible. Silent auction volunteers are merely doing their duty as conscientious community members.

As Dr. H handed her a prescription, he cautioned, "Without a successful silent auction, the PTA will not meet its financial goals."

Prescription: Volunteer to help with the silent auction! Overcome your fears and eradicate silent-auction-misunderstandous now!

To volunteer, contact Trish McAllister: tmcallister@vlsoc.org, 346-7972.



Thursday, March 25

**RESERVE YOUR DINNER
TODAY!!**

*****6th Grade will provide dinner
during AxBW*****

The most entertaining evening at Bryker Woods is coming up!! And to make it that much easier for the BW community, the 6th Grade will be selling tickets for dinner so parents can eat with their children during the night of the performances and not have to worry about cooking. Please look for an order form in today's Monday Folder. Complete it, attach payment, and return it in the folder or turn it in to the office. We are only taking pre-orders so please reserve your dinners by Tuesday, March 23rd. We will also be selling tickets before and after school during the weeks before the event so look for us at the AxBW T-shirt sales tables.

Grocery Card pick-up this week

Please note that we will not distribute cards on Tuesday due to the election. Therefore, if you did not pick up your cards on Monday, please come pick up your cards on Thursday during drop off and pick up, at the usual place in the front hallway. Don't forget your checkbook. We will have some extra available for sale. Deadline for the next order will be March 12.

Thanks, Liz, Catherine. and Holly

March 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
1 Monday morning coffee Assembly	2	3 Chess Club	4 Grocery card pick-up Assembly	5 Compost Friday	6 / 7
8 Monday morning coffee Assembly	9	10 Chess Club	11 Assembly	12 Grocery Card orders due Compost Friday	Spring Break March 15-19

Green Tip: A classroom powered by the sun

Did you know? Much of our “carbon footprint” comes from our electricity use, which mostly comes from the burning of fossil fuels at coal-fired power plants, a major culprit in climate change. We can live more lightly on the planet by reducing our energy use and getting more of our energy from renewable sources like the wind and the sun.

In 2003, Bryker Woods Elementary worked with PTA parent Steve Wiese to install a 1.2 kilowatt solar electric system on the south side of the north wing of our building (by the gardens). Anyone can visit www.soltrex.com (find our school by clicking the Explore Systems link and finding Bryker Woods on the alphabetical listing of users) to see how many "Kilowatt Hours" (KWh) of energy were generated from the sun's energy each month since 2003. Each year, this system produces enough electricity for the lights, computers and climate for one of our classrooms.

What you can do: Go to www.soltrex.com with your child to see how many KWh of energy are generated by our panels. Answer these math questions (an answer key will be provided in next week's newsletter):

From 2004 to 2009, what is the average number of Kilowatt Hours (KWh) generated by our solar panels each year? Which month of which year gave us the most electricity? Which gave us the least? At 10 cents per KWh, how much money have our solar panels saved us since they were installed in 2003?

Check your Austin Energy bill to see how many kilowatt hours of electricity YOU use. Creating an online account with Austin Energy allows you to see the past 24 months of your usage history. The average Austin household uses an average of 1,000 KWh each month. Is yours more or less? You can also automatically compare your household with the average Austin family by using the City's carbon calculator at coolaustin.org. This calculator will automatically plug in your electricity and water usage when you type in your Austin Energy account number. (If you do this, please join the "Bryker Woods Elementary School" community on the calculator to illustrate the power of our combined efforts to Reduce, Re-use and Recycle.)

The simplest way to support renewable energy is to subscribe to Austin Energy's GreenChoice program to bring emissions-free, renewable energy (mostly wind energy, at this point) to the Austin area. By reducing the amount of electricity you consume as a GreenChoice customer, you free up more renewable energy for others to become GreenChoice customers.

Find out more about Austin Energy electricity conservation programs at www.austinenergy.com.

Swap-o-rama RAMA!

The Go Green Committee would like to thank the following people for their support of our second annual Swap-o-rama RAMA!

- Everyone who came to the swap to take and make!
- Everyone who donated anything to the swap! We wouldn't have a swap without your generosity!
- Nancy Hobbs, Linda Herrera, Donna Rinn and Linda Levis for helping us store/move our collection of donated items and host the swap.
- Colleen Hobbs for organizing the athletic shoe recycling effort. Greater Austin Garage Arts for their inspiration, silk-screening and overall creative expertise.
- Donna Rinn, Nancy Hobbs, Susan Anson, Anita Ballard, Michelle Bonilla, Kathy Borowski, Pam Chamberlain, Adriana Graf, Robin Lance, Katy Levit, Mary Anne Notzen, and Shelly Hemingson for their hard work—sorting, sewing, folding, designing—at the swap. Thanks also to Susan Anson for getting appropriate leftover clothing to our sister school, Zavala Elementary, and to G.A.G.A. for taking the rest to Safe Place. A special thank you to returning seamstresses Sandie Hirsch of Sew Fab (sewingfabrications.com) and Elizabeth Murphy, host of teen sewing nights at Yarborough Library.
- Derek Barcinski, Karen Kersey, Amy Wright and Shelly Hemingson for help with P.R.

· All the wonderful people at Brentwood Elementary who joined us again to make this swap bigger and better than it would have been by ourselves.

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!