

November 2010 Blanchard Bits

Blanchard Calendar

November

- 2 Professional Day. School Closed.
- 4 Drama Club Kick-off Meeting. 7:00 p.m.
- 4-5 Butterbraids Pickup.
- 10 PTF Hosted Senior Luncheon.
- 10 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.
- 11 Veteran's Day. School Closed.
- 12 School Picture Retake.
- 12 BINGO Night. 7:00 p.m.
- 12 SEPAC Core Team Planning Meeting. 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 16 Nashoba Board of Health Flu Clinic. 3:00 p.m.
- 17 SEPAC Team Meeting. Front Office. 7:00 p.m.
- 17 School Committee Budget Work Session. 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Blanchard Theme Day. "America Recycles"
- 19 Drama Auditions. 3:00 p.m.
- 22 School Council Meeting. 5:30 p.m.
- 24 Half Day. Noon dismissal. No lunch served.
- 25-26 Thanksgiving Recess. School Closed.
- 29 PTF Shopping & Social Event. 9:00-11:00a.m. & 6:00-8:00p.m. Littletown Toys.
- 29-30 Science Book Fair.

December

- 1 First Term Ends.
- 1-3 Science Book Fair.
- 2-3 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 2-3 Half Day. Noon dismissal. No lunch served.
- 8 SEPAC Meeting. 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Advanced Winter Band Concert. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Gym.
- 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.
- 17 SEPAC Meeting. 7:00 p.m.
- 24-31 Winter Break

Blanchard Updates

From 6th grade:

The sixth grade teachers and students would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Ziti Supper fundraiser a success! We appreciate all parents, students, teachers and community members who volunteered to help, donated items, or purchased tickets. We ended up with about 320 guests this year! Special thanks to Suzanne Loonie for chairing the event, Dr. Bates and Mr. Cook for their valuable time, and Sue Parker for supervising the kitchen throughout the entire event.

The sixth grade is having a "Blanchard" clothing sale? They are selling fleece tops, sweatshirts, long sleeve T-shirts and fleece blankets with "Blanchard" written on them. All orders need to be submitted no later than November 5, 2010. Proceeds from this sale will help pay for their end of the year trip.

From the Kindergarten class:

The Kindergarten classes were very fortunate to experience the Live Tide Pool on October 19th. Ellen Goethel, a Marine Biologist, brought live sea animals, and the students were able to hold and observe them in the Live Tide Pool. The sea animals included sea stars, sea urchins, a hermit crab, horseshoe crab, lobster, a sea scallop with many eyes, and a huge spiny crab! Many thanks to our PTF and our Science Enrichment program for funding this very valuable and fun experience for our Kindergarten students!!

From 3rd grade:

Third Grade is celebrating Veteran's Day with the Blanchard community, area veterans and invited guests on November 10 in the gym. The brass ensemble will play our national anthem and third graders will sing America the Beautiful.

From 2nd grade:

Grade two had a wonderful time celebrating Halloween, with special thanks to all the specialists including our school nurse, Mrs. Daniel, who came in "Black Lagoon" costumes! It was a real treat for us all to see our favorite back-to-school characters come to life!

What's Happening in the Library

It has been a busy start of school in the Library where the focus has been literature appreciation and a continuation of learning library and technology skills.

- Sixth grade students have been learning about plagiarism and how to avoid it with proper note taking, paraphrasing, and creating bibliographies. Next students will learn about internet safety and website evaluation.
- Fifth grade students have begun an extensive research project that will address the Social Studies learning standards while developing their library and technology skills. Students are studying the U.S. Western Expansion during the 19th century.

- Fourth graders are working on a project that integrates multiple skills and learning standards while they are creating a game in PowerPoint that explores the national monuments in Washington DC.
- With third graders, Mrs. Long is working on a unit to help them understand how books are organized in the library and how to locate fiction and non-fiction books.
- In a collaborative project between the classroom and library, second graders began the year by creating a PowerPoint about their family traditions. Students are currently studying continents and reading a folktale from each one. Classes have also discussed choosing a “just right” book.
- With first graders, Mrs. Long has reinforced the concepts of character, setting and plot and making connections while reading some favorite stories.
- Students in the kindergarten have been introduced proper book care and have been learning library rules, routines, and care of materials while enjoying some great read-alouds.

PTF Updates by: Jennifer Campbell

Thanks to Beth Bortree and Lisa Holt for another fantastic Pumpkin Walk. They had some great additions to this year’s event, including a juggler, a photographer, and Rhythm Kids. Thanks to all the volunteers.

There have been several arts and science enrichment activities that have occurred or are coming soon, including a Live Tide Pool (Kindergarten); Cryogenics: Heat and Temperature (6th); 3-Day Archaeology Dig (6th); Black and White Photography (3rd); Potato Hill Poetry (4th); and the Dancing Wheels Company’s performance (school-wide).

Support for these events comes from your participation in PTF fundraisers. Thanks to all who have made a direct donation. So far we have raised \$3000 of our goal of \$5000. Don’t forget to ask your company about matching gifts. Reminder – all donations are tax deductible. To make a donation, visit www.blanchardptf.org/donate.html.

We are still looking for event and committee chairs for the PTF’s first ever Walkathon. We are really excited about this event, which will be held on **Saturday April 30th**. It will be a fun, family event that will promote good health. Many hands will be needed in the planning stages and the day of.

To volunteer or ask any questions, contact us at PTFBoard@BlanchardPTF.org. Don’t forget to like the Blanchard PTF page on Facebook to stay informed!

Senior Luncheon Desserts & Volunteers Desperately Needed! By: Marissa Picca

The Senior Luncheon is being held on Wednesday, **November 10** at the United Church of Christ in Boxboro, across from the Town Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Blanchard students and Boxboro seniors to get together. The choir and bands will be performing that day and lots of desserts are desperately needed. If you can make, bake or buy it would be greatly appreciated. Desserts can be dropped off at the church anytime during the morning of the luncheon. If you have questions, please contact Marissa Picca at mpicca@comcast.net. Thank you so much for your continued support in this annual event.

Shopping Social Event

Join the PTF for a pre-holiday shopping event at Littletowne Toys on Monday, November 29. The PTF will be providing coffee and snacks from **9:00-11:00 a.m.**, and desserts from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** In addition to getting to mingle with other Blanchard parents and get some holiday shopping done, Lisa Hesch, store owner and Blanchard mom, will be donating **20%** of sales for the day to the PTF.

The PTF Pumpkin Walk By: Beth Bortree

We would like to THANK all of our volunteers and corporate sponsors; Alpha Engineering, Carlson Orchards, Roche Bros, Pasture House Market and Boxborough Convenience. Without their support and dedication the Pumpkin Walk would not have been possible. We would also like to extend our THANKS to the Boxborough Police Department for providing security and traffic control.

Thank you from Beth Bortree, Pumpkin Walk Chair and Lisa Holt, Pumpkin Walk Co-Chair

Bingo Night, Nov 12 By: Molly Wong and Marcia Russo

Save the date! BINGO NIGHT is happening on **November 12th from 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 6:45pm. Bingo cards are \$2 per person and will be available at the door. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Drama Program, By: Chris Brolin

Auditions for this year's show will be held in the gym on **November 19 starting at 3 pm**. There will be a Kick-off/Information meeting in the Science room at Blanchard on **November 4 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm**. At this meeting we will meet co-producers Tom and Kyla Sandock, announce the show, review the student contract, and hand out Parent Volunteer forms. We will also explain the audition process, hand out contact information, and review rules for performing. The information sheets will also be posted on our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/blanchdrama>.

Come join us, or send your drama questions to BlanchDrama@gmail.com.

Community News

Library Book Sale: November 19 and 20

The Friends of the Boxborough Library will hold its annual fall book sale in the meeting room of the Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Massachusetts Avenue, on Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A Preview Sale for members will take place Friday, November 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Memberships will be available at the door). Proceeds from the sale of books will go toward additional library programs, speakers, and the purchase of museum passes.

Please support this sale by donating your gently used hardcovers, paperbacks and audiovisual items and attending this sale. Books will be accepted November 15, 16, 17 and 18th at the Library during regular library hours. Please no old text books, no magazines or no books in really poor condition.

Sargent Memorial Library Scheduling Local Artists

The Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough is in the process of scheduling local artists to exhibit their work in the library meeting room. If you would like to be considered for the current year or in the future, please contact Maureen Strapko, Library Director at 978-263-4680 or mstrapko@cwmar.org.

Boxborough Museum Hours

The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday **November 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. Free brochures for the Boxborough Town Center Walking Tour will be available. If anyone wishes to arrange a private tour for a small group at a different time please call John Fallon at 978-264-0069.

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

The Library will be closed on Thursday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day.

The Library will be closing at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 24.

The Library will be closed on Thursday, November 25 for Thanksgiving.

Afternoon Family Movie: Tuesday, November 2

Bring a comfy pillow and watch the hilarious and touching movie **Toy Story 3**. Everyone will love watching Buzz and Woody so bring the entire family! This movie is rated G.

November is Family Literacy Month!

Stop by the children's room and check out our book display featuring wonderful stories to read as a family. Informational material, including book suggestions and reading tips, will be on display all month long.

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

Please join us at the Library on Wednesday, November 3 at 4:00 p.m. This month we will be discussing *A Whole Nother Story* by Cuthbert Soup.

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.

Drop In Craft: Saturday, November 6

Drop by the children's room and make a cute Thanksgiving Craft.

Book Posters: Wednesday, November 10

Children are invited to make a poster of their favorite book. Supplies will be available from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Or drop off your finished poster at the children's desk anytime this month!

Monday Morning Story time at 10:45 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. This month stories, songs, and crafts are focused on sharing and kindness.

Thursday Morning Story time at 10:30 a.m.

All Ages Welcome. Enjoy Nursery Rhymes & Songs.

These 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 December 2010 Blanchard Bits is **Monday, November 29, 2010.**