

# Blanchard Bits

News from the Blanchard Memorial School, Published by the Blanchard PTF  
2010

December 2009/January

## Blanchard Calendar December/January

### December

2 First Term Ends

3-4 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served. Parent/Teacher Conferences.

5 Boxborough Annual Tree Lighting. 4:30 p.m.

16 Blanchard Band Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.

17 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.

24-Jan 1 Winter Recess. School Closed.

### January

4 School Re-opens

7 Chorus Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.

11-15 Kindergarten Registration Week

13 School Council Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Front Office.

13 Preschool Open House. 9:30 a.m.

14 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.

14 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.

15 Professional Day. School Closed.

18 Martin Luther King Day. School Closed.

21 PTF Grant Applications Due.

26 General PTF Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.

28 Beginning Band Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.

19-29 Preschool Registration Week.

## Blanchard Updates

**By: Maryellen Driscoll**

During this holiday season, I would like to recognize the many cultural and religious celebrations that occur among our Blanchard families and extend to each family my warmest wishes for a happy and peaceful 2010.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled on Thursday, December 3, and Friday, December 4. If you are interested in seeing a specialist, please contact them directly to set up an appointment. Report cards will be going home on Wednesday, December 2.

The Chorus and Brass Ensemble will perform at the town's annual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 5, at 4:30 p.m. at the corner of Hill and Middle Roads.

The Brass and Vocal Ensembles will be performing at the Boxborough Senior Luncheon on December 9.

Our upcoming band concert will be held on Wednesday, December 16, and our chorus concert will be on Thursday, January 7. Both concerts will be starting at 7:00 p.m. On December 10, the Boxborough seniors are invited to a breakfast sponsored by the sixth grade class. After breakfast, the seniors will join the rest of Blanchard for the school-wide winter band concert. Special thanks to Margie Callaghan, and Chris Baird for their continued dedicated work with these students.

A special thank you goes out to the Acton-Boxborough Rotary Club for donating dictionaries to each third grader at Blanchard. The generosity and commitment to education that this organization continues to show to our students is greatly appreciated.

Students and staff are eagerly participating in our walking/running program called, "Race to the Olympics," which is being organized by our physical education teachers, Mr. Guilmette and Mr. Shanahan. All participants are being challenged to walk/exercise their way to the Winter Olympic site in Vancouver Canada. In five weeks, we have walked/exercised for a total of 2,580 miles which has brought us to western Montana. Only six hundred miles left to reach our destination. A ceremony will be the culminating activity when the journey is complete.

On, Wednesday, November 25, fifth and sixth grade students raced in our annual Turkey Trot. This event challenged students to carry a FROZEN turkey under, over, and around various obstacles as they raced fellow classmates. There were many smiles, great sportsmanship, and lots of fun before we left for a holiday break.

## **PTF Updates**

### **By: Paula Grieco, PTF President**

We are on our way to meeting our fundraising goal of \$27,000, but still have \$22,200 left to raise this school year. Through the fall gift wrap fundraiser and direct donations to date, we've raised \$4,800. Thank you for your continued support of the enrichment programs, events, and technologies that add so much to our children's educational experience.

- Please make a **tax-deductible, year-end** donation by visiting our web site: <http://www.blanchardptf.org/donate.html> . Also check with your human resource department as your employer may match your gift. Thank you!

We welcome your input and help! If you have an idea or would like to volunteer for as little or as much as your time allows, contact any member of the board! Our next PTF General meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.**

Visit our web site for regular updates on PTF events and other happenings:  
<http://www.blanchardptf.org> .

## Save the Date for the Blanchard Auction, March 20

By: Amy Burke

*Save the Date for the  
Blanchard PTF Auction  
"Uncorking the Possibilities"*

**Saturday, March 20, 2010 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**  
**Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow**  
*Wine tasting and food pairings,  
wine mini-seminars led by industry experts, auction, and  
performances by local student a Capella groups, featuring the MIT Logarithms.*

We are always happy to have more volunteers. Contact Amy Burke @ [burkeymom@yahoo.com](mailto:burkeymom@yahoo.com) to join us in planning this fabulous evening!

The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year, which provides financial support for the enrichment programs at Blanchard, including **Arts Enrichment** (black and white portraits – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; Valerie Tutson, storyteller *Tales from African Traditions* ); **Science Enrichment** ( *Exploring the Ocean World* – Kindergarten; *The Green Machine* – 4<sup>th</sup> grade); **PTF Grants** (library reading terrace; gymnasium climbing wall); and other programs including PIP, community service, library books, scholarships, and DI.

The auction is always a lot of fun, and we receive fabulous, generous donations from families, local businesses, museums, and teachers – something for everyone.

This week's featured auction item: four complimentary Disney One-Day Park Hopper passes. These passes, valued at \$524.00, are valid during normal operating hours and provide admission to: the Magic Kingdom® Park, Epcot®, Disney's Hollywood Studios™, or Disney's Animal Kingdom® for one day.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Amy Burke [burkeymom@yahoo.com](mailto:burkeymom@yahoo.com)

## Integrated Preschool and Kindergarten Registration 2010-2011

Integrated Preschool and Kindergarten Registration for 2010-2011

Registration for **Kindergarten** for Fall 2010 will take place during the week of **January 11-15**. Students must be 5 by September 1, 2010 to be enrolled. Parents must bring the child's birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency to register. Registration will take place

in the Blanchard School office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., and Thursday, January 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

An **Open House** will be held in the Integrated Preschool on Wednesday, January 13 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. for parents who would like the opportunity to see the preschool classroom and meet with the staff.

Registration for three and four year old children for **Integrated Preschool** for Fall 2010 will take place during the weeks of **January 19-22 and 25-29**. 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 one month's tuition (\$275 cash or check made out to Blanchard Memorial School) to enroll. Space is limited; if registrations exceed space available, a lottery will be held on February 2. Registration will take place in the Blanchard School office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

## **PTF Grant Awards**

**By: Jennifer Campbell**

The PTF Grants Committee received a number of worthy grant applications during the first cycle of the 2009-2010 school year. We are pleased to announce that the following grants were funded:

- Classroom energy metering equipment for 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Archeologist to present to entire 6th grade
- Electrical safety and energy conservation enrichment program for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Paper cutter for the art room
- AccuCut roller die cuts
- Digital camera for use in learning center
- Three DVD sets about National Parks for 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Assessment-driven math instruction & intervention for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- RM Classpad and software

The total funds awarded for these grants are \$6364.08. Each of these grants will enrich the lives of our children in a variety of ways. Look for updates in the Bits to hear more about how these awards are being used in the classroom. Grant funds come directly from your donations to the PTF and from PTF fundraisers such as annual gift-wrap sale, family donations, OneCause shopping, and silent auction.

The next grant application deadline is **January 21, 2009**, with \$ 11,135,92 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](http://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](mailto:jennifercampbell@hotmail.com) or (978) 263-0481

## **Support the PTF while Back-to-School Shopping Online!**

**By: Jennifer Campbell**

The Blanchard PTF is registered with OneCause, a service that gives a percentage (average 3-5%) of sales from purchases made online back to the PTF. This fits into our goal of providing efficient donation options. By using OneCause as a starting point to purchase items online that you would already be buying, you are giving back to the school effortlessly! The PTF receives a quarterly check that we can use to continue to support enrichment, social, and community events for Blanchard.

You can use OneCause to access shopping sites for hundreds of vendors, including Amazon.com, Home Depot, Pottery Barn, L.L. Bean, Target, and many others. Anyone who shops online (family, friends, etc.) can choose Blanchard as the recipient for their funds, so the possibilities are endless! You can track your contributions online and view reports to see how much money your online purchases have brought to the Blanchard PTF.

### **Here's how to get started:**

1. Go to [www.onecause.com](http://www.onecause.com).
2. Click the **Join** link at the top left of the page.
3. Create an account that includes your name, e-mail, and password, then click the **Sign Up** button.
4. Search for Blanchard Memorial School (ID number **99048**), then click the **Continue** button.
5. Please note that the default account settings will show your username and the amount you have contributed through using the site. The PTF *does not recommend* this setting. Click the Privacy Settings link on your OneCause home page after logging in/creating a new account to access the privacy features.
6. Every time you want to shop online, go to [www.onecause.com](http://www.onecause.com), log into your account, then search for a vendor to start shopping!

Any questions? Contact Jennifer Campbell [jennifercampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifercampbell@hotmail.com), (978) 263-0481.

## **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

**By: Sue Giaconia**

Each year the families of Blanchard Memorial School host an appreciation luncheon for all the teachers and staff. This is a wonderful opportunity for each Blanchard family to say **THANK YOU** to all the people who help create a safe, comfortable and excellent learning environment for our kids. The annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4, 2010**. The entire school participates and each grade will be assigned either a portion of the menu or a small donation to be used towards the centerpieces, paper goods etc. In addition, we will need a group of volunteers to help on the day of the luncheon. Please save

the date and put on your chef's hat! If past years are any indication, the potluck will once again be a very successful event with a remarkable assortment of delicious dishes. Sign up sheets will be going home via backpacks in early January.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas please contact Sue Giaconia ([susangiaconia@comcast.net](mailto:susangiaconia@comcast.net)) or Kim Lancaster ([klanc2@yahoo.com](mailto:klanc2@yahoo.com))

## **Acton Boxborough Parents of Children with Challenges**

**By: Francesca Ricciardi**

Are the holidays stressing you out?

The Acton Boxborough Parents of Children with Challenges (ABPCC) invites you to our monthly meeting on **Thursday, December 17, 9:30 a.m.** at ABRHS in room 131 East, for an open discussion. Bring any suggestions you have that may help others get through this busy and often stressful holiday season.

We're planning an evening presentation for January or early February to address ways to help our children and teenagers cope with anxiety. Check next months newsletter for details.

The primary goal of our support group is to connect parents with others confronting similar issues. By sharing concerns, experiences, resources and ideas with each other, we strive to form a community of parents who can provide mutual support and comfort.

For further information on our group, contact us: Francesca Ricciardi: [fmr08@verizon.net](mailto:fmr08@verizon.net)  
Ebit Speers: [ebandmac@verizon.net](mailto:ebandmac@verizon.net)

## **Boxborough Special Education Parents Advisory Council (BSE-PAC)**

**By: Lorrie Clark**

On Thursday evening, **January 7**, Kalyani Krishnan, Language and Learning Specialist at the Research Institute on Learning and Development, will give a presentation on the special challenges presented by homework. At the Sargent Memorial Library. Further details TBA. For further information, please contact Nancy Settle-Murphy ([nancy.settlemurphy@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.settlemurphy@verizon.net)) or Lorrie Clark ([lorrie.clark.9@gmail.com](mailto:lorrie.clark.9@gmail.com)).

## **Community News**

### **Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library**

#### **Sargent Memorial Library: Operating Hours**

The Library will be open Mondays and Wednesdays, **10 a.m.-6 p.m.**, Tuesdays and Thursdays **10 a.m.-8 p.m.**, and Saturdays **10 a.m.-3 p.m.** You may request and renew materials online at [www.boxlib.org](http://www.boxlib.org) or call the Library at 978-263-4680.

**The Library will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Saturday, December 26 in observance of Christmas. The Library will be closing at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 31 for New Year's Eve.**

#### **HANUKKAH CRAFT**

Drop by the Library on Saturday, December 12 and make a Hanukkah craft.

#### **SCHOOL VACATION MOVIE**

On Wednesday, December 30, join us for an afternoon movie at 1:00 p.m. Please visit our website for additional information: [www.boxlib.org](http://www.boxlib.org)

#### **Monday Morning Story-time & Craft @ 10:45 a.m.**

Monday's story-time is for children ages 3 to 5. This program features popular themes, interactive books, and a fun paper craft. **Please note that there will not be a story-time on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

#### **Thursday Evening Pajama Story-time @ 7:00 p.m.**

Children of all ages are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal to the Boxborough Library where they will enjoy nursery rhymes, finger-plays, and felt stories. **Please note that there will not be a story-time on Thursday, December 24.**

#### **LEGOS @ THE LIBRARY**

Join us for Lego Hour on Saturday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m. Children can bring in their favorite creations and share new ideas with the group.

**The Boxborough Library is currently collecting donations of new and gently used Legos. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Heather Wilkinson, the Youth Services Librarian at 978-263-4680 or via email: [hwilkins@cwmars.org](mailto:hwilkins@cwmars.org)**

***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](mailto:scottandaga@gmail.com) or call 978-264-9709. The submission deadline for the Dec/Jan 2009-2010 Blanchard Bits is **Friday, January 22, 2010.**