

December 2010 Blanchard Bits

Blanchard Calendar

December

1 First Term Ends.

1-3 Science Book Fair.

2-3 Parent Teacher Conferences

2-3 Half Day. Noon dismissal. No lunch served.

4 Boxborough Tree Lighting. 4:30p.m. Chorus and Brass Ensemble to perform.

8 SEPAC Meeting. 7:00 p.m.

8 Advanced Winter Band Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.

9 Class Size Guideline Subcommittee Meeting. 7:30 a.m. Library

9 Advanced Winter Band Concert. 9:00 a.m. Blanchard Gym.

9 Drama Club. Read-through. 3:00 p.m.

9 Drama Club. Parents Meeting. 4:00 p.m.

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

16 & 17 Lost & Found Display

17 SEPAC Meeting. 7:00 p.m.

24-31 Winter Break.

January

6 Winter Chorus Concert. 7:00 p.m.

11 Integrated Preschool Open House & Parent Information Night. 7:00 p.m.

11 Kindergarten Info Night. 7:45 p.m.

13 Blanchard Theme Day: Beach

13 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 a.m.

14 Professional Day. No School

17 Martin Luther King Day. No School

20 BoxTops contest ends.

20 Grants Applications Due.

24 School Council Meeting. 5:30 p.m.

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

27 Beginning Band Concert. 7:00 p.m.

28 PTF Movie Night. 6:30 p.m.

29 A Big Night Out.

Blanchard Updates

From 6th grade:

Please check your calendars to be sure you have a date and time for parent-teacher conferences. If not, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

The Student Council is collecting items for the Acton Food Pantry. They need flour, sugar, oil, butter and toilet paper. Please donate any items by Thursday, December 2.

The sixth grade will be hosting a breakfast for Senior Citizens on Thursday, December 9, at 8:00 am in the Blanchard library. The seniors will then be invited to attend the band concert with the students.

PTF Updates by: Jennifer Campbell

November was a busy month for the PTF. Thanks to Molly Wong and Marcia Russo for a fun Bingo Night, and to Marissa Picca for another successful Senior Luncheon. We enjoyed a nice day of shopping & socializing at Little Towne Toys – thanks to Lisa Hesch for hosting us at her store, Pasture House Market for donating baked goods, and Tracey Sierra for helping coordinate.

Marissa Picca and Kathy Gotthelf will be our co-chairs for the PTF's Spring Fundraiser. They have a lot of terrific ideas for this family-focused event. Many volunteers are needed. Please contact Marissa (mpicca@comcast.net) or Kathy (kathygotthelf@hotmail.com) to volunteer. They will be kicking off the event at our PTF general meeting, January 25, 2011, at 7:30 at the Blanchard Library.

Thank you for your continued support of the enrichment programs, events, and technologies that add so much to our children's educational experience. We are closer to reaching our goal of \$5000 from direct donations. If you haven't done so, please make a **tax-deductible, year-end** donation by visiting our Web site: www.blanchardptf.org/donate.html . Also check with your human resource department as your employer may match your gift.

Remember to like the Blanchard PTF page on Facebook to get additional updates and reminders about events and programs.

PTF Grants Committee Application Deadline

The deadline for the second cycle of PTF Grant Applications is **January 20, 2011**. Grant applications may be submitted for any educational purpose, such as enrichment activities in the classrooms, special equipment or supplies not funded by the school operating budget, or professional development. The PTF is particularly interested in projects that have a long-term impact, benefit a large number of students, and are inter-classroom, interdisciplinary, or involve multiple teachers. Grant applications are welcome from teachers, parents, and all members of the community.

When writing your grant request, please submit eight copies of the PTF Grant Application and follow the PTF Grant Checklist. The Application and Checklist can be found on the PTF website (BlanchardPTF.org) or on the PTF bulletin board outside the library. Eight copies of the completed application must be placed in the PTF mailbox in the school office by 3:00 p.m. on January 20, 2011.

Dancing Wheels, By: Susan Kenyon

In observation of National Disability Awareness Month, on October 26 the Blanchard community enjoyed performances by Dancing Wheels, a premier arts and disabilities organization with a mission to expand the traditional vision of dance and advocate equal access for people of all abilities. Founded in 1980 by Mary Verdi-Fletcher, the first professional wheelchair dancer in the U.S., this innovative dance company performed folk, spiritual, social, ballet, concert, musical theatre and modern dance in two performances for grades prek-3 and grades 4-6. Planning for this fabulous program was shared between the Arts Enrichment Committees of the six elementary schools of Acton and Boxborough. We are grateful to the Acton Boxborough Cultural Council and the Boxborough PTF for supporting this unique experience for our students.

Potato Hill Poetry, By: Susan Kenyon

During the week of October 11, fourth grade students were prolific poets! Andrew Green, founder of Potato Hill Poetry, conducted workshops teaching students about different types of poems, and encouraging them to write their own poetry on “the small pleasures in life – any topic that comes to mind.” Mr. Green is a former English teacher in the Vermont public school system. For the past 10 years Mr. Green has been conducting writing, portfolio, and poetry workshops for teachers and students in schools around the country. We are very thankful to the Blanchard PTF Arts Enrichment Committee for sponsoring this annual

PTF Arts Enrichment Committee

The Black and White Photography Portraits were completed by the 3rd Grade students and teachers this past month. A new local photographer, Kate Duval, was used this year since our former photographer, Bob Turner retired to Florida. The Black and White portraits are created by the students using props that are reflective of themselves. They are beautiful. Please stop by and see this unique exhibit sponsored by Blanchard PTF, during parent teacher conferences. They will be located outside the 3rd grade classrooms. A special thanks to Christie Smith and Lauren Fields for coordinating this project and to the parent volunteers who helped with the students.

BoxTops 4 Education, By: Judy Kosakowski

Did you know that **Blanchard ranks 68 out of 2,868 schools that participate in BoxTops?** How about the Blanchard Community stepping up and ranking within the “**Top 50**” this year?! In addition to clipping and collecting BoxTops, you can now shop for the holidays on line at eBoxTops at btfe.com/marketplace. Also, please remember. . . the BoxTop contest is still going on. Any class that collects at least 1,000 BoxTops by Dec. 20 will be celebrating with an ice cream sundae party when they return from Winter Break.

BINGO NIGHT, By: Molly Wong and Marcia Russo

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for Bingo Night! It was a great night of fun for everyone! Thank you to Dr. Bates and Mr. Cook for being our special guest callers for the evening. And thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the night a success!

Boxborough Tree Lighting

The Town of Boxborough invites everyone to its' annual Tree Lighting Celebration. This year the event will take place on **Saturday, December 4, at 4:30 pm** on the Town Common (corner of Middle and Hill Roads). The Blanchard Elementary Brass Group and Chorus will lead friends and neighbors in singing seasonal favorites. The celebration also includes hot cider, cookies, and a visit from a "very special guest" from the North Pole! The event is free and open to the public.

In the spirit of the season, people are invited to bring donations of baking goods (flour, sugar, boxed cakes/muffins, etc.) for the Acton Food Pantry. Boxborough's Public Celebrations Committee needs volunteers to bake cookies for the event. The cookies can be dropped off anytime on Friday, December 3, at the Boxborough Fire Station, or on Saturday morning between 9:00am and 11:30 am at the town's Historical Museum, 575 Middle Road. Food pantry donations may also be dropped off during these times, or at the tree lighting.

Save the Date for A Big Night Out

A Big Night Out is back: **Saturday Night, January 29, 2011** at the spacious and unique Clock Tower Place in Maynard. Please save the date for an evening of fun - live music, catered food - and fundraising – proceeds to benefit RJ Grey's Project Wellness Day and A-B High's Project Graduation. Stay tuned for exciting details about this winter's biggest adult-only event, A Big Night Out.

Community News

Christmas Tree Pick-up in Boxborough This year the Boxborough Minutemen will be doing the Christmas tree pickup. Look for a flyer at the UCC tree sale or pick one up at the Library or at the fire station.

Holiday Music Concert@Sargent Library The ABRHS **Madrigal Singers** will perform their annual Traditional Holiday Music Concert at the Sargent Memorial Library on Tuesday **December 7, at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored by the generosity of the Friends of the Boxborough Library. Everyone is welcome. For additional information, please call the library 978-263-4680, or visit our website at www.boxlib.org

Consumer Reports Online Now available to Boxborough Library Patrons Sargent Memorial Library patrons will now have access to the electronic version of Consumer Reports from the library or home. The library now subscribes to the ConsumerReports.org web site, with unlimited in-library and home access. ConsumerReports.org is the sister product of the *Consumer Reports* print magazine--both are published by the independent nonprofit Consumers Union, one of the most trusted sources for information and advice on consumer products and services. ConsumerReports.org provides ratings and recommendations on cars, appliances, electronics, and thousands of other products under the categories of Home and Garden, Babies and Kids, Money, and Food.

Sargent Memorial Library patrons can access [Consumer Reports Online](#) either at the library or at home using a valid library card.

This new electronic database was made possible by a donation from the Sargent Memorial Library Foundation

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

3rd & 4th Grade Book Club: Wednesday, December 1 at 4:00 p.m. Third and Fourth graders are invited to join the Library's book club! Today we are reading *The Great Brain* by John Fitzgerald. Please contact Miss Heather at 978-263-4680 or hwilkins@cwmars.org to sign-up. A healthy snack will be provided.

Early Release Movie: Thursday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. Join us at the Boxborough Library for the fun family movie **Ramona & Beezus**, based on the Beverly Cleary's best-selling book. This movie is rated G.

Drop-in Hanukkah Craft: Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Children are invited to make a Hanukkah Craft with stickers and stamps in the craft room.

Drop-in Gingerbread Man Craft: Wednesday, December 8 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Children are invited to bring in a small photograph to make a special gift for Grandma or Grandpa. Craft supplies will be provided.

Drop-in Christmas card Craft: Tuesday, December 14 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Stop by the Library and make a magical Christmas card! Craft supplies will be provided.

Boxborough Family Network Pre-K Story-time: Saturday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m. If your child is entering Kindergarten in September 2011, join us at the Library for a special pre-k story-time. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to meet their future classmates. During the story-time, parents can have their own meet and greet.

Monday Morning Story-time at 10:45 a.m. Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to share stories, songs, and crafts with Miss Heather. Please note that the Boxborough Library will be closed on Monday the 27th.

Thursday Morning Story-time @ 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to Jane's story-time. Enjoy nursery rhymes, books, and songs. Please note that there will not be a story-time on Thursday, December 23.

Jay Mankita's 12 Days of Recess: Tuesday, December 28 at 1:00

p.m. Families are invited to enjoy a fun and educational show featuring singer and songwriter Jay Mankita. This program promotes literacy, kindness, and respect through music.

Movies @ the Library

The Last Airbender (rated PG) Tuesday, December 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Shrek Forever After (rated PG) Wednesday, December 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Despicable Me (rated PG) Thursday, December 30 at 1:00 p.m.

Eclipse (rated PG-13) Thursday, December 30 at 5:00 p.m.

3rd & 4th Grade Book Club: Wednesday, December 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Third and Fourth graders are invited to join the Library's book club! Please contact Miss Heather at 978-263-4680 or hwilkins@cwmares.org to sign-up. A healthy snack will be provided.

Legos @ the Library: Thursday, December 30 at 3:00 p.m. Let your imagination run wild with Legos. Bring a friend and make fabulous creations, anything from space ship to a pirate's hidden treasure. Books on Legos will be available for inspiration. Ages 5 and up.

These programs are 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 January 2011 Blanchard Bits is **Thursday, December 23, 2010.**