

September 2010 Blanchard Bits

Blanchard Calendar

September

3 School Closed

6 Labor Day School Closed.

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

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

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

15 First Advanced Band Rehearsal.

15 BSE-PAC Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Library.

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

17 School Pictures.

20 6th Grade Ziti Supper.

21 First Advanced Band Rehearsal.

21 Grants Application Deadline.

22 Open House. Primary Grades. 6:30 p.m.

29 Open House. Intermediate Grades. 6:30 p.m.

October

5 BSE PAC Meeting with David Cook. 7:00-9:00 p.m.

6 Harvest Soup Night.

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

18 First Beginning Band Rehearsal.

29 Pumpkin Walk. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Blanchard Updates

School opened on Tuesday, August 31 with smiling faces on students and teachers! We have all enjoyed some time off and are eager to get back into the swing of school.

There are many returning students to Blanchard and some new families to the school and community. We hope everyone has a great start to the new school year.

Please welcome our new staff:

- David Cook is the Director of Pupil Services and the Assistant Principal
- Clare Jeannotte is the Business Manager
- Matt Frost is the IT/Network Technician
- Peggy Harvey is the Instructional Technology Specialist
- Nicole Mahoney is the part-time Speech and Language Therapist
- Jaimie Griffiths is a CASE teacher (2nd – 3rd)
- Jessica Middlebrook is the CASE counselor (2nd – 3rd)

PTF Updates by: Jennifer Campbell

Dear PTF members:

Welcome to the 2010-2011 School Year. We have a lot to look forward to this year and have set the following goals:

Continued focus on high return and efficient fundraising. Based on feedback, we are continuing to cut down on fundraisers and focus on family donations. Family donations take only a few minutes of your time, and 100% of the money goes to the PTF. Consider the hours and money you & others spent on the auction and the gift wrap, and think about how little time writing a check takes! In addition to family donations and Boxtops, we will have a spring family-focused fundraiser.

Community Outreach. The PTF will be joining Boxborough at the Agricultural Fair and other town events in order to raise awareness in the community about the programs the PTF provides for the school.

Use technology to keep you informed. We will continue to deliver the Bits, our monthly newsletter, electronically. Consider liking the [Blanchard PTF page on Facebook](#) to stay informed. As always, visit blanchardptf.org to find forms and other information.

Continue to expand the enrichment programs supported. The primary focus of the Blanchard PTF continues to be to raise funds and conduct activities in cooperation with the school administration to enrich our children's education. See the [Blanchard Program and Fundraising Overview 2010-2011](#) for a list of plans for the year.

How can you participate?

Complete the [volunteer form](#). Let us know how you would like to get involved with PTF activities. You can volunteer for as little or as much time as you have available. Many jobs take only a few hours, so please consider joining one of our committees. A chair or volunteer coordinator will be in touch with you soon.

Look for our online [family donation form](#). You can make a donation and have 100% of what you give go to the Blanchard PTF's educational and enrichment programs that you care about!

Give us your feedback. We are currently conducting an [online survey](#), and would love your input. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please contact a board member at any time. Consider attending a [general meeting](#) – our first will be September 14, 2010 at 7:30 in the Blanchard Library. We welcome your input. You can reach us via e-mail at PTFboard@blanchardptf.org.

Please contact Jennifer Campbell, (978) 263-0481, or any PTF board member with questions. Thank you once again for your generation contributions of time, money, and ideas!

Sincerely,

2010-2011 PTF Board

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

PTF Grants Committee Needs Three Volunteers

By: Christine Smith

Each year the Blanchard PTF Grants Committee awards grants for projects that enrich the learning environment for the Blanchard School community. In the past, the Grants Committee has funded such projects as an archaeology presentation for 6th grade, a book illustrator for first grade, classroom energy metering equipment, library risers, Eno boards, National Park DVDs for classroom instruction, tie-dye supplies for Field Day and many other wonderful projects.

The Committee consists of two PTF Board members, two teachers and three parent representatives. Parent representatives are expected to review grant proposals during the three grant cycles and attend three meetings over the course of the school year. If you are interested in serving on the Grants Committee as a parent representative, please contact Christie Smith (christiesmith5@gmail.com) by **September 10, 2010**.

PTF Grants Committee Applications Deadline, Oct 21

By: Christine Smith

The deadline for the first cycle of PTF Grant Applications is **October 21, 2010**. 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 involve multiple classrooms, teachers or disciplines. 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 October 21, 2010**.

Blanchard Band, by: Bev McGrory

As president of the Blanchard Band Parents Organization, I would like to welcome all new and returning board members – Vice President Deb Lundquist, Secretary Aga Dresser, Treasurer Karen Guzzardi, Percussion Director Cesar Garde and Band Director Chris Baird. The Blanchard Band program is open to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. We are looking forward to a fabulous year!

Advanced Band

Rehearsals for the Advanced Band will begin on **Wednesday, September 15 at 7:40 am** in the Music Room. Students who have played their instrument for a year in the Beginning Band are invited to join the Advanced Band. Please look for the band participation information sent home via backpack and return the participation form to school as soon as possible. Gold Stage Band rehearsals begin on **Tuesday, September 21 at 3:00 pm**. Any student who is in the Advanced Band is welcome to

join the Gold Stage Band. Advanced Band members are also eligible to play in the Brass, Woodwind or Percussion Ensembles.

Beginning Band

Fourth grade students will be introduced to the band instruments during school on Thursday, September 9th at 10 am. Information about the band program, private lessons and instrument rental will be sent home that day. Please return the forms promptly if your child is interested in joining the band. Instruments rented through French Music Company will be delivered to the Music Room on Tuesday, September 14th. Please plan to pick up instruments and sign rental agreements between 6:30 – 7:30 pm that evening. The first rehearsal for the Beginning Band will be on **Monday, October 18 at 3 pm** in the Music Room.

Blanchard Special Ed Parent Advisory Committee

by: Nancy Settle-Murphy

David Cook, Blanchard's new Director of Pupil Services/ Assistant Principal, will kick off a special SEPAC event for parents on **Tuesday evening, October 5, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** Meet David, learn more about his perspectives and approaches, ask questions and exchange ideas with staff and other parents. More details to follow.

The SEPAC team includes returning members Nancy Settle-Murphy as co-chair (nancy.settlemurphy@verizon.net) and Treasurer Stephen Rey (stephen.rey@verizon.net). Leah Russell (dearleah@comcast.net) joins as new co-chair and Kathy Luce (kathy_luce@hotmail.com) joins as Recording Secretary. We welcome other BSE-PAC parents to join us for our first team meeting of the school year on Wednesday evening, **September 15, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Blanchard Library.

The Pumpkin Walk by: Beth Bortree and Lisa Holt

Goblins, Ghost, and Witches, Oh My!! It's the Blanchard PTF Pumpkin Walk.

When: Friday, October 29

Time: 6:30--8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$2.00/child (\$5.00 maximum /family) **AND** a pumpkin

This will be a fun family friendly event that everyone will enjoy. Be on the look out for future emails with all of the ghoulish details.

We're looking for a one or two person team to lead the haunted house area of the Pumpkin Walk. This job includes set up, manning, and taking down of the haunted house. I know the children eagerly await this portion of the Pumpkin Walk and I don't want to disappoint them this year. So if you are the type of person that loves a good scare then this is the right job for you.

To volunteer please contact Beth Bortree @ bufftreeb52@hotmail.com or @ home -978-635-3912 or Cell: 334-415-9306

BoxTops 4 Education, By: Judy Kosakowski

Welcome Back! Hope you have all been collecting those BoxTops throughout the Summer. Please note that each BoxTop is worth 10 cents. The money earned benefits our students in many ways and includes class parties for the top winners. So let's continue **Clipping** and **Collecting** for Blanchard School Year 2010-2011!

Bakers Needed for Harvest Soup Night

On **Wednesday October 6** in the school cafeteria there will be a community dinner for seniors and the Blanchard school community. There will be three soups served: vegetable, chicken noodle, and French onion, as well as grilled cheese and beverages. There will be two seatings: 4:30 and 5:30. Cost of admission will be a non-perishable food item for the Acton Boxborough Food Pantry.

Various town organizations and offices are providing parts of the meal. The PTF has been asked to provide cookies and brownies for the event. If you are interested in providing baked goods, or possibly coordinating the collection of baked goods, please contact Jennifer Campbell (jennifercampbell@hotmail.com). If you are interested in helping in other ways, please contact the event coordinator, Laura Arsenault (laura.arsenault@town.boxborough.ma.us).

Community News

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 September 12, Sunday October 10 and 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.

Apply for an Arts Grant from the A-B Cultural Council

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council is accepting applications for our Fiscal Year 2011 Grant Cycle. Individuals, non-profit groups, schools, libraries and religious organizations may apply for funding for arts projects. Grant application forms and guidelines are available at both Town Halls, all town libraries, or at

www.actonboxboroughculturalcouncil.org or www.massculturalcouncil.org

. Applications, mailed to **P.O. Box 2291, Acton, MA, 01720**, must be postmarked on or before **October 15, 2010**. A grant writing workshop is being planned. Please check our website for more information or visit our table at the West Acton Oktoberfest on October 2.

Earn Community Service Hours early in the school year!

Volunteers are needed for The Boxborough Agricultural Fair held at the Boxborough Town Hall, as follows:

Set-up: on Friday, **September 10, from 2:00- 5:00 p.m.**, moving, setting-up, and covering tables with paper;

Registration: on **Friday, September 10**, help check-in entries from **5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Pizza will be served;

Clean-up: on **Saturday, September 11, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, stacking tables general clean-up.

Any and all help is appreciated. Please contact Jessica Eichelburg with your availability, jeichelburg@verizon.net, or 978-266-9788.

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

Sargent Memorial Library: Operating Hours

The Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough will resume Saturday hours on September 11, 2010. The Library will be open Mondays and Wednesdays, **10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**, Tuesdays and Thursdays **10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**, and Saturdays **10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** You may request and renew materials online at www.boxlib.org or call the Library at 978-263-4680.

3rd & 4th Grade Book Group

Join us for the first 3rd & 4th Grade Book Club on Wednesday, October 6th at 4:00 p.m. We will talk about popular books, favorite authors, and classic stories. The children will work together to decide what books they want to read and discuss. This book group is a great opportunity for children to share their love of reading! If you would like to sign-up for the book group, please call the Library at 978-263-4680 or email Heather at hwilkins@cwmars.org. A snack will be provided.

Early Release Movie

On Thursday, September 16 at 1:00 p.m., come to the Boxborough Library and watch **Marmaduke**. This feature film is rated PG. No sign up is required. Please bring a comfy pillow from home so you can enjoy the movie!

Story-Times

Join us on Monday, September 20 at 10:45 a.m. for a special cold and flu prevention story-time with special guest Tamara Bedard, the town nurse. Children will learn important tips, including proper hand washing techniques.

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

Join Miss Heather on Monday mornings for interactive stories, sing-a-longs, and felt stories. Themes will include autumn activities, such as apple picking and pumpkin patches. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5.

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

Children of all ages are invited to enjoy stories and songs with our wonderful library volunteer, Jane Rockwell. This program features popular nursery rhymes, classic fairytales, and new books.

Legos @ the Library

On Wednesday, September 29 at 4:00 p.m., come to the Library and build amazing Lego creations. Duplos are available if any younger children want to join in the fun.

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 October 2010 Blanchard Bits is **Friday, September 24, 2010.**