

**Bolton Center School Newsletter
Bolton PTA, 2012-2013**

Kids First

OCTOBER 2012

"School is a building with four walls--and tomorrow inside."

Len Watters

Welcome back to school! With the return to school comes a pile of backpacks, homework, dirty soccer cleats and exhausted children. It is an exciting time for parents as we see our children move on to the next grade, growing up before our eyes. Of course, it is also an exciting time for our children as they reconnect with their friends and face new challenges. The return to school also means that the PTA is hard at work for our children and our school.

Our First Meeting and Bolton PTA's Proposed 2012/2013 Programs

Our first PTA meeting was held on September 24th and it was well attended by parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education members. Needless to say, we were thrilled! At this meeting, we introduced our agenda for the 2012/2013 school year. Although we are offering many of the same great programs that we have offered in the past, we also have some new initiatives that we are eager to present.

What do we have in store for you this year? We will give you just a sampling of the amazing offerings.... Currently, we have scheduled some "Rock Detective" scientists from the Connecticut Science Center to meet with our third graders, who are studying geology this year. David Schwartz, an interesting and accomplished author and speaker, is meeting our Grades 1-4 students in November. Also, Taylor Mali, a poet, will be presenting to our Grades 5-8 students. Of course, you have already enjoyed our Back to School Pizza Party and the popular Run to Read race. The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for November and a Holiday Shoppe is scheduled for December.

Bolton Center School now has a Special Education PTA (SEPTA), an organization that is working to promote the interests of children with special needs in our community. The Bolton PTA plans to work closely with the SEPTA to provide programs that will benefit ALL of our children and promote understanding of the special challenges that some of our students face.

Additionally, we are organizing a "Screen Free Week" initiative from April 29th-May 5th. During this week, we will ask our students and parents to take a pledge to refrain from the use of electronics (television, iPhones, computers, electronic games, etc...) and to spend more time together, playing games, talking and having some quality family time.

These are just a few of the initiatives on our agenda.

Welcome to Kristin Heckt, our new Superintendent of Schools

Moreover, the PTA is pleased to welcome our new Superintendent of Schools, Kristin Heckt to the Bolton Public Schools. We wish her much success and offer her our enthusiastic support! We look forward to working with Ms. Heckt and the Board of Education this school year.

PTA Outstanding Teacher Awards

Do you know of a teacher who has done something really exceptional or "above and beyond" for her students? Have you noticed that a teacher is doing some creative things in his classroom which is getting the students excited to learn? Is your son or daughter's teacher a role model for other teachers? I know that I have met many teachers here in Bolton that fit into at least one of these categories. The Bolton PTA is excited to announce that we will be honoring some of our teachers this year with a special PTA Outstanding Teacher award. This is a way of recognizing the amazing contributions that our teachers make to our children's lives. If you have a teacher that you would like to nominate, the PTA would love to hear about her or him! Please email us at boltonpta@boltonpta.org with your nominations and your personal experiences with our hardworking and talented teachers! Awards will be presented at our meetings in November, January, March and May.

Our Request for Your Support

The Bolton PTA is eager to provide our school community with educational and social programs that will enhance the phenomenal education that our children are receiving here at the Bolton Center School. The PTA is a group of parents, teachers and administrators, working together to improve the health, education and welfare of our children. Being a PTA member does not require you to attend all of our meetings or to volunteer at our events. However, I will be honest, we would LOVE it if you would volunteer even one hour of your time during the school year- maybe you could help at the Holiday Shoppe in December or help a child choose a book at the book fair. Maybe you would like to speak at Career Day in the spring or help organize one of our fundraisers. We NEED you and WELCOME your participation at our meetings and in any way that works for you and your family.

Check us Out!

Please take a look at our website at www.boltonpta.org and "Like" us on our Facebook page to keep apprised of the latest and greatest PTA happenings. These are both great resources to learn about what is happening in our schools and our community. Of course, PTA members also receive email blasts and this great "Kids First" newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in any of our programs or have any questions or concerns. We are here to work with you!

Katherine Galle, President, Bolton PTA

**Welcome back to school for another
great year at BCS!**

PTA
everychild.onevoice

Meet Darryl Giard, the new Assistant Principal of the Bolton Center School

Mr. Giard, can you tell us a little about what you did before you came to BCS? Before Bolton Center School I taught in New London Public Schools and in Memphis Tennessee. I have taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Social Studies, was a social studies department head, director of summer school, and headed a parental involvement committee.

Is there any information about you that you would like us to share with the parents? I am very happy to be a part of the Bolton Community and have felt very welcomed by everyone since the day I started. I believe that parental involvement is very important to a successful school and I am very impressed with the parents I have seen and talked to at the open houses, the Run to Read road race, at the PTA meeting, and in my day to day interactions.

What have you enjoyed the most about being in Bolton since you arrived here?

The thing I have enjoyed the most since starting my position at Bolton Center School has been the students. A day never goes by that I am not impressed by what great kids we have. The students and teachers are working very hard to get the school year off to a great start.

Do you have any new initiatives that you are working on that you would like to share with us?

As an administrative team, Mrs. Grande and I have been working closely with the staff to make sure PBIS is off to a great start in year 2. The opening of school could not have gone any better. The teachers taught the PBIS lessons, we had an assembly, and students have been rewarded weekly as students of the week. I am also in the classrooms and at meetings with the teachers on a daily basis; working on instruction, analyzing data, and supporting the staff with anything they need.

Is there any special information that you would like us to share with the BCS parents?

I want to invite anyone to come visit me at BCS so that if I haven't already met you, you can introduce yourself. Feel free to call or email me at any time, as I always care to know what you are thinking. Lastly, I want to thank you for making me feel so welcomed here at BCS and in the Bolton community.

Calling all Artists, Dancers, Film Producers, Writers, Musicians, and Photographers!! The 2012-2013 PTA Reflections committee is looking for students in preschool through grade 12 to create and submit original works of art in six categories (visual art, choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, and photography) based on their interpretation of this year's theme "The Magic of a Moment." Entries will be judged first from all entries submitted in each category from each grade division within our schools. Bolton's 1st place winners will then go on to a state level and be judged along with the 1st place winners from other CT school districts. *Last year our very own Erica Dean won 1st place in Connecticut in the Intermediate Visual Arts Division!*



This year we will also be offering a Special Artist Division open to students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges that meet the American Disabilities Act guidelines. Special consideration will be given during judging for entries in this division.

Updates, rules, and guidelines will be available on both Bolton's PTA and SEPTA websites.

Submissions will be collected in the respective school lobbies on Tuesday, December 11th for Bolton Center School and Wednesday, December 12th for Bolton High School. Please contact Reflections Chairperson, Wendy Hof (860-670-4716, whhct@comcast.net) if you

Variety Show News

This year's variety show planning is underway! This year's theme is Broadway and we have already filled our coaching teams! I think this is a first! But, this is a great way for parents who want to participate but are nervous. This is a perfect year to jump in to get involved and shadow the current coaching teams. We will be losing two coaching teams next year so it is a great year to get on board! Also, if anyone is interested in helping out with the production of the show, please contact Alison Romkey at amromkey@gmail.com.

Please note, however, that due to the vacation schedule and Easter holiday this year's tech rehearsal will be held on Good Friday. While these dates are mandatory for participation in the variety show, things can be worked out. However, if your child signs up for an in-between role, they will need to commit to all of the rehearsals. The Rehearsal dates are March 29th (usually one hour), April 1st (usually one hour), Dress Rehearsal: April 3rd (this is when the kids get to watch the show so it's about 2 ½ hours). Show nights are April 5th at 7:00 p.m. and April 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Sign up forms will be going out shortly! The Meet and Greet for new participants will be held in the BCS café on November 27th and the auditions for the in-between roles will be on December 4th.

News From Our Interim Superintendent

The Board of Education will begin budget development at its meeting of October 11. At that meeting, students, teachers and staff will be invited to provide input on the FY14 budget. Prior the board meeting or November 8, the public will also be invited to give input to the budget development as well.

J.L. Wood

SEPTA—Special Education (PTA)

Happy Fall Everyone! My favorite time of year but how on earth did it get here so fast. First I would like to send a huge 'THANK YOU!' to the PTA board and their continued support and collaboration to help SEPTA meet its vision. It is with the PTA contribution to our budget that I am thrilled to announce on Oct 11, 2012 HARC will be performing two Puppet shows at Bolton Center School. **Kids on the Block: HARC volunteers and staff visit schools in the Greater Hartford area and present puppet shows to school children using life-size puppets that illustrate a broad range of disabilities and respond to commonly asked questions. I am so excited this is a great show and the kids love it! Also SEPTA'S first meeting is October 17, 2012 at Bolton Center School Library at 6 pm we will have Speaker from The University of Connecticut center for excellence in Developmental Disabilities-Early Intervention and Special Education. The first of many parent workshops we hope to bring to our members, It will be from 6PM-9PM. I would also like to thank Bruce Ralston and the Bolton Booster Club for generously providing SEPTA with a SEPTA Banner, now everyone will know who we are with our beautiful banner. **WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! Membership Forms will be available at meeting. However you may attend if you are not a member. Everyone is welcome we want to hear what you have to say. EVERYONE HAS A VOICE AT SEPTA MEETINGS! COME FIND OUT WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT? If you have any questions or concerns please give me a call at 860-474-5014 or email me at daga-taar@gmail.com!****

Amy D'Agata—Bolton SEPTA President

Join us for our second annual Trunk or Treat event on Wednesday, October 31, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Bolton Center School parking lot. What? You've never heard of "Trunk or Treat?" Why it's a safe and fun way to do trick or treating for the whole family! Families bring their car, van, or truck to the Bolton Center School parking lot and park with their decorated trunk facing towards the middle of the parking lot. Trunks are then opened to reveal treats, lawn chairs are set up next to vehicles, cameras are readied, and before you know it you are surrounded by all sorts of ghouls, goblins, princesses, ninjas, firemen, policemen, and numerous other creatively costumed trick or treaters. Did you catch the "decorated trunk" mention above? Have fun and decorate your entire vehicle or just your trunk. The whole family can even dress up if they want. Spend the evening with your family, friends, and neighbors in a safe location where kids can run along trick or treating with their friends and adults can catch up and chat with other adults. If you have any questions or would like to help with this fun family event, please check out our Facebook group page, *Bolton Trunk or Treat*, or contact Wendy Hof (860-670-4716 – whhct@comcast.net).

- 10/5: Progress reports grades 1– 8
- 10/8: NO SCHOOL Columbus Day
- 10/9: NO SCHOOL Professional Dev.
- 10/11: BOE Meeting BHS Library @ 6:30
- 10/12: Progress reports grades prek—k
- 10/17: SEPTA Meeting BCS Library @ 6:00
- 10/18: POPS Concert BCS @ 7:00
- 10/26: BWC Halloween Party BCS @ 6:00
- 11/2: Report Cards grades 1-8
- 11/6: NO SCHOOL Professional Dev.
- 11/7: PTA Meeting BCS Café @ 6:30
- 11/8: BOE Meeting BHS Library @ 6:30
- 11/12: NO SCHOOL Professional Dev.
- 11/13—11/20: PTA Book Fair
- 11/16—11/21: 1/2 Days (Parent/Teacher Conf.)
- 11/22 & 11/23: NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
- 11/30: Kidsfirst deadline for articles to be published in Dec. Issue



KidsFirst publishes four issues throughout the school year. They are published to keep the community informed about issues concerning the educational welfare of Bolton's school children.

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We're on the Web!
www. Bolton
pta.org

Student Enrichment Update

The Enrichment Committee was pleased to host the Boston Museum of Science, as they conducted a program for our third grade classes on October 3, 2012 called GEOLOGY: Rock Detectives. This is a program that complements the third grade curriculum. In this workshop, students explore the different types of rocks and how they form over geologic time. Working as a team, students identify various rocks and minerals using hands-on observations and experiments. For a finale, they figure out how a particular rock formation has changed over millions of years.

We are looking forward to a visit from award-winning children's author David M. Schwartz who will speak in the morning at Bolton Center School to our students in grades 1-4 in three separate sessions in our Library Media Center on October 23, 2012. He will conduct a separate math workshop for the fourth grade classes in the afternoon.

Schwartz is the author of *How Much is a Million?* and almost 50 other books, including *If You Made a Million*, *G is for Googol*, *Q Is for Quark*, *If You Hopped Like a Frog*, and the "Look Once, Look Again" science series. A popular speaker for children and educators, Schwartz emphasizes the importance of mathematics in everyone's life, and the many connections between math, science and literacy.

Our school's World Language teachers are researching some new programs to complement the Spanish and French classes offered at Bolton Center School. The Enrichment Committee supports the World Language area by funding cultural performers, field trips to museums, and other activities centered on the Spanish and French language studies.

Much thanks and gratitude goes out to volunteer Carrie Lyon who has taken the helm of the Annual Student Read-a-Thon for this year. The Read-a-Thon is a popular event for grades Pre-K through 8 each year, with prizes and of course, lots of reading for a designated month during our school year. Thank you Carrie and the Read-a-Thon Committee!

On another note - since the Student Enrichment Committee spends much of its time searching for programs that will help instill a love of reading, writing, and lifetime learning in our students, we thought parents may be interested in knowing about the 21st Annual Connecticut Children's Book Fair which will be held November 10th and 11th this year at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. It is a free event at which over 20 authors will be present to autograph books and chat with children. For more information, you can check out the web site at www.bookfair.uconn.edu.

~ Pam Halenar

PBIS

Congratulations to our students who have been selected as Students of the week for the month of September: Nicole Denunzio, Andrew Aux, Marshall Hovan, Sarah Mattei, Brooke Holota, Joseph Godek, Alexandra Miller-Davey Shepard Livingston, Nicole McDonald, Aedan Riordan, Collen Lukas, Tia Olson, Anna Carini, Rowan Varney, Owen Bonanno, Grace Keiser, Mason Fox, Ben Olson, Jeremy Peacock, Jacob Tobias, Caleigh Sheehan, Simone Carter, Riley Graves, Tanner Redding, Emma Dutil, Nilish Tallapureddy, Sarah Sonntag, Olivia Walsh, Daniel Bokshan, Michael McDermott, Kayla Maratta, Colin Nichols, Corey Peacock, Savannah Jeffrey, Aiden Brown, Christopher Nemphos, Emma Knowles, Dalaina Cubit, Matthew Weir, Lucas Carini, Allison Bradley, Aidan O'Brien, Maya Lette, Isabella Allinson, Emma Lourenco, Emilia Herasimowicz, Jennie Fetzer and Katherine Monroe. These students have had their photographs taken and they are displayed in our showcase in the foyer. They all receive a certificate, a bulldog sticker and select from various prizes.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Looking ahead to November, our parent/teacher conference are Friday, November 16 Monday, November 19, and Tuesday, November 20. On Friday there will be afternoon conferences, Monday and Tuesday will include both afternoon and evening conferences. Teachers began scheduling conferences as early as Open House, while others will begin scheduling late October or early November. If you have questions regarding the scheduling of conferences you may call your child's homeroom teacher. To help prepare for conferences, report cards will be sent home the week before. Conference days, and Wednesday, November 21 are all half days. Half day dismissal times are: middle school is 12:00 PM and elementary school is 1:00 PM. Morning kindergarten and preschool are dismissed at 10:15 AM.

eAlerts for emergency cancellations

If you have not done so, consider subscribing to Bolton Public School "eAlerts". Parents will receive an email alert at any and all e-mail addresses parents entered into the system as soon as an emergency decision regarding school and or functions has been made. Decisions are also posted in **red bold letters** at Boltonpublicschools.com. We know that late cancellations, late openings, early dismissals etc. can be confusing and hope that having access to both of these options will help these unscheduled early dismissal days be easier for all! Visit our website for more information on "eAlerts".

Mary Grande; BCS Principal