

June 2010 Blanchard Bits

Blanchard Calendar

June

- 2 Spring Band Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.
- 3 Spring Band Concert. Community Meeting.
- 3 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.
- 4 AB Graduation.
- 4 BINGO Night. 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Kindergarten Tours. 10:00 a.m.
- 8-10 Kindergarten Screening.
- 10 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.
- 11 Field Day.
- 11 Sixth Grade BBQ. 5:00 p.m.
- 14 Field Day Raindate.
- 16 Sixth Grade Graduation. 6:30 p.m. Blanchard Gym.
- 17 Last Day of school. Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.
- 19 Fifer's Day.

Blanchard Updates by: Maryellen Driscoll

As I look back over the last 5 years, I realize how fortunate I have been having had the opportunity to be part of the Blanchard Community. The children, parents and staff have demonstrated that it is possible to have a strong learning environment that also embraces our STARR values of support, teamwork, respect and responsibility. As young as pre-school age, the children are taught these important values and carry them throughout their years at Blanchard. Staff and parents alike also reinforce these values.

Being part of Blanchard has been a wonderful culmination to my thirty-seven years in education, and I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for making my years here so fulfilling.

To the entire staff, thank you for your professionalism and tireless work on behalf of our extraordinary student body.

To the parents, thank you for your support and for performing so diligently your crucial role in this teaching partnership.

And finally, to the children, thank you for being the light of my life. Your smiles when I enter your classrooms, your laughter as it echoes in the halls, your thirst for knowledge as you discover something new. These wonderful memories I will cherish forever.

Thank you and I will miss you.

PTF Updates by: Paula Grieco

We held our last PTF for the 2009-2010 school year. Thanks to all the hard work and generosity of so many of you, the PTF has raised \$34,000 to date. Our goal was \$27,000 so we surpassed our target by \$7,000 or over 20%! In addition to the auction and KidsArt fundraiser, this amount includes over \$4,000 from direct family donations! 100% of PTF funds support arts and science enrichment programs, technology and grants, and the community and social events that have such a positive impact on our school culture and our children.

During the meeting we also elected our new officers for the 2010-2011 school year. Our board for next year will be:

President - Jennifer Campbell
Vice President – Christie Smith
Treasurer – Liz McHutcheon
Corresponding Secretary – Cathy Winsor
Recording Secretary – Wendy White

Congratulations to our new and current board members and thank you for volunteering in this important way! We have two remaining social events for the year – Bingo Night and the Fifer's Day Family Fun Run. Read below in this newsletter for details.

During the meeting on June 1st, the board also thanked Maryellen for so consistently attending our meetings and supporting PTF programs. Most importantly, we thank Maryellen for being such a wonderful Principal. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best as she begins her next adventure!

Thanks to all the volunteers who consistently gave so much of their time and energy to PTF fundraisers and social events! This year we appreciated the efforts of so many of you – both new to the school and those that have been here for many years – who jumped in to chair and volunteer for PTF events. It has made being part of the PTF board a fun and rewarding experience. Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer!!

PTF Grant Awards, By: Jennifer Campbell

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

- \$1000 towards the path being built between Sargent Memorial Library and Blanchard School.
- Tie-dye t-shirt project for field day.

- Illustrator Susan Lubner to present to first graders.

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 auction.

Thanks to our committee members: Janet LaVigne, Dan Shanahan, Cathy Winsor, Kathleen Luce, Tim Lundy, and Bob Zurek for their input. If you are interested in being on the grants committee for the upcoming school year, elections will be held at the September PTF general meeting (date TBD).

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

Bingo Night June 4, by: Molly Wong and Marcia Russo

Save the date! BINGO NIGHT is happening on **June 4, 7:00 – 8:30pm**, in the Blanchard Cafeteria! Come and bring the family for an evening of BINGO, complete with prizes and snacks. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Bingo cards are \$2 per person and will be available at the door.

We still need volunteers to help run the event (taking tickets, helping with the snacks, prizes and clean up). If you are willing to help, please call Marcia Russo at 978-263-0450 or Molly Wong at 978-263-5302.

Mother's Day Table Thank you by: Kathleen Erickson

Thank you to the entire Blanchard Staff, the many parent volunteers and the Blanchard PTF who helped make this year's ***Mother's Day Shopping Event*** yet another delightful experience! Many thanks to all the Blanchard families who sent in such lovely items and treasures to provide such wonderful offerings for our children. When driving down Mass Ave, please remember to stop by *The BirdHouse Garden Center* in Boxborough and thank business owner, Andy Covell, who generously discounted the flowering plants for the garden section of our "store". We hope everyone is enjoying their specially selected gifts!

Library News by: Connie Long

All books will be due back in the library by Friday, June 4.

Exceptions will be made for special circumstances, for example if a student needs a book to complete a project. Library classes will continue, students will finish projects and participate in activities that review library skills that they have learned throughout the year. Librarians from the Sargent Memorial Library will be visiting library classes in June

to talk about the public library's summer reading program. Enjoy some great books this summer!

Library Seeks Volunteers for the 2010-2011 School Year

The library depends on volunteers to help with the day-to-day operations of shelving returns, helping children select materials, material exchange, and various special projects. Volunteer help allows the children to have more direct adult attention. If you are interested in volunteering in the library next year, please get in touch with me before the end of school and I will then contact you in the fall. I can be reached by email at clong@boxboroughschool.org or by phone at 978-263-4569 ext. 242. Thank you for volunteering.

BoxTops 4 Education, By: Judy Kosakowski

A special thank you to the Blanchard families for collecting **23,120** BoxTops during the 2009-2010 school year! We came close at meeting our goal of 25,000 for the Spring/Summer Contest, but there's always next year! If you haven't already done so, please try to sign up on www.boxtops4education.com as a parent of Blanchard and Boxtops will forward you promotions on a bi-weekly basis and also give Blanchard more Boxtops points!

We've had a successful year and look forward to the upcoming school year for bigger and better Boxtop prizes!

Community News

Summer Hours @ the Library

The Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough will be closed Saturdays from Saturday, July 3, 2010 through Saturday, September 4, 2010.

During the summer the library will be open:

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Patrons may request and renew items by calling the library at 978-263-4680, or visiting the website at www.boxlib.org and clicking on "Your Library Account."

Regular Saturday hours 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will resume on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

Boxborough Fifer's Day: June 19, 2010, 9:30 a.m.

The 2010 Boxborough Fifer's Day celebration will take place on Saturday **June 19** at Flerra Field. The Day commences at 9:30 am with the Fifer's Four Mile Road Race. This is followed by a parade from the Blanchard School to Flerra Field at 11:00 am and then presentation of the Golden Fife Award. The Fair will commence at noon and include food and barbecue, children's games and activities, a volley ball tournament, booths representing Town organizations, and a craft fair. There will be band music throughout the afternoon. For more information or to sign up for a non-profit booth, craft booth, Road Race or Volleyball please go to www.fifersday.org.

Marchers Wanted for Fifers Day Parade

Please come and join the fun at the Boxborough Fifers Day Parade on **Saturday June 19, 2010**. The Boxborough Public Celebrations Committee is inviting any town group or individual to take part in the parade. We are especially looking for decorated bicycles, classic cars or tractors, and horses. If you would like to bring a float that would be great. We will help you decorate your bike for the parade. The parade starts gathering at the Blanchard School parking lot at 10:15 AM, and we step off at 11. For more information please call Sharon at 978-263-4174. Hope to see you there.

Colonial Contra Dancing at Fifer's Day

Join in the dancing at Fifer's Day this year! The Wayside Steppers will perform Colonial era music and guide us in traditional Colonial Contra-Dance moves; think early line dancing and a whole lot of fun for all ages. The Wayside Steppers will be on stage from 1:30 to 3 p.m. This program is provided by the Acton-Boxborough Cultural, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

Early Release Movie

On Thursday, June 3 at 2:00 p.m. come to the Boxborough Library and watch the family comedy **The Tooth Fairy**. This movie is rated PG.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten Program

Join us at the Boxborough Library on Wednesday, June 30 at 5:00 p.m. for the **Boxborough Family Network's Kindergarten Social**. Children entering Kindergarten in the fall will have the opportunity to meet their fellow classmates and get excited about going to school! After the children read stories about Kindergarten they will enjoy a snack together on the Library lawn. This program is open to all families and sponsored by the Boxborough Family Network. For additional information, please visit: www.boxboroughfamilynetwork.org.

Go Green @ Your Library Summer Reading Program Kick-off Event

On Tuesday, June 29^h at 6:45 p.m. the Boxborough Library will Kick-off the 2010 Summer Reading Program with Earth Rhythms Stories & Songs, featuring musical performances by Davis Bates & Roger Tincknell.

This Program is funded in part by the Acton / Boxborough Cultural Council and the Boxborough Friends of the Library.



HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Ed Popielarczyk Magic Show

Wednesday, July 7 at 4:00 p.m.

If the weather is nice, bring a blanket and snack so we can enjoy the show outside on the Library lawn. The entire family will enjoy great magic tricks, amazing balloon sculptures, and fun bubble machine.

Super Cold Science p.m.

Monday, July 12 at 1:00

Amazing things happen when matter changes temperature. With the help of a Museum educator and an intensely cold liquid, visitors will experience the remarkable changes of size, form, and behaviors that occur when a variety of objects and substances are super-cooled. Presented by the Museum of Science. www.mos.org

Pirate Night

Thursday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The entire family is invited to Pirate Night! Come dressed as your favorite pirate for the party! Listen to pirate tales and have your picture taken with **Captain Jack Sparrow!** Captain Jack Sparrow will be performed by Zephyr Goza, from Activated Storytellers. Please visit their website: www.activated-storytellers.com.

Please email Heather Wilkinson, the Youth Services Librarian at hwilkins@cwmares.org if you would like to help with decorations, crafts, or games for this program.

Summer Reading Program Calendars

Staff from the Sargent Memorial Library will be visiting students at Blanchard through June 16th. Children will receive a green plastic bag with a summer reading calendar,

reading log, bookmark and tattoo. **Parents and caregivers, please look for the green plastic bag your child will be bringing home from school.**

For a complete list of library programs, please visit our website: www.boxlib.org

Go Green @ Your Library®, the 2010 Statewide Reading Program, is funded by The Friends of the Sargent Memorial Library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.



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 September 2010 Blanchard Bits is **Friday, August 27, 2010.**