

# BWPTA News



Bryker Woods Elementary School

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

November 10, 2009

## Science is Fun—but we need your help!!

With Bryker Woods Science Exploration Day quickly approaching (the morning of November 20), we are busily developing a schedule of fun hands-on presentations for every grade level. The headliner's talk on electricity should provide an electrifying start to the day!

A key component of Science Exploration Day is parental involvement! We are seeking folks to assist with task spanning the range from greeting the speakers, to getting the speakers and their materials to the proper location, to helping with set-up, to assisting during presentations, to helping with food for the speakers. The timing for help begins about 7:30am for some tasks, with more folks needed as the assemblies end (about 8:45 for grades 3-6 and about 9:35 for grades K-2) and until the presentations are complete (by 11:15am).

To volunteer, visit the volunteer form (<http://tinyurl.com/BW-SED2009volunteer>). For more information and to share ideas, please contact the planning committee at [BW-SED@yahoo.com](mailto:BW-SED@yahoo.com)

Thank you!

Vicki Almstrum, Helene Engler and Brandy Mueller

## November's Go Green Family Challenge: Reduce Your Garbage and Trash

Look for all the ways you can recycle and compost. See how much you can keep from going in your trash can. Support Litter-Free Lunches at school by using reusable containers and cloth napkins. Maybe by the end of November, you can drop a garbage can size!

Also, our latest recycling effort is Mars Candy wrappers—if the Mars Candy company makes it, we will recycle it. Drop them off at either the Kashi or Capri Sun containers at school—a good way to reduce your waster from all the Halloween goodies.

## Green City Fest THIS Saturday

A great FREE event for the whole family is the Green City Fest:

Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

City Hall, 301 W. 2nd St. (parking underground)

Additional parking is at 300 San Antonio but you can also bike or take the bus! For a full schedule, plus hands-on activities for the kids, visit

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

## PTA General meeting and Third Grade Patriotic Song Program Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm in the Cafeteria



This Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will present a patriotic musical program for the school community. Parents, please dress your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in red, white, and/or blue, and come ready to tap your toes to "This Land is Your Land" and other favorite songs that celebrate our American (and Texan!) heritage. The program will start at 6:30pm with a (very) short general meeting of the PTA.

## Invitation to parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders: Don't miss the Presentation and Q & A meeting about Sixth Grade at Bryker Woods.

Wednesday November 11th @ 6:30 in the school library.

Come meet the sixth grade teachers Mr. Nelson and Ms. Powell, former 6th grade students, and their parents and learn about Bryker Wood's Sixth Grade program. This is the time to be thinking about next year! Please join us and bring your questions. We hope to see you there!

## November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
9 No school (Staff development day)	10 Tuesday morning coffee <b>Assembly</b>	11 6 <sup>th</sup> grade information session 6:30pm	12 Third Grade Patriotic Program and PTA general meeting 6:30pm <b>Assembly</b>	13 <b>Compost Friday</b>	14 Green City Fest 10am-3pm, City Hall 15
16 8am Bryker Woods Presentation Monday morning coffee <b>Assembly</b>	17 Teacher Treats hosted by 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	18	19 <b>Assembly</b>	20 <b>Compost Friday</b>	21 22
23 Monday morning coffee <b>Assembly</b>	24	25, 26, 27, 28, 29 <b>Thanksgiving Break</b> No school			

### Take the Compost Family Challenge in December!

Discover the joys (and savings) of composting! Families who compost take an important step toward sustainable living by keeping 500 pounds of perfectly biodegradable kitchen and garden waste out of landfills every year.

Be the first family of the school year to host a compost demonstration in your backyard with Master Composter and BW parent Tim Mateer. How it works: call Tim at 457-8515 to set up a time during the weekend of December 12 to establish a new compost pile in your backyard. Tim will answer all your questions and let you know what supplies you will want to have on hand. Then, the week leading up to the demo, you are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors, as well as the BW school community. It's that easy and takes about an hour.

### Teacher Treats

Tuesday, November 17  
Teacher Treats Luncheon  
Hosted by 6th Grade Families  
contact: pamvw2005@yahoo.com

### Green Tip

#### **NOW is the time to conserve water for \$ savings**

**Did you know:** The cost of providing wastewater services (or sewage treatment) is higher than the cost of providing water services. Wastewater must be extensively treated before it is clean enough to release back into the environment. You will notice on your utility bill that the cost of wastewater service is much higher than the cost of your water.

**What you can do:** In Austin, you can lower your wastewater costs for 2010 by conserving your water usage during the winter months. Since the City has to guess how much water is going down your drains, it chooses the season when you are least likely to be watering outdoors to estimate how much water you use each month. Depending on your billing cycle, the 3 monthly periods used for wastewater averaging will occur between mid-November and mid-March. The two months with the lowest usage will be averaged and then used to bill you for **NO MORE THAN** that usage amount throughout the following year. *My own wastewater bill has fluctuated as much as \$90 annually based on how much water we used during the winter.*

For more information about conserving water, visit: [www.cityofaustin.org/watercon/](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watercon/)

To find out when YOUR 3-month averaging period begins, visit: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wwaverage/wwaverage.cfm>

### Keeping in Touch

Be sure to check our website often! [www.BrykerWoodsPTA.org](http://www.BrykerWoodsPTA.org)