

Blanchard Bits

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

February 2010

Blanchard Calendar February-March

February

4 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Noon.

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

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

15-19 February Vacation. School Closed.

24 Willow Books Night. 6:00-8:00 p.m.

25 Grade 2 Hanover Theater Field Trip.

26 Science Traveling Planetarium.

March

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

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

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

18-19 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served. Parent/Teacher Conferences

20 Blanchard Auction. 7:00 p.m.

Blanchard Updates

By: Maryellen Driscoll

A warm thank you to the PTF for providing baked goods, coffee and floral arrangements to our staff on a daily basis over the last few months. Your thoughtfulness was sincerely appreciated by all. I would also like to thank the PTF for sponsoring the grade 2 science enrichment program on the Four Seasons, the Kindergarten dinosaur program, as well as the "Family Movie Night."

The Advanced Band, Beginning Band, and Gold Stage Band along with the Blanchard Chorus and Vocal Ensemble did a wonderful job at their recent winter concerts. A special thank you goes out to Chris Baird, Band Director, Cesar Garde, Percussion Director, Henry Terbo, Woodwind Ensemble, Margie Callaghan, Chorus Director, and Pianist Larry Williams, for their continued support and dedication to the students at Blanchard.

Students from the sixth grade hosted a breakfast for our Boxborough Seniors before the band concert this past December. Thank you to the parents and sixth grade teachers who helped to organize this event and provide the refreshments.

The Vocal Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble will be performing at Willow Books on February 24, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This is a PTF-sponsored event and all are invited.

A special thank you goes out to Mary Halvey Dove and Debra Lundquist for volunteering their time to organize and display all the lost and found items in the science lab for parents and children to claim.

The student's at Blanchard have been moved by the disaster in Haiti. Peter Rakauskas and the sixth grade Student Council coordinated donations for the Red Cross Relief Program in Haiti. Each student was asked to donate \$1 towards the fund. The total amount collected was \$615.00. In addition, Girls Scout Troop #72358 conducted a Humanitarian Aid Drive for the Haitian people. Donations of hygiene items were collected and assembled by the girl scouts and will be sent to Haiti.

Thank you to Jason Malinowski and the Boxborough Fire Department for presenting their fire safety program to students in grades Pre-K through four. A letter was sent home with students outlining home escape plans with an invitation to have firefighters visit their homes to review these plans.

In celebration of Youth Art Month and the 5th Anniversary of the opening of the Sargent Memorial Library, Eileen Barnett, art teacher at Blanchard Memorial School, will be exhibiting her students' art work during the month of March. This special exhibit, The Art of the Line, will focus on line projects done at all grade levels. The exhibit will be on display in the library March 1 - March 30. The Boxborough Garden Club will be creating a few exciting floral displays to match the art work. An opening reception will be held on Tuesday, March 2, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The vocal ensemble under the direction of Margie Callaghan, will be singing during the reception. Please join us for this event.

The spring MCAS schedule is as follows.

SPRING 2010 Schedule for MCAS and MEPA Testing

Grade	Test	Allowable Administration Dates *	Number of Sessions	Session Length (Avg. # of Minutes)
Spring 2010 MEPA				
	MELA-O	Feb. 22–March 17	NA	NA
Grades K–6	MEPA-R/W	March 3–17	Gr. K–2: 2 (1 Reading; 1 Writing) Gr. 3–12: 4 (2 each)	45

2010 MCAS Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt)		
Grades 3–6	MCAS-Alt	April 1 (Deadline for submitting portfolios)

2009–2010 Schedule for MCAS and MEPA Testing *continued*

Grade	Test	Allowable Administration Dates *	Number of Sessions	Session Length (Avg. # of Minutes)
March–April 2010 MCAS Tests				
Grades 4	ELA Composition, Sessions A and B	March 23	2	45
	ELA Composition Make-Up	April 7	2	45
Grades 3, 5, 6,	ELA Reading Comprehension	March 22– April 12	2	60
Grades 4				
April 2010 MCAS: High School STE Tests for the Class of 2010 Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, Technology/Engineering				
May 2010 MCAS Tests				
Grades 3–6	Mathematics	May 10–May 27	2	Grades 3–6: 45 Grades 7–8: 50
Grades 5	Science and Technology/Engineering (STE)	May 11–May 27	2	45

PTF Updates

By: Paula Grieco, PTF President

- The PTF board was asked by Curtis Bates and the school committee to assist in selecting parent volunteers to participate on the Principal Search committee. Thanks to Sarah Briones, Susan Kenyon, Kimberly Page, and Robert Zurek who submitted letters of interest and will be serving on the committee.
- Events held over December and January included the Senior Luncheon (chaired by Marissa Picca) and Domino Math Night co-sponsored by the Acton-Boxborough PIP and the PTF (chaired by Joanne Mills). Thanks to all those that coordinated and volunteered to make these events such a success! See our calendar for upcoming events including movie night, the teacher/staff luncheon, additional grade-level PIP

events, Willow Books shopping and music night, and much more.

http://www.blanchardptf.org/Blanchard_PTF_2009-2010_Events_Calendar_0106.pdf

- Planning for our largest fundraising event of the year is well underway! Contact Amy Burke burkeysmom@yahoo.com, the chair of this year's Auction if you would like to help. For more information on the Auction event to be held on **March 20 at 7:00 pm**, at Wedgwood Pines or to purchase tickets online go to <http://www.blanchardptf.org/Auction.html>

Visit our web site for regular updates on PTF events and other happenings: <http://www.blanchardptf.org> . We welcome your input! Please contact me or any member of the board with your ideas, questions, etc. Thank you!

Buy Your Tickets for the Blanchard PTF Auction!

"Uncorking the Possibilities"

By: Kathleen Luce

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY FOR THE BLANCHARD PTF AUCTION!
"Uncorking the Possibilities"

Go to <http://www.blanchardptf.org/auctiontickets.html> or contact Joanne Mills at 978-635-1752 or via e-mail at millshse@verizon.net

WHEN: Saturday, March 20, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

WHERE: Wedgewood Pines Country Club, Stow

COST: \$30 per person (advance)/ \$35 (at door)

WHY: It's FUN, FUN, FUN and our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year to support our wonderful arts and science enrichment activities and other programs

Featuring a special performance by MIT's premier a cappella group, the Logarhythms!

WHAT YOU CAN WIN!

Does your little Indiana Jones LOVE an adventure? Win 4 passes to TOMB, Boston's most interactive entertainment experience.

Enjoy summertime now with a family 4 pack gift certificate to Coco Key Water Resort in Fitchburg!

Summer is coming! Win a week of Junior Discovery or Teen Exploration Camp at Marcus Lewis Camps for a new camper!

And hundreds of other items to bid on!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS AWESOME EVENT! Buy your tickets today and have a fun evening out with friends!

BoxTop Winter Contest Finale

By: Judy Kosakowski

The PTF is proud to announce that we have six classes that have gone beyond the 900 BoxTop Goal and will celebrate with a party! All the students at Blanchard have been doing a great job collecting the BoxTops and we really appreciate it! Another contest to follow. . . schoolwide celebration. . . see details in school lobby.

Willow Books & Café Fundraising Event

By: Betsy Parker

Save the Date:

Wednesday, February 24th, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Need a new book to read or purchase a gift for someone? How about doing some shopping to help the PTF, and at the same time enjoy a cup of coffee with a friend. You can do all that while you listen to the sounds of our own Blanchard Vocal Ensemble and the Blanchard Band Ensemble. How about listening to stories told by some of Blanchard's finest teachers.

Blanchard receives 15% of proceeds from sales, including books, toys, cards, gift wrap, and café items. Purchases using gift cards are also included. The only exclusions are the sale of gift cards and already discounted merchandise. Hope to see you there.

KidsArt Fundraiser from the Blanchard PTF

By: Lisa McElroy Blackshaw

The successful PTF KidsArt fundraiser from two years ago is back! Think about it...grandma sends a lovely gift and in return, she gets a professionally printed thank you note with your child's artwork on it. That's what your children are currently doing in art class with Mrs. Barnett...designing their very own greeting cards that you can purchase!

And in addition to cards, you can order stickers, notepads, gift tags and more! Look for your child's original artwork and an order form via backpack on **February 2**. The deadline for orders will be **Thursday, February 11, 2010**.

Blanchard PTF Drama 2010, The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf

By: Chris Brolin

The Blanchard PTF Drama cast will perform the musical comedy "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf" 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 for assigned seats will go on sale in March. Buy early, because you will not want to miss this show!

I am looking forward to great performances this spring and am already enthralled with the early rehearsals. Many of the cast members have trained with the incomparable Ms. Callaghan, and they pick up the melody, rhythm, and harmony direction from the musical director, Martha Warren, with remarkable speed. The children are already projecting like Broadway pros for director Janet Tyndall, and demonstrating comedic timing that nearly

knocks me over with laughter. All this, just after just two rehearsals! I can't wait to see what our remarkable children can do after a full season of practice.

The entire 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. I am sure you will be inspired with what you have fostered in these children. Just remember to buy your tickets early, because you will definitely want good seats!

Community News

Boston Red Sox Mascot, Wally the Green Monster @ Sargent Memorial Library

The Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough will host Wally the Green Monster, Mascot of the Boston Red Sox, for a special February Vacation program on Thursday, February 18 at 6:45 PM. Everyone is invited to the "**Read with Wally**" program as he acts out one of his signature stories. All children attending will receive a Wally bookmark. This program is sponsored by the generosity of the Friends of the Boxborough Library.

Boxborough Museum Hours

The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday February 14 and Sunday March 14. Admission is free, all are welcome, and members of the Boxborough Historical Society will be on hand to discuss Boxborough's history and the exhibits. Brochures for the Boxborough Town Center Walking Tour will also be available. If anyone would like to arrange a private tour for a small group at a different time please call John Fallon (978-264-0069).

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

The Library will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Get Fired Up About Reading!

Beginning in February, the reading wall in the children's room will feature a giant dragon that will list all of the best books children are reading. So check out a book that gets families fired up for reading and stop by the children's room to help us make our dragon grow!

3rd & 4th Grade Book Group

Children in third and fourth grade are invited to join our book group. If you would like to sign-up for the book group, please call the Library at 978-263-4680 or email Heather at hwilkins@cwmares.org. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. We will be talking about Jack London's Call of the Wild. A snack will be provided.

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.

Wednesday Morning Story-time with Jane @ 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday's story-time is for children of all ages. This program features classic tales as well as new favorites.

Movies @ the Library

Early Release Movie

Thursday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m. watch Aussie & Ted's Great Adventure. This movie is rated G.

School Vacation Movies

Tuesday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m. stop by the Library for a great movie. This afternoon kid's get to pick what movie they would like to watch!

Wednesday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m. join us for the family adventure Call of the Wild. This movie is rated PG.

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 **Monday, February 22, 2010.**