

BWPTA News



Bryker Woods Elementary School

www.brykerwoodspta.org

November 16, 2009

PTA Teacher Wish List update

The PTA funds a “wish list” program that is like mini-grants for teachers to be able to buy items that would improve the learning environment in their classrooms. These are items that are more durable and instructional in nature than regular classroom supplies. The teachers submitted requests in September; the budget committee considered all the great ideas and published the results in October. We will monitor the budget throughout the year and look for opportunities to continue fulfilling wish list requests.

First grade teacher Lorene Wallace was thrilled with the book shelves built for her by Fourth grade parent and cabinet-maker Dan Coulbury. She said, “I just want to say a huge thank you to you and the whole wish list committee for trying so hard. I really appreciate your efforts to make the shelves/library system a reality.”

Here is a list of the “wishes come true”:

- 2nd grade: Binding machine to be used to create the bound books that “publish” the stories written by second graders.
- Andrews/Howell: Portable privacy walls that help students keep their work to themselves during test-taking.
- 2nd grade: Scanner/Copier multi-function machine that will provide convenience to teachers in the portables farthest from the office.
- Special Ed: Two Flip Camcorders to be used for multi-media projects in the learning lab.
- 5th Grade: Three electric hole punches to support the 5th-graders’ extensive use of binders.
- Susong: Chimes Club music supplies – specialized music stands and a selection of reusable music for the hand bell club lead by Ms. Susong.
- Wallace: Bookshelf system with stickers that allows first grade students to select and re-shelve their books according to categories.
- Kindergarten: Listening Library – a reading tool that will allow several students to listen to an audio book while following along in their own printed books.

Calling All Spellers!!

Teachers, Coaches, Parents and Students...

Registration will soon begin for the January 2010, free after school Spelling Bee Program.

Any parent, teacher or staff member interested in co-leading/coaching one of the groups please contact the Spelling Bee Coordinator - John Ramzy at jramzy@swst.com or 423-8489.

Sessions will likely be in Tuesdays beginning right after school and lasting for an hour. Lesson plans are available or you may create your own. Any input, suggestions or comments from anyone regarding last year's Bee experience are also welcome. More to come shortly...

Volunteer Opportunity: Book Fair!

Since our theme this year is **Destination Book Fair—Read around the World**, the decorating committee would like to borrow a few items to help us decorate. We would like large airplanes, large cars and trains to hang from the ceiling since we are traveling the world. Please put your name and teacher on these so that we can return them after the book fair. Also, we would like to personalize the book fair by using **photographs of your family and their travels** whether it be to far away places or to someplace close by. We need your vacation pictures!!!! Please do not send irreplaceable pictures as we cannot guarantee that they will be returned in perfect condition. We will be gluing them on to poster board or butcher paper. One other item that would be helpful are blow up balls that look like globes. Of course if you are interested in helping to decorate, mark your calendars. **We will be decorating on Nov.23 and 24 from morning till**

Thanks in advance for your transportation items, pictures, blow up globes and labor!!

Donna Rinn
Librarian, Bryker Woods Elementary

Chess Club

Due to unforeseen factors, Chess Club will not start until we have secured a venue that is consistent, comfortable, and conducive to playing chess. I am hopeful this will be worked out soon. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Erika Brown, erika@bfrench.com

Student Directories are here!

The PTA is proud to announce that the 2009-2010 Bryker Woods Student Directory is here! Each family will receive one free copy; you can find it in your child's Monday folder. Additional copies may be purchased for \$5.00 in the school office.

Dan Whitsell, Erika Brown, & Marsha Berkman

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
16 8am Bryker Woods Presentation Monday morning coffee Assembly	17 Teacher Treats hosted by 6 th Grade	18	19 Assembly	20 Science Exploration Day Compost Friday	21 22
23 Monday morning coffee Assembly	24	25, 26, 27, 28, 29 Thanksgiving Break No school			

Bryker Woods is among Austin's GREENEST schools!

For the third consecutive year, Bryker Woods Elementary School has been selected by Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) as one of the five Longhorn Recycle Roundup Winners! Thank you to PTA's Go Green Chair Liz Jambor for submitting the winning application, earning us another \$500 for our green efforts! And thank you to all the Go Green leaders, donors, volunteers, students, teachers and parents who make a difference. You know who you are!

KAB had the highest number of applications ever, and we continue to lead that growing pack! Here is what they had to say: "It is amazing to read about how schools are raising the bar for what it means to be 'green'. Recycling paper, plastic and aluminum, collecting rainwater, building and maintaining native garden beds and composting seem to be the norm at schools winning this year's contest. The review committee strongly believed your school went above and beyond, finding innovative and creative ways to reduce your school's environmental footprint and improve our natural areas on campus and off..."

Here is what KAB liked about Bryker Woods:

From increasing their paper recycling from 2 to 4 tons a month to hosting a Styrofoam recycling day to address the mounds of packaging generated over the holidays Bryker Woods is a leader in school efforts to go green. Recently they took a big step in reducing their environmental footprint by replacing disposable Styrofoam trays and sporks with reusable trays eliminating 6 bags of trash a day that were generated by the disposable trays.

They're not-so-small list of ongoing environmental efforts include Litter Free Lunch Days, a Take 2 Campaign that aims to reduce the number of paper towels students use, recycling instituted at all school fairs and events, a Swap-O-Rama to restyle old clothes into new fashions, Compost Fridays to collect vegetable and food scraps, a 2,500 gallon rainwater collection tank provides water for the certified school yard habitats, and cleanups of the local creek.

Bryker Woods students are aware and involved in their school's efforts to go green; students weigh the amount of paper recycling each week, K, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade classrooms maintain worm bin composting in their classrooms, 4th graders produced a "Because Good Planets are Hard to Find" skit to kick off the campus Technotrash drive which collected 140lbs of electronics sent to GreenDisk to be repurposed and recycled; and 1st and 4th graders regularly tend the raised bed gardens.

Sixth-grade teacher Matt Nelson and sixth-graders Gabriel Salgado and Danielle Breed will accept out award at the UT vs. Kansas football game on Saturday, November 21st

Read about us and the other deserving schools at www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/node/742

GREEN TIP: Food is Fuel

Did you know? Our food travels an average of 1,500 miles before it arrives on our tables. The typical American prepared meal contains, on average, ingredients from at least five countries outside the United States. "If every U.S. citizen ate just one meal a week composed of locally and organically raised meats and produce, we would reduce our country's oil consumption by over 1.1 million barrels of oil every week" (from *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver). Buying just 10% of your produce from local sources shrinks your carbon footprint 5-17 times!

What you can do: Choose produce, dairy and meat products that are grown and raised locally. Eating fruits and vegetables that are "in season" is not only easier on the planet, it is healthier for you, as fresher produce contains more nutrients than its travel-weary relatives. In addition to shopping nearby farmers markets on Wednesday (The Triangle from 3-7 p.m.) and Saturday (Republic Square 9 a.m.-1 p.m.), you can shop for produce marked "local" at Central Market and Whole Foods. Wheatsville Food Co-op steps it up by marking the distance that MANY local items traveled to their store, including ones you wouldn't expect, like Oak Farms milk. OR you can subscribe to a weekly local food delivery service, like CSA's (local farms that deliver a weekly basket), Farmhouse Delivery and Greenling. You can work out your menu in advance by visiting the "resources" page of edibleaustin.com to find a list of produce that is in season before you go shopping.