

January 2011 Blanchard Bits

Blanchard Calendar

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 p.m.
- 13 Kindergarten Evening Registration 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 14 Professional Day. No School
- 17 Martin Luther King Day. No School
- 18 SEPAC Workshop. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Sargent Library
- 18-21 Kindergarten Registration 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 20 BoxTops contest ends.
- 20 Grants Applications Due.
- 24 School Council Meeting. 5:30 p.m.
- 24-28 Integrated Preschool Registration 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 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.

February

- 1 PTF Grants Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Half Day. Noon dismissal. No lunch served.
- 3 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.
- 7 BoxTops contest ends.
- 10 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
- 21-25 February Vacation. School Closed.

PTF Updates by: Jennifer Campbell

We ended the year closer to our family donation goal of \$5000, having received over \$4100 in donations by year end. Thanks to everyone for your generosity. It is not too late to make a donation if you haven't done so yet.

We are excited about the upcoming events: Movie Night, the Faculty/Staff Luncheon, and the first ever PTF Get Out and Move event in April.

Come to our next PTF General Meeting on **January 25 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Blanchard Library. We will be kicking off the Get Out and Move fundraising event. Chairs Marissa Picca and Kathy Gotthelf will be rolling out the plans and assigning committee roles. The Get Out and Move fundraising event will be the PTF's big fundraiser for this year, and we need lots of volunteers to put together this fun, family-oriented event.

Check out our Web site for updates, www.blanchardptf.org, as well as our Facebook page to stay informed.

Get Out and Move on April 30, 2011

In place of the spring auction, we are planning a fun-filled family event. This year, the spring event is to GET OUT AND MOVE and will be held on **Saturday, April 30, 2011**. This fun-filled event brings the whole family together to walk, hop, skip, jump, read and/or run. Stay tuned for more details. If you are interested in helping with this new fundraiser, please contact Kathy Gotthelf kathygotthelf@hotmail.com or Marissa Picca mpicca@comcast.net

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.

Boxborough SEPAC Workshop: Tuesday, January 18

Join us **Tuesday, January 18, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at the Sargent Memorial Library for this important two-part workshop.

PART ONE (7:00-8:00 p.m.): Discussion on possible 2012-13 and beyond administrative models and thoughts on the vital position of Director of Pupil Services. We will pass along feedback to the School Committee in February as they move toward making a decision.

PART TWO (8:00-9:00 p.m.): The always-popular Dr. Scott Lukas, professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Neuroimaging Center and the Behavioral Psychopharmacology Research Laboratory at McLean Hospital, presents the latest research on the developing brain and the effects of medications, including natural alternatives, on children with certain disabilities.

Given the subject matter, this is an “adults-only” session, and we will not be able to accommodate children in the meeting room.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop, please contact Nancy Settle-Murphy (nancy.settlemurphy@verizon.net), Leah Russell (dearleah@comcast.net) or Kathy Luce (Kathy_luce@hotmail.com)

PTF Movie Night: *How to Train Your Dragon*

Join us **Friday, January 28, 2011** to see **How To Train Your Dragon** (rated PG, running time 98 minutes). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and parents **MUST** check in each child at the cafeteria entrance at the back of the school. Movie begins at 7:00 p.m. The suggested contribution is \$1.00 per person and includes a small popcorn and water. This event will be chaperoned. Parents may drop off children, but are welcome to attend. **Students must be picked up inside promptly at 8:45 p.m.** If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Sharon Coverdale (sharoncoverdale@comcast.net), Kathy Luce

(kathy_luce@hotmail.com) or Holly Stephens
(holly.stephens@radisys.com)

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 3, 2011**. 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) or Laura Ristaino (lrstaino@verizon.net).

BoxTops 4 Education, By: Judy Kosakowski

A special thank you to everyone for working so hard at making BoxTops 4 Education successful at Blanchard! We've decided that since many classes are **really close** to the 1,000 mark, we'd like to show our appreciation to as many students as we can, that we've extended the deadline to **February 7, 2011**. So, please. . . bring in as many BoxTops as you can this month so your class can enjoy an icecream sundae party donated by Blanchard PTF.

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

A-B Youth Soccer Spring 2011 Open Enrollment- Registration is Open

Acton-Boxborough Youth Soccer (ABYS) Spring 2011 registration period is OPEN. Spring 2011 soccer teams will be formed for youth players spanning from enrolled Kindergartners to High School Seniors. Go to <http://abys.org> to register online. **Deadline for the U9 thru U14 Travel Program registration is January 22, 2011** and the **Deadline for the Town Program and U16/U18's Registration is March 1, 2011**. All will be waitlisted and a late fee of \$25.00 will be added to each new registration after these dates. More information about Spring 2011 ABYS programs, dates & fees are available on our web site: <http://abys.org>. You may also contact the ABYS Registrar by email, sreuther@comcast.net for further information.

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

The Library will be closed on **Monday, January 17** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

3rd & 4th Grade Book Club: New Members Welcome!

Please join us at the Library on Wednesday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m.

This month we will be discussing *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More* by Roald Dahl. If you would like to join the book club, please email Miss Heather at hwilkins@cwmars.org or call the Library at 978-263-4680.

Discussions will focus on plot development, characterization, points of view, setting, and style. This program is designed to encourage students to

share their love of reading and develop a greater understanding of children's literature. A healthy snack will be provided.

Early Release Movie: Thursday, January 13

Bring a comfy pillow and watch Legend of the Guardians: Owls of Ga'Hoole. The movie is at 1:00 p.m. and is rated PG. The movie is based on the first three books of the widely popular series by Kathryn Lasky.

Drop In Craft: Saturday, January 15

Drop by the children's room and make a friendly snowman. Supplies will be available in the story/craft room from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Legos: Saturday, January 29

From 12:00 to 2:00, stop by the Library and make fabulous Lego creations. This program is for children ages 5 and up. Duplos are available for younger siblings.

Monday Morning Story-time @ 10:45 a.m.

Children are invited to enjoy short stories and fun paper crafts with Miss Heather. This month, stories and crafts will be about popular winter activities, such as ice skating and building a snowman. Your child will be able to develop his or her own personal interests and express their creativity. This program is for children ages 3 to 5 years old.

Thursday Morning Drop-in Story-time @ 10:30 a.m.

Stop by the Library and listen to a great story with Jane! Children of all ages are invited to listen to timeless stories and songs. After stories, children are welcome to draw, use puzzles, or play at the train table.

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 February 2011 Blanchard Bits is **Friday, January 28, 2011.**