



Principal's News:

Contents

Principal's News	1
PTA President	2
PTA news	3-4
Student Voice	4

Dates to Remember:

Oct 9-Fall Fundraiser deadline

Oct 16 - Reflections submission deadline

October 17- Family Math Fun--Benner Cafeteria 9-11am

Oct 23 – No School

Oct 27 – PTA Executive Board Meeting

Nov 6 – Box Top Store

We are on the Web!
Web site address:
www.basd.net

PTA President's Corner – Kelly Uchneat

I would like to extend a warm hello to you all and introduce myself as incoming Benner Elementary School PTA President. Effective July 1, I began serving in the role in which Cindy Horner has worked diligently for our children and parents at Benner. Cindy is now our Region 8 Representative to the Pennsylvania PTA. As such she will apply her passion for our kids and her talents in her new role to advocate for Benner and the whole Bellefonte Area School District in the PA PTA. Thank you, Cindy, for your service to Benner and for your commitment to our children now as you work at a broader level to bridge our children's educational needs with policies that PA PTA can impact with our state's leadership.

As a brief introduction, I would like to share a little about our family. My husband, Mike, and I have two children, Katie (7) and Matthew (5). Mike and I met here as students over 15 years ago and were married here. After living 10 years in Illinois and working for a horticultural company there, we returned to Pennsylvania 2 ½ years ago. We had the wonderful opportunity to build a business with some dear friends and to raise our children here, closer to our families. We also made these changes to allow more opportunities to participate with our children and in our community. Serving in the PTA is a brand new challenge for me, and I have much to learn from you all. I'm excited about that learning and about doing it with you and for the benefit of our children.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding results that our PTA leadership has positioned us with at Benner this past year. Despite the fiscal challenges of the past 12-18 months in our communities, our Benner PTA's efforts have generated a budget reserve that would be admirable even in strong economic times. Many community businesses have supported our PTA with their kind donations, and members of our PTA and PTA leadership have been very savvy in purchasing supplies and resources. Moreover, our treasurer for the past several years, Misty Rider, has done excellent work in bringing our accounting practices in to the 21st Century. Because of her work and conversion of our budget to software-managed rather than paper, we can budget clearly and accept downloads of our banking statements and expenses using online tools. She has made our lives much easier, and more importantly, provided us good management tools. Thank you ALL. These efforts—your efforts—add up, and every one of the children at Benner benefits from them!

How does my child benefit and why be involved? What a great question! As the new school year begins, you will see information that lists the many projects of our PTA. To name just a few, I'll note these. Our PTA helps equip our children with supplies at the beginning of each school year (at no cost to parents). We provide a forum to welcome new students (New Student Get Together). We also provide significant support to field trips for our students—opportunities to venture beyond the building and to apply their learning in areas like science in the natural world (First Grade trip to Bald Eagle State Park) or about our country's government and foundations (Fourth Grade trip to Harrisburg).

The more involved our parents are with our PTA and in our children's overall educational experiences, the more successes our kids will achieve. This, too, adds up, and there is no greater joy than seeing a child achieve at his or her highest levels. It really is a marvel, and the investment of your time, talents and resources in our children gives back to the world immeasurably. The best part is that you'll see it happen before your eyes! You are welcome and I invite each of you as parents to participate in as many ways as you can. In those times when you have ideas to share but cannot attend the PTA meeting, please call or share your idea with the PTA officers or Executive Board.

Thank you in advance as we begin our new school year, and I'm looking forward to a great one with you.

Sincerely,
Kelly Uchneat
Kelly@gardengenetics.com

Message from former PTA President-Cindy Horner

I would like to personally thank, as well as on the behalf of the PTA, Patty Eckenroth for her dedication to the PTA through the years at Benner Elementary. She has been an asset that we will miss tremendously. Her link between the PTA board and the teachers has been of great value. Patty has always had a special way of seeing things. While she kept the needs of the teachers in mind, she never lost focus of the reason the PTA is at Benner and that is for what is best for the children. We will miss her smiling face around Benner Elementary on a daily basis as she has taken a new position of Instruction Coach in the Bellefonte Area School District. As Instructional Coach she will be helping teachers implement new programs, such as the new math program, Everyday Math, and strategies in their classrooms. She will be around from time to time. The PTA would like to wish her much success in her new position. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for the students of the Bellefonte Area School District.

National Convention

by Cindy Horner

As a Region Vice President of the Pennsylvania PTA, I had the distinct honor of representing the PA PTA at the National PTA convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in June.

The convention included a number of quality workshops. General Sessions were visited by number National Ambassadors to the PTA such as Dana Torres, five-time Olympic medal winner and CeCe Penniston, singer. Chris Draft was introduced as the newest ambassador for the National PTA. He is a 12-year veteran of the NFL, currently playing for the St. Louis Rams. His involvement will be to spike parent involvement by empowering families to live healthy lifestyles. Partnering with PTA, Laura Dean Mooney, President of MADD, also presented during a general session. The highlight of the convention was the installation of the first male president of the National PTA, Mr. Chuck Saylor. Former US Sec. of Education Richard Riley spoke regarding Chuck through the years. Chuck spoke about his vision for the next two years with focus on bringing men into the organization.

(Studies show that students are more successful when their parents are involved.)

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops Store Dates

October 2

November 6

December 4

We will once again be holding the Box Tops store on the first Friday of every month before school starts. September's store will be held on September 18. Students may shop at the store using labels to purchase items. Most items at the store are school supplies.

When sending Box Tops to school, please write your child's name and the number of Box Tops on the baggie or envelope. If labels are misplaced while children are shopping, we are unable to return them to the correct child unless they are marked. Also, it makes it easier for children to shop and for our volunteers to help them if the number of labels is clearly marked. Labels may also be taped to note cards or bundled in other ways to make it easier for counting.

Please remember, we DO NOT accept Betty Crocker points or Campbell's Labels/Points at the Box Tops Store. We DO accept Box Tops for Education, Fast Fixin' Home Team Rewards and Tyson A+ Labels. Please be sure to include the entire tear strip or box end for Tyson A+ Labels.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Box Tops store. Anyone interested in helping with Thursday evening set-up, Friday morning stores or bundling box tops at your convenience please contact Heather Walters at (814)441-8273 or elvamunk@aol.com. Donations of items for our store or snack size ziploc baggies for bundling are also greatly appreciated.

Campbell's Soup Labels

Hi everyone! Hope you had a great summer. We hope you have been saving your Campbell's soup labels over the summer. Don't forget to send them in with your child's name, grade, and teacher's name. We are still doing the contest like last year. More information coming soon. Thank you!

Ruth Ann Mellott

2009 Fundraiser

The Benner PTA will be using Oakbrook Fundraising this fall. The kickoff assembly was September 25th. The sale will run for two weeks ending Oct 9th with a delivery date of November 12th. Donations are gladly accepted.

GREEN BOTTLE is included in this year's fundraiser. They are made of 18/8 food grad

Stainless Steel. The 20 oz. and 25 oz. come with a Twist cap, a Sports cap, and a travel clip to make the GREEN BOTTLE easy to take anywhere. When you compare quality, pricing and value, The GREEN BOTTLE is the best replacement water bottle on the planet. Please have your Oakbrook order forms and the GREEN BOTTLE order form sent back to school by October 9th.

REFLECTIONS

The theme for this year's reflections program is "Beauty is..."

PTA has long recognized the importance of arts in education. In 1969, the National PTA introduced its Reflections program. In June 1989, the National PTA adopted the resolution, "The Arts in Education", affirmed by the Pennsylvania PTA in October, 1989 and reaffirmed in October, 1995. The resolution urges PTAs to emphasize the value of the arts in schools as useful tools in everyday life, to become advocates of improved arts education programs, and to encourage school districts, educators, and other interested sources to integrate the arts in the school curriculum as essential elements.

Participating in the Pennsylvania and National PTA's Reflections Program is an opportunity for students to explore and learn about various art forms.

When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, photography, and other art forms, they grow intellectually. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. They learn to look at things, people, and experiences in a fresh and exciting way, and they become more interested in the ideas and works of others. The Reflections Program also helps parents encourage and recognize the continuous self-discovery process of their children.

The Reflections Program is designed to enhance rather than replace a quality arts education. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Parents, teachers, and community members all play a critical role in fostering a positive learning environment for children. Supporting the Reflections Program is one way adults can help create that environment.

ALL ENTRIES DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 16, 2009.

Information came home on September 25th following an introduction to the students at an assembly. Prizes will be awarded at the November 9th PTA meeting.

Please contact Becky Magyar (magyarfishpardis@aol.com) or Cindy Horner (cindyandlarry1@comcast.net) (933-1419) if you have further questions.

The PTA would like to thank the following business for their contribution to the Kindergarten/ New Student Get Together.

Wegmans, Weis, Giant, and Culligan water

PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Benner Elementary PTA 2009-2010 Membership Drive: *The Benner Speedway*

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:

Start. . . your. . . ENGINES!!!! We are indeed off to the races, and our Benner PTA is excited for a fun and gratifying year of helping our children and school community excel in as many ways possible! Our school community is the pit crew and driving teams that builds on each others' talents and strengths to seed our children as high as possible on the pole of their education and health. What does this mean? It means many things like these:

Family Fun Nights: building friendships and getting to know each other as parents, teachers, staff and schoolmates (strong relationships / strong team)

School supplies: equipping each and every child at Benner with school supplies so they are in starting position!

Fundraising: enhancing Benner's facilities and educational opportunities for our children

Every child is served by our Benner PTA to the tune of over \$105 per child per year. In addition, facilities enhancements like the beautiful playground equipment that our kids enjoy have come through the investment of time, talent and monies of our PTA members and community benefactors.

"Who are these members and volunteers?"

Moms and Dads - Grandparents, uncles, neighbors - Local business people – Teachers

Stay-at-home parents / working parents - People who like to serve in leader role / People who like to serve in support roles

People with many hours they invest in PTA/ People with only an hour here or there.

Please check out and invest in our PTA through:

1. Membership: **\$3.50 per person** (multiple household members please join!)
2. Service and volunteer opportunities: a list of opportunities will be provided to you

The impact of our PTA for our children lies in our membership. . . IN YOU! Be part of the great race to a fantastic finish as we build our PTA community and horsepower at Benner, and welcome to a GREAT beginning!

- Membership goal 2009-10: 138 members
- Member Drive Rewards for Students:
 - The class with the greatest percentage of memberships* --> FREE RECESS for that GRADE
 - If we reach (or EXCEED!) our total goal of 138 members --> FREE RECESS for ALL
- Benefits of PTA Membership
 - Voting privileges at PTA meetings
 - Access to membership roster (great for networking with other parents and sharing information)
 - Access to free PA PTA and National PTA newsletters and alerts (well-done resources)

CALLING ALL MEN!!!!

- YOU ARE INVITED!
- Have some great ideas or talents that you want to put to work?
- LETS DO IT! We welcome your ideas and talents to enhance our children's experience at Benner
- Not sure how or where to start? Please contact a PTA officer—we want to hear from you!
- You don't have to attend regular meetings or spend lots of time in meetings
- We are seeking the following:
 - Committee Chairs (2-3): OUTDOOR ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
 - Help in implementing concepts developed by our Eagle Scouts candidates for the OUTDOOR CLASSROOM (hands-on building, cleanup of invasive plants, replanting for long-term use)
 - Your insight and hands: what would further enhance Benner for our kids and future kids?

.....

STUDENTS VOICE

Turning The Page
by Griffin Smith

One of my favorite places in the school is the library. I think that we should take the time to expand the library. I think that kids need lots of different choices, so we can try to get new books every month. I also think that we should replace the heavily used books with new copies. People should share books with other people. We could have a suggested list in the library where kids can write the names and authors of favorite books they read. Some people prefer magazines instead of large books. For instance we could order Sports Illustrated, National Geographic and American Girl Magazines. Finally, an addition to our library could be comfy chairs. People could relax in them and read their book. As you can see there are many ways that the Benner library can be improved.

.....

The PTA Officers for the 2009-2010 School Year are:

President – Kelly Uchneat

Vice President I – Ruth Ann Mellott

Vice President II – Christine Schrader

Treasurer – Becky Magyar

Secretary – Amanda Shriver

Newsletter information

- ☞ If you know an individual who deserves recognition please e-mail Deb Leonori at adleonori@hotmail.com to be included in the next issue of our Benner Newsletter.
- ☞ Please submit any news to be included in the Benner newsletter to Deb Leonori at adleonori@hotmail.com by the 15th of each month for consideration.

Note from the Editor:

If you would like to contribute, help with, or have comments for/about the newsletter, please e-mail: Deb Leonori at adleonori@hotmail.com. The published contents of the newsletter are under the discretion of the Benner Elementary Staff.