



Wilkes Whale Watch

Newsletter November, 2009

Calendar of Upcoming Events



November

- 3 - Remember to vote!
- 4 - Picture Retake Day
- 6 - 9:00 PTO Meeting
- 11-Veterans' Day - No School
- 12-Health Rescreening - Library
- 13-Book Fair set up in library
- 16-BOOK FAIR 16th-19th
- 18-Early Release - 10:50 AM
(17, 18, 19, BSF Phone-a-thon)
- 20-Barbara Kingsolver at BHS at 7:30
- 26-Thanksgiving
- 27-No School



December

- 7-2:30 Site Council
- 9-Early Release - 10:50 AM
- 11-9:00 PTO Meeting
Report Cards sent home
- 12-First night of Hanukkah
- 18-Last day before break
- 25-Merry Christmas



January

- 1-Happy New Year!
- 4-First day back
- 8-9:00 PTO Meeting

Letter From the Principal

Dear Parents,

The season of giving thanks is upon us once more. Despite the challenges in our community, our nation, and our world, I think we all give thanks for our many blessings. The interesting thing about the economic challenge has been how it has caused us all to reflect on what is truly important in our lives. History has a way of making us stop and prioritize at times. We have much to be thankful for as Thanksgiving approaches. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with your children and the level of support you give. This is truly a special place.

We are sending our support to the 4-2 Stryker Brigade Command Team, 45th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Platoon. A military intelligence company based out of Ft. Lewis, there are approximately 60 men and women on a 12-15 month deployment to Baghdad stationed at Camp Liberty. Amii Pratt's (Grade 1 teacher) younger brother, Matt, is a member of this platoon. This is Matt's fourth deployment to the Middle East. The first deployment was seven years ago to Kuwait, and then he was part of the first "push" into Baghdad during the start of the war. He is married with first grade and 2 ½ year old daughters. Despite anyone's feelings on the war, I think we all support the young men and women who are in harm's way everyday. Students will be writing letters and making cards to send to the Brigade for the holidays. If this is something you don't wish your child to participate in, you can contact your child's teacher to let him/her know.

Our bond election is Tuesday, November 3. Don't forget to vote! Fingers are crossed!

Sincerely
Sheryl Belt, Principal

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Letter from the PTO President

Dear Parents,

As usual, the start of the year is a whirlwind. Meet and Greet, Back to School nights, Harvest Fair, Halloween Carnival, Haunted House, Capital Bond Vote. Can you believe we have made it this far? Our next big push will be the Bainbridge Schools Foundation Phone a thon. If you would like to volunteer, let me know.

I have to admit, I have had kids at Wilkes for 6 years and I am just starting to understand how it all fits together. If you feel the same, please don't hesitate to ask. You can contact any of the PTO Board members and feel free to email me any time. Thank you for all of your help and support. We are doing much more than just sending our children to school.

Thanks,

Kat Gilmore
PTO President
kat@jubbling.com



The Wilkes Elementary School PTO would like to thank the Wilkes Families and Staff for your support of the 1st annual Wilkes Triathlon! A special thanks to the businesses and families who sponsored the fabulous t-shirts.

We hope your child enjoyed the fun reading and math activities organized by the teachers in the morning. The beautiful weather for the Jog-a-thon in the afternoon was greatly appreciated! Everyone enjoyed being outside in the company of so many classmates and teachers who participated as well.

We raised almost \$16,000 with 75% participation. These funds will be used to support arts programs, field trips, special assemblies, teacher grants, curriculum enrichment, technology, and more!

We look forward to next year!

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BRRR! It's cold!

We have Wilkes Whales hoodies, sweatshirts, long sleeve t's and more in stock. Order forms are available at wilkespto.org or in the school office.

Q? Contact Cindy Ruggiero, theruggieros@msn.com or 855-9780.



A Big 'THANKS' From the Halloween Carnival Chairs

The Outdoor Education Committee is thrilled to announce that we netted approximately \$9,000 from the Halloween Carnival/Haunted House on Oct 24. This was the carnival's 24th year, and it truly has become an event the entire Bainbridge Island Community looks forward to.

We would like to recognize the following people for their tremendous contributions to the event:

First, we would like to thank all the 4th graders and their families for creating such a fabulous "Haunted Olympics". We would like to give particular recognition to our room leaders **Kirk Van Ness** and **Beth Hogger**, **Lisa Bohonos** and **Brian and Lara Sweeney**, **Hayes Gori** and **Ed Quesada**, **Eric Nelson** and **Dennis Smith**, **Julie** and **Chris Hughes** and **Terry Schmidt**, and **Mary Beth Kobs** and **Kristin French**.

Thanks also to **Dana Thompson**, who helped gather and organize our fabulous 5th and 6th grade tour guides, many of them Wilkes Alumni. We would also like to recognize **Martin Garthwaite**, **Ben Phillips**, and their incredible building crew, who built and deconstructed the structure in record time. Finally, we want to thank **Becky** and **Steve Mikami** for donating sand bags,

which will now serve a double purpose by filling holes on the hill.

On the carnival side, we would like to thank our fabulous chairs. **Karen West** chaired the Games, and even convinced **Mike Lynch** to make a new game, our fabulous new "Clown Toss". **Andrea Korican**, our food chair, organized all our yummy snacks. **Barbara and Sid Sponsler**, our ticket chairs, took over the ticket sales and made first points of contact for the carnival goers. Our publicity chairs **Rich Mroz** and **Cindy Ruggiero** thought of every possible way to spread the word about the carnival. **Sarah Albee** was our popcorn chair. Set-Up chairs **Marianne Lindsey** and **Rachel Smith** made set up a breeze, and **Nancy Rees**, our prizes chair, did a great job selecting the perfect prizes for the kiddos! **Marisa Lanning**, lined up the high school volunteers. **Judy McLaughlin**, our Decorations Chair, needs no accolades, as the decorations she loans Wilkes every year speak for themselves. And **Carlyn** and **David Hooyer**, worked hard as Cake Walk Chairs to find enough sweets to run the game.

In addition, we want to thank the teachers for letting us use their classrooms and especially thank **Ms Cottle**, **Mrs. Madison**, **Mrs. Brown**, **Mr. Pearsall** and **Mrs. Upton** for volunteering during the carnival! We also want to thank **Mrs. Belt** for being such a warm, kind, friendly, accommodating principal. She was at the carnival all day Saturday, and most of Friday night as well to help us get it set up. Similarly, we want to thank **Jim** and **Curt**, our wonderful custodians, for all their hard work and extra hours.

Finally, thank you to all our **parent and student volunteers** - we couldn't have a successful carnival without you!

Warmly,

Outdoor Education Committee Chairs
Jen Gori, Cathy Sanford and Sarah Bullock

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For submissions contact marisalanning@hotmail.com

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Save Our Teachers Campaign Was a Huge Success!

At the end of May 2009, Bainbridge Schools Foundation and the PTO's jointly launched a campaign to Save Our Teachers after the BISD budget for 2009-10 showed a deficit of \$2.1 Million dollars. 17 teachers were given pink slips. In 5 short weeks, after many fund raising efforts such as bake sales, lemon aid stands, BBQ's, dances, garage sales, penny drives etc, over \$260,000 dollars was raised. In addition to this money, BSF pledged to give the district another \$250,000 for teacher salaries so over 7 teachers were reinstated because of our efforts. Many other teachers were hired back as replacements for teachers on leaves or for teachers who were retiring.

2010, BSF needs to generate over \$450,000 to fulfill our pledge to the district to keep these teachers employed. The district has cut all fat from their budget and future reductions will impact your children and their class size. Together we can make a difference and maintain the quality of education in Bainbridge Public Schools. A \$300 donation per child will keep your favorite teachers and staff in place for the coming year. Please give generously during our annual Phonathon campaign NOV 17th, 18th, and 19th! Every donation counts!

Proton
Dank

Volunteers of the Month

Triathlon: Michelle Allen (for organizing and chairing)

Kathleen DeRubertis; Kathi Murphy and Sarah Bullock (Jogathon)

Carnival: Sarah Bullock, Cathy Sanford and Jen Gori (Chairs)

Judy mcLaughlin and Martin Garthwaite (Decorations and Haunted House)

Merci

Gracias

THANK YOU

LINK UP For FUN

Check out the following links for community events and information.

Community News & Events webpage:

www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/pr/communityevents

Community Flyers webpage:

www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/pr/communityflyers

Will Budget Cuts Continue?

Probably for the next few years state budgets for schools will be depressed due to the recovering economy. In 2009-

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