

Blanchard Bits

News from the Blanchard Memorial School, Published by the Blanchard PTF

April 2010

Blanchard Calendar March-April

April

- 1 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.
- 1 Grade 6 Asia Day.
- 7 Grade 2 Auction.
- 5-8 MCAS Testing for English/Language Arts
- 8 PTF Grant Applications Deadline.
- 8 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.
- 14 School Council Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Front Office.
- 14 Special Ed-PAC Mtg. Dr. Scott Lukas Presentation. 7:00 p.m.
- 19-23 April Vacation. School closed.
- 28 Grade 6 Parents Night transition to RJG. 7:00 p.m. AB High School.
- 29-30 Grade 3 Lowell Field Trip.

May

- 4 Grade 5 Mothers Day Table.
- 5-7 Grade 5 Cape Cod Field Trip.
- 5 Grade 4 Field Trip Museum of Science.
- 6-7 Mother's Day Table.
- 6 Grade 6 Greek Olympics.
- 6 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.
- 10 Town Meeting Begins. 7:00 p.m.
- 11 General PTF Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.
- 12 School Council Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Front Office.
- 14 Library Ice Cream Party. 2:00 p.m.
- 17 Spring Chorus Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.
- 20 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.
- 21 Community Meeting Chorus Concert. 2:10 p.m.
- 26 Kindergarten Orientation. 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Memorial Day. School closed.

Blanchard Updates By: Maryellen Driscoll

Thank you to the many community members and staff who donated blood in honor of Ashley Jee during the Children's Hospital Blood Drive on March 12. The support was so overwhelming that we would like to make this an annual event at Blanchard around the time of Ashley's birthday. Next year is already booked for March 11.

We will be collecting Coins for Cures throughout the month of April. As of this date, we have collected over \$800. On April 14, we will have Crazy Hat Day and students and staff will need to bring in a coin to wear a hat. Thanks for supporting this worthy fundraiser.

The art show, "Art of the Line", at the Sargent Memorial Library ran through March 31. I hope that everyone had an opportunity to view some of our students' incredible artwork. Thanks to Eileen Barnett for her exceptional work in displaying the students' work and to the Boxborough Garden Club for the beautiful floral displays of "Art in Bloom."

The Chorus participated in the Pan Choral Concert on March 9, 2010. This concert featured all of the elementary, junior high and high school choral ensembles in the Acton/Boxborough School District. The concert ended with a grand finale in which 300+ students sang together under the direction of Mrs. Callaghan.

The students are looking forward to their next performance, a benefit concert for The Colored Pencil Project (Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. @ ABRHS auditorium). The Chorus will perform alongside the ABRHS choruses at this event. For more information about The Colored Pencil Project, please visit: www.thecoloredpencilproject.org

The Vocal Ensemble recently performed at two special events. They sang at the PTF's Annual Shopping Night at Willow Books as well as the Art Show Opening at the Sargent Memorial Library in celebration of the library's fifth anniversary. The students were thrilled to represent our school at these two special events.

The Woodwind Ensemble under Henry Tervo's direction and the Brass Ensemble under Chris Baird's direction gave a very successful concert at the Sargent Memorial Library on Thursday, March 25. This concert concluded a month long celebration of the library's fifth anniversary. Many thanks to Maureen Strapko, Sargent Library Director, for inviting the ensembles to perform.

The Advanced Band is working hard for their performance as part of the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) Concert Festival at King Philip High School in Wrentham, MA on Saturday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. This concert is open to the public. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Please attend and support the Advanced Band as they make great music at the festival!

The fifth grade teachers and students would like to send a huge thank you to several supportive groups. Thanks so very much to all of our parent volunteers who donated their time to work the book fair for us. Likewise, thanks to all of the students and their families, and our Blanchard teachers and staff who shopped for themselves and others. Because

of all of you, we made our fundraising goal, which is the only way we can keep the cost of the Cape Cod Field Trip down. You can look forward to another exciting book fair during December conferences next year.

Fourth Grade students had a lot of fun creating and presenting their solar system projects. They thoroughly enjoyed the Museum of Science Traveling Planetarium, which was funded through a Science Enrichment grant. Thank you PTF!

PTF Updates

By: Paula Grieco, PTF President

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BLANCHARD COMMUNITY ON A SUCCESSFUL AUCTION!

The PTF auction raised over \$25,000 with money still coming in! 160+ attendees enjoyed the festivities including the excitement of bidding on over 170 live and silent auction items. I've heard from the children about how THRILLED they are with their one-of-a-kind auction prizes . . . from Principal for a Day, to the fire engine ride to school, vacations and more.

As you know, through the auction, our largest fundraising event, the PTF funds dozens of arts and science enrichment activities and provides support for many other programs, materials and equipment, like eno-boards and other classroom technologies. Thank you to countless members of the community that participated including: families, teachers, staff, and local businesses. Please considering support all the many businesses that so generously provide donations and sponsorships to our auction annually. Go to the end of the auction booklet for a complete list:

http://www.blanchardptf.org/2010_Program_final.pdf

From helping coordinating a neighborhood or classroom gift to volunteering for auction check out, there were over 75 volunteers for the auction – both those who have volunteered for many auctions in the past and those new to the school who were willing to jump right in and help out! Special thanks to Amy Burke, this year's Auction Chair, for all the creativity, time, and energy she put in to make the event a huge success.

Thanks to all the members of the Auction Planning Committee including: Kathy Luce (PR extraordinaire who created so much pre-auction "buzz"), Co-Auction Coordinators Liz McHutcheon and Paula Grieco, Auctioneer Megan Hanlon, Cathy Winsor (web design and check-out), Jennifer Campbell (auction program), Co-decorations coordinators Beth Bortree and Sharon Coverdale, Co-Ticket Sales/Check-In Coordinators Joanne Mills and Marissa Picca, Neighborhood Gifts Coordinator Kim Amaral, and Classroom Gifts Coordinator Brenda Glode. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with solicitations including: Monica Burke, Mary Halvey Dove, Deb

Lundquist, Laura Rakauskas, Laura Ristaino, Wendy White and all other auction planning committee members.

BoxTops – Don't Stop Collecting!

By: Judy Kosakowski

The Spring Contest for BoxTops for Education is well on its way! The goal is 25,000 BoxTops to be collected within the Blanchard Community by **May 3, 2010**. If this goal is reached, every Blanchard child will celebrate with TEN MINUTES added to their recess on a beautiful June day. We've already collected 20,000 BoxTops, so all we need is 5,000 more!!! We need every Blanchard family to keep bringing in those BoxTops; ask grandparents, neighbors, friends and even co-workers to help. Thanks for supporting this very worthy program!

Save Those "Treasures", Mother's Day Table is Around the Corner

By: Kathleen Erickson

With sponsorship by the Blanchard PTF, we are delighted to announce the upcoming Mother's Day Table. **Fifth Graders** (because they will be on the Cape Cod Field Trip from May 5-7) will shop on **Tuesday, May 4**. The rest of the students will shop with their class during the remainder of the week, on a day coordinated with their teacher. Each K-6 student will have an opportunity to select that "special something", which will be beautifully gift wrapped to take home to Mom.

It is important that each family provides at least one item *per K-6 family member*. This helps to avoid disappointment since all items donated become available for the remaining K-6 students to purchase as a gift for Mom. Each item will cost \$1, and there is a limit of one purchase per child. If your child has two Moms, please donate two gifts and send \$2. Shopping money may be sent into your teacher beginning **Monday, April 12**.

Previous years have shown that our Blanchard children are very sophisticated shoppers with exceptional taste! Suitable items and treasures for the Mother's Day Table may be brought to school by parents or children beginning Monday, April 12th. There will be a collection box in the Teacher's Lounge. ***The most popular tables the kids enjoy shopping from display jewelry, flowering plants, picture frames, lotions and chocolate.*** To speed the wrapping process, we would also appreciate donations of gift bags or boxes, including cardboard jewelry boxes; you may send these in with the gifts.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the to set up on the evening of **Monday, May 3** and also to help with the shopping that week, usually in two hour increments during school hours. It is a wonderful experience to watch the children take these steps toward

independence. If you need more information about donating items or would like to help at the event, please contact Kathleen Erickson at ericksoninthebox@verizon.net.

PTF Grants Deadline, April 8

By: Jennifer Campbell

The next grant application deadline is **April 8, 2010** with \$1187.40 remaining available for grant awards for this school year. Grant applications are welcome from teachers, parents, and all members of the community. Applications can be downloaded from the Blanchard PTF Web site (www.blanchardptf.org) or picked up from the bulletin board outside of the front office.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Campbell jennifercampbell@hotmail.com or (978) 263-0481.

Enrollment for Boxborough Integrated Preschool

The Boxborough Integrated Preschool is opening an afternoon session for the 2010-11 school year. Like our morning session, it will run for four half-day sessions per week. The schedule will be Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:00-2:40. Space is currently available for students without special needs for the afternoon session. Students must be 3 by September 1, 2010 to be enrolled. Parents must bring the child's birth certificate, immunization record and a deposit of \$275 (cash or check made out to Town of Boxborough) to enroll. The \$275 will serve as September tuition; tuition in subsequent months will be \$300. Registration will take place in the Blanchard School office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Registrations will be accepted until the session is full; after that time, additional registrants will be placed on a waiting list.

BSE-PAC Presents Dr. Scott Lukas

By: Lorrie Clark

On **Wednesday, April 14**, the BSE-PAC presents Dr. Scott Lukas, who will speak about brain development and the effects of medications, including natural alternatives, on children with learning and other disabilities. Dr. Lukas, a Blanchard parent, is also Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Behavioral Psychopharmacology Research Laboratory at McLean Hospital. This presentation will be held from 7-9 PM in the Blanchard Science Room.

To ensure that Scott has an opportunity to focus on the topics of greatest interest to Blanchard parents, you are invited to submit your questions and topics of interest to either Sandy Daigneault (sdaigneault@boxboroughschool.org) or Nancy Settle-Murphy

(nancy@guidedinsights.com) **no later than April 9.** These will be passed along to Scott without attribution to the parents who submitted them, in order to maintain confidentiality.

Blanchard PTF Drama 2010, The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf **By: Chris Brolin, Co-Producer**

Tickets are now on sale for the Blanchard PTF Drama performance "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf." There will be performances on **Friday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.**; **Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.**, and **Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m.**, preceded by a Musical Medley at the April 30 Community Meeting. Tickets this year are for assigned seats, but there are still good seats available.

There are two sections of seating. The first three rows will be reserved for children in 4th grade and younger that can sit by themselves. These rows will not have specific seats assigned, just access to them. All other rows will have specific seats assigned. Be sure to indicate on the order form if you want any of your tickets to be for the children's rows. All seats are \$8.

There were live ticket sales during Parent-Teacher conferences, but now the order form has gone out via backpack mail. For more information, contact Suzanne Loonie at blanchptfdrama@gmail.com. (Just put "ticket questions" in the subject line.)

Once again, the staff would like to express our thanks for the support of the Blanchard PTF, for the generosity of the Blanchard administration for offering the facility for rehearsals and performances, and to all the parents of the students in this production for volunteering. Come on out and enjoy the music, dancing, and laughs as our students show what they can do!

Community News

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council Presents "Our World" Foreign Film Evenings

The ABCC 2010 foreign film series will comprise four movies from four different countries. The first two showings will be at ABRHS and the second two at the Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough. Films will start at 7 p.m. These films are suitable for teens and adults. There is no admission charge.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursday April 29 at ABRHS - *Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi* (Israel)

Thursday May 6 at ABRHS - *When Did You Last See Your Father?* (British)

Thursday May 20 at the Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough - *Ahlaam* (Iraq)

Thursday May 27 at the Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough - *Departures* (Japan)

Spring Book Sale @ the Boxboro Library, Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.

The Friends of the Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough, will hold it's Spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please save your books and bring them to the library beginning Monday, April 26. Gently used hardcovers, paperbacks and audio visual items will be accepted. *Members' only preview will be held Friday evening, April 30, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m..* If you are not currently a member of the Friends, and would like to join, you may do so by filling out an [application](#) and mailing it in or dropping it off at the library.

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

THURSDAY, APRIL 8 AT 1:45 p.m.

The Boxborough Family Network is sponsoring a special "Jump into Spring" Story-time & Craft for 3 year olds.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 AT 11:00 a.m.

Stop by the Library for a fun drop-in flower craft.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20 AT 2:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon movie, ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL. This movie is rated PG. Please bring a comfy pillow so you can enjoy the movie.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 AT 1:00 p.m.

Join us in the children's craft room for a fun flower pot decorating program. Small pots, soil, and seeds will be provided so you can make your very own flower pot.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 AT 6:30 p.m.

In celebration of earth day, the Library is having a special RAINFOREST PROGRAM presented by the Creature Teachers. This is a great opportunity to see live animals from the rainforest! Books on the rainforest, environment, and climate change will be on display in the children's room.

THURSDAY, MAY 6 AT 2:00 p.m.

**The next early release movie is on Thursday, MAY 6th at 2:00 p.m. Join us for The JACK & THE BEANSTALK. This movie is rated G. Please bring a comfy pillow from home.

NEW THURSDAY MORNING STORYTIME

Beginning in May, our Wednesday Story-time will be moving to Thursday mornings! So please join us on Thursday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m. for wonderful stories and songs.

All children's programs are made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Boxborough Library!

Blanchard Bits is published by the Blanchard PTF and circulated to all Blanchard families. To submit an article or calendar item, please email Aga Dresser at scottandaga@gmail.com or call 978-264-9709. The submission deadline for the March 2010 Blanchard Bits is **Friday, April, 23, 2010**.