

# BWPTA News



Bryker Woods Elementary School

[www.brykerwoodspta.org](http://www.brykerwoodspta.org)

November 2, 2009

## Thanksgiving Food Drive – final week

This is the second and final week of our Thanksgiving food drive, organized by the Bryker Woods Community Service and Outreach Team along with Bryker Woods parent Stephanie Humphreys. The drive will benefit Hope Food Pantry Austin, where Stephanie serves as Executive Director. Join us in helping Hope ([HopeFoodPantryAustin.org](http://HopeFoodPantryAustin.org)) provide a Thanksgiving meal to approximately 150 disadvantaged families in Austin.

Collection bins are located opposite the front office. Consider filling the containers with canned items such as cranberry sauce, beans, yams, and pumpkin pie mix; boxed mashed potatoes, Bisquick, and any other of your favorite Thanksgiving meal savories. We also accept Randall's or HEB gift cards. However, any item helps and makes a feast of community support.

## Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Please return your Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF boxes to school this week! (It's ok to send a check made out to **U.S. Committee for UNICEF**, or you may leave the money in the box.) The Sixth Grade will be making a chart to see which classroom had the highest percentage of participation, which collected the most money, and the total amount collected from the entire school. Last year 390 Bryker Woods Students returned boxes, and our school collected \$3835.89 for UNICEF!

## Sixth Grade information session

Thursday, November 11, 6:30pm

For more information, contact Mia Lawrence, [mialaw@grandecom.net](mailto:mialaw@grandecom.net)

## Box Tops update

We sent in \$336 worth of Box Tops Coupons last week. That means we collected over 3000 Box Tops since March. We're averaging \$650 per year, but we can do better! Be sure to look at all your food and grocery boxes, biscuit cans and cookie mixes for that tiny little Box Tops logo. Cut them out, save them in an old envelope or a rinsed re-used ziplock, and turn them into your child's teacher or the school office. This money helps to pay for planners for our Bryker Woods students. Keep Cutting Box Tops! Thanks, Ellen Lindsey

## TEXAS PUMPKIN MASSACRE!...

*I mean, Compost Demonstration: Sat., Nov 7 @ 10 a.m.* Join us behind the school at our compost bins (by the gardens) THIS Saturday. Our in-house madman/expert, Tim Mateer, will chop up, machete-style, our discarded gourds and throw them into the cauldron for some witches... I mean, compost... brew! These pumpkin scraps will vanish within weeks as those invisible micro-organisms feast on pumpkin flesh, creating temperatures beyond 120 degrees, even on a cold... dead... night. It lives... IT LIVES! mwa-ah-ah-ah-ah!!!!

## Volunteer Opportunity:

### Science Exploration Day

Science Exploration Day (SED) is Friday, November 20. This event provides all Bryker Woods students with an exciting morning of science-focused activities from guest presenters. The headliner will be Professor Sparky with a variety of electricity demonstrations. We seek volunteers to assist with planning, day-of-event help and food, and presentations.

If you are interested, please contact the planning committee (Vicki Almstrum, Helene Engler, and Brandy Mueller) at [BW-SED@yahoo.com](mailto:BW-SED@yahoo.com) or look for the link to the SED survey on the PTA website, [www.brykerwoodspta.org](http://www.brykerwoodspta.org).

## Grocery Cards

### Available for Pickup This Week

We will be in the hall across from the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, (and if necessary on Thursday) from 7:30-8:15, and 2:30-3:15. Remember to bring your checkbook!

## Thanksgiving = Food = Lots of Grocery Cards!

There is a short time frame for ordering cards this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. **Orders for November cards are due Friday, Nov. 6th.** You can email us an order until Sunday night, Nov. 8th, but all hard copy order forms are due in the office by Friday, Nov. 6th. We will need all final counts by early Monday morning, Nov. 9th. We all know that everyone will need lots of extra cards this month for all the extra groceries needed for your fabulous Thanksgiving feasts!!!!

## Bring Out Your Dead

...Pumpkins, that is. To help with the pumpkin massacre, we need pumpkins. Once you have celebrated with your Jack-o-Lantern, bring it to early morning drop off starting November 2. They can be left in the grassy area in front of the building.

## November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
<b>2</b> <b>Thanksgiving food drive continues</b> PTA Board meeting, noon Campus Advisory Committee, 3pm Monday morning coffee <b>Assembly</b>	<b>3</b> Grocery card pick-up	<b>4</b> Grocery card pick-up  Bring your pumpkin to school for composting! Mon-Wed	<b>5</b>   <b>Assembly</b>	<b>6</b> Thanksgiving Food Drive ends  Last day to turn in UNICEF boxes  Grocery card orders due! <b>Compost Friday</b>	<b>7 / 8</b>  Saturday, 10am: Pumpkin composting workshop
<b>9</b>  No school (Staff development day)	<b>10</b>  Tuesday morning coffee <b>Assembly</b>	<b>11</b>  6 <sup>th</sup> grade information session 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Third Grade Patriotic Program and PTA general meeting 6:30pm <b>Assembly</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>Compost Friday</b>	<b>14 / 15</b>

### Yes, there is such a thing as a FREE LUNCH!

As most of you know, the PTA sponsors a monthly luncheon for our teachers and staff. We serve a wonderful potluck meal that always gets rave reviews and thank-yous from the teachers. Each month a different grade hosts the meal by providing the food.

But did you realize, there is another way you can help out Teacher Treats?. (and if you've been looking for a way to participate in a PTA activity, this is a great gig!) We have a small crew of parents who help set up and coordinate the meals each month. We call ourselves the Teacher Treats Team. One or two people spend about 30 minutes right after drop-off making sure the kitchen is ready for the set-up crew, organizing the food that has already come in, and starting the coffee (while enjoying a cup). Usually one or two of us meet around 10:00 to pull the food items out of the fridge and set them out for the teachers. One person generally steps in to see how the food is holding out about halfway through the party. Then the clean up crew takes over from 1:30 until 2:45. The clean up crew starts off the chores by sampling some of the food! We have a wonderful meal together and then do a quick clean up.

This is a great way to meet other parents, and do your PTA duty with the easiest job on campus!

Contact Pam Vander Werf (pamvw2005@yahoo.com) or Kathy Genet (genet@grandecom.net) or Susanna Van Tassel (susvan@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to help out on an occasional or regular basis... we'd love to have you join us!

--Kathy Genet

### Green Tip: Yard Care for Clean Air

**Did you know?** Leaf blowers can generate as much tailpipe emissions from their engines (two-stroke) in one hour as a newer automobile does in driving over 350 miles. A 2001 Swedish study concluded, "Air pollution from cutting grass for an hour with a gasoline powered lawn mower is about the same as that from a 100-mile automobile ride." Meanwhile, the 54 million Americans mowing their lawns each weekend with gas-powered mowers may be contributing as much as five percent of the nation's air pollution, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While a car will emit that pollution over a long stretch of road, the lawn equipment may concentrate it all in one neighborhood.

#### What you can do:

- Let your lawn grow tall before mowing. Consider using a people-powered or electric-powered lawn mower. The CLEAN AIR Force operates an incentive program to encourage citizens to trade gas-powered lawnmowers for new electric models. Contact the CLEAN AIR Force at 512-343-SMOG for details on upcoming trade-in events.
- Retire your leaf blower and ask your or your neighbor's older kids to rake your lawn. (Kids are often looking for ways to make money, and this chore has the added bonus of a workout!)
- Consider replacing all or part of your lawn with xeriscaping or a vegetable garden.
- If you hire professional lawn care service, patronize one that keeps your air cleaner, such as BioGardeners or Clean Air Lawn Care.

#### Keeping in Touch

Be sure to check our website often! The school's Technology Coach, Melissa Tothero, has recently posted an update in "Take Ten for Technology" blog about computers in the classrooms. Order forms for Grocery Cards, Volunteer training information, Green Tips, contact information for PTA officers – all this and more can be found at [www.BrykerWoodsPTA.org](http://www.BrykerWoodsPTA.org)