

Bolton Center School Newsletter
Bolton PTA, 2013-2014

Autumn

OCTOBER 2013

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” ~ Nelson Mandela

Hello Bolton PTA Parents and Friends,

The leaves on the trees have begun to change and the children are settled into their back to school routines. The PTA has already offered some fun events and programs and we are now moving forward, headlong into autumn!

The Bolton PTA is an organization that advocates on behalf of our children, supports our families and provides vital information that parents need. We provide educational and social opportunities where families, teachers and children have fun, learn and get to know one another.

The PTA also raises money, which we use to provide all of the fantastic programs for our students. We also use these funds to support our teachers, providing stipends to our PTA member teachers for much needed classroom supplies that school budget just can't cover. We provide science programs, author visits, popular books for the libraries at both BCS and BHS and anti-bullying programs. None of these would be possible without the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of our community. These are things that our school cannot afford but that the parents, teachers and community members believe are important. The Executive Board of the Bolton PTA would like to *thank you* for your time and your continued support and we hope that you will continue to be generous with your time (even an hour would be great!) and your donations (this is how we provide the programs!).

Like many of you, one of the reasons that my family moved to Bolton was because of our successful, award winning schools. Our small class sizes, dedicated staff and engaged parents are a formula for success. Bolton Center School is a place that prepares our children to be successful in high school and Bolton High School is a place that prepares our children to be competitive and successful in college and careers. Bolton High School was again recognized as one of “America’s Best High Schools” by Newsweek earlier this year. The Bolton PTA applauds this. Notably, the PTA publicly supported the Bolton High School Addition and Renovation Project a few years ago because the PTA believed in investing in the future of our children here in our beloved town. We are proud that this investment has continued to be fruitful! As Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” The Bolton PTA will continue to work this year to ensure that our Bolton students are well equipped to change the world.....we hope that you will join us!

With warm regards,
Katherine (Kate) Gallé
Bolton PTA President

This year is an Election year. Please go out and vote on Tuesday November 5th. The polls will be open from 6am to 8pm. This year three slots are up for election for the Board of Education. The PTA is giving each candidate a questionnaire to fill out. Once we get them back we will be emailing our members copies of the questionnaire and putting a link to them on our website. Please take the time to read it so you can make an informed decision.

Christina Morra-Tiu

Welcome back to school for another
great year at BCS!

PTA
everychild.onevoice



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Partnership, teamwork and collaboration are the building blocks of a highly effective educational system. We are very fortunate in Bolton to have such a supportive PTA. Together, we share a common goal, quality education. Reaching this goal requires a team effort that includes parents, teachers, students and administrators working together.

We have several mandated changes in education this year that include a new evaluation system for teachers and administrators as well as the implementation of the Common Core State Standards measured by the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

The Common Core State Standards are a set of research-based, globally competitive K-12 expectations (adopted by 45 states across the country including all the New England states) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics as well as literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. They are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills our young people need so that they are fully prepared to compete in a globally competitive economy. The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core on July 7, 2010, as Connecticut's standards in English language arts and mathematics because they require states to focus on what children need to know in each grade before they move-on to the next grade.

The standards establish:

- Consistent learning goals for all student—regardless of where they live
 - Clear roadmaps of academic expectations at each grade level
- Relevance to the real world and prepare students for post-secondary education and a globally competitive workforce

Shifts in the new English language arts/literacy standards include:

- Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and information texts, in addition to literature
 - Reading and writing grounded in evidence from the text
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary

Shifts in the new mathematics standards include:

- Focus: deeper learning in two to four areas at each grade level
- Coherence: concepts logically connected from one grade to the next and linked to other major topics at each grade level

Rigor: fluency with arithmetic, application of knowledge to real world situations and a deep understanding of mathematical concepts

The Bolton Center School staff will be focusing during the professional development and the early release days on aligning curriculum in all content areas to the Common Core State Standards to ensure that your child will be prepared to meet the demands of college and/or the work place in the 21st Century. While this process will take time, we are committed to the task at hand. Today's global economy means that our students need to possess academic standards by the completion of twelfth grade to ensure their success in college and/or workforce.

Thank you for partnering with us in supporting your child's education!

Kristin Heckt

On Saturday, October 5th please join us with your family and friends for a quick run or walk though Bolton's hills. It's not too late to sign up and join the fun. Every person registered is a book for the school library. Both the Center and High School will benefit from this fundraiser. You can pick up a form at either school office or find it via the Bolton PTA website. The race begins and ends at the High school starting at 9 a.m. Trophies are awarded for each age category. Check out our follow up information in the next issue.

Jeni Minicucci and Alison Caruso

Save the date and time! Trick or Trunk returns again this Halloween night to Bolton from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Thanks to the kind sponsorship of the PTA again this year we are working with the High School to have it held in their parking lot. Our newly formed Bolton CERT team will even be able to help with the parking. So get those costumes ready! Purchase those bags of candy (but hide them or, like me, you may find those bags empty by the time Halloween gets here!) If you are not already a member of our Facebook group "Bolton Trunk or Treat" please join to receive the latest news and updates on this fun family evening. If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Wendy Hof at 860-670-4716.

Children's Halloween Party

Friday, October 25, 2013

6:00—8:00 P.M.

Bolton Center School

The Annual Halloween Party is a community wide event. The Bolton Women's Club provides lots of games, prizes, and activities geared toward kids pre-school through grade 4. Children are encouraged to wear costumes. Admission is \$4.00 per child and adults are free when accompanied by a child.

We hope to see you all there!

Jenny Norris



The Career Day committee is looking for help! Each year Bolton Center School hosts a Career Day in May that allows our students the chance to learn about the careers they are interested in pursuing. Speakers in varying careers come to the school to share the details of their jobs. Each year it has been very well received by the students and by the volunteers who come to speak to the students. We even heard last year that one of the students who attended career day actually went on to pursue studies in college in that field BECAUSE of what she learned during her Career Day session! How awesome is that?!

Can you spare a little time to help with planning this year's Career Day at the Bolton Center School and perhaps help another student find their career path? Meetings are typically in the morning before school/work. Even if you can't attend the meeting we could still use your help with phone calls, data entry, organization, creativity, and set up on the day of the event (to name just a few ways to help.)

This is a great opportunity for our students *but* we need *your* help. It would be a shame if Career Day was not available to the students this year due to there not being enough parent support to make it happen. If you are interested please send an email to: Career.day@boltonct.org Thank you!

Wendy Hof

Bolton Music Works!

We are the parent booster organization that supports the Bolton Public Schools music department for both Bolton Center School and Bolton High School. Your children in the Choruses, Bands, and Jazz Bands have all directly benefitted from our fundraising efforts.

By becoming a member of BMW! you help us continue to support our music students and enhance their performance experiences.

Anyone who understands and supports the value of quality music education for our children may become a member!

We are always looking for members to attend our planning meetings. They are typically held on a Monday night at 7 PM in the BHS library. Our next meeting is Monday October 21. The full list of meetings is at the Bolton Music Works section at boltonmusic.org or on our Facebook page. JOIN US!

Your membership helps fund a wide range of benefits for your children. Here are some of our latest contributions:

- We obtained a guitar stand which can hold 20 guitars for BCS music students.

- We have obtained the sound system at BCS.
- We purchase the custom t-shirts annually for the 8-12th grade students who march in the Memorial Day Parade.
- For the past 10 years we have awarded scholarships for graduating music students through the Bolton Scholarship Fund.

Like us on Facebook, or go to our tab on boltonmusic.org to find more information.

We will have a table out at the Pops Concert on October 24th at BCS - come visit us!

Megan Duffy

Box Top\$ for Education

Every year BCS participates in the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. The Box Tops program is a wonderfully easy and FREE way for our school to earn cash! For every Box Top you clip and send to school, Bolton Center School will receive 10 cents, with the potential to earn up to \$20,000 per school year. Ten Cents may not seem like much, however it adds up quickly! Last year we raised \$2134.

Our goal for this year is \$2800, and **we need your help!** We will run collections throughout the year, however in order to meet the fall submission date, ***our first collection deadline is Tuesday October 29th!!***

Simply clip Box Top\$ coupons from participating products and send them to school in an envelope or Ziploc. Please remember to trim your box tops and label the bag with your child's name and class. Each box top has an expiration date. BCS only receives payment for box tops that have not yet expired, so kindly check expiration dates before submitting. The Top Overall Box Tops Collector in K-5 and 6-8 will receive a prize!!

A great way to increase our collection totals is to ask friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to save box tops for us! I have found that people are more than happy to save Box Tops from the products they already buy, especially knowing that a school will benefit. This is an easy and **FREE** way for everyone to help! I have even provided my own family members with small containers labeled Boxtops for Bolton Center School, which they have put on their desks at work. Now their co-workers are bringing them all of their box tops. You can even provide a labeled Ziploc or envelope to friends and family to keep on their fridge to fill with box tops for you. Check back with them before each contest deadline to pick up the box tops. So simple! Remember our children benefit directly from all money earned!

Please visit www.btf.com/products/participating-products for a complete listing of participating products. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at kellymcdougalross@yahoo.com or by phone (860) 643-1700.

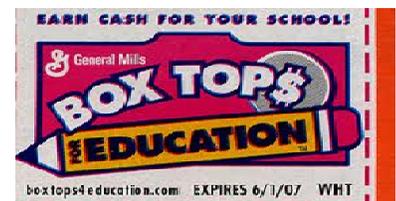
Kelly Ross, Box Tops Coordinator

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thu. 10/10—1/2 day
- Mo. 10/14—No School
- Tu. 10/15—No School
- Mo. 10/21—BMW Meeting 7:00 @ BHS Library
- Tu. 10/22—Gr's 2 & 3 Boston Museum Program
- Th. 10/24—POPS Concert 7:00 @ BCS
- Th. 10/24—Picture Make Up Day
- Fr. 10/25—BWC Halloween Party @ BCS 6:00
- Tu. 10/29—Box Tops Due
- Th. 10/31—1/2 day
- Th. 10/31—Trunk or Treat @ BHS 5:30
- Fr. 11/1—Report Cards Gr's 5—8
- Su. 11/3—Daylight Savings Ends
- Mo. 11/4—BMW Meeting 7:00 @ BHS Library
- Mo. 11/11—No School
- Mo. 11/18—PTA Meeting 6:30 @ BCS Library
- Mo. 11/18 to Tu. 11/26—PTA Book Fair
- Th. 11/21—1/2 day
- Fri. 11/22 to Tu. 11/26—1/2 days Parent/Teacher Conferences
- We. 11/27—1/2 day
- Th. 11/18 & Fr. 11/29—No School **Happy Thanksgiving!**



- Tu. 12/3—Variety Show Meet & Greet 6:30 @ BCS Café
- Th. 12/5—BHS Band/Jazz Concert 7:00 @ BHS
- Fr. 12/6—Kidsfirst deadline



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

Square 1 Art - Our New Fall Fundraiser

We are very excited to introduce a new fundraiser this fall called Square 1 Art. This fundraiser takes your child's artwork and makes it into great products for you to purchase. These products are wonderful keepsakes and gifts for family and friends. Your child has been busy making beautiful artwork that can be made into many fun products such as magnets, t-shirts, mouse pads, ornaments and much more!

The money raised from this fundraiser will enable the PTA to continue its efforts in supporting our students and teachers. Some of these efforts include the Back to School Teacher Luncheon, the variety show, Run to Read, and Enrichment Programs, such as our visit this September from Author/Illustrator of The Lundy Lady series, Jarrett Krosoczka. Your help is needed for us to continue offering opportunities like these to our wonderful school.

Looking Ahead...

- Look for your child's **FREE STICKERS** with **CUSTOM CATALOG** coming home late October. Preview your child's artwork and purchase gifts.

- We will let you know at that time exactly when the orders are due.

Products are scheduled to arrive before the December break, watch for details

Square 1 Art is a wonderful fundraiser that celebrates your child's artwork along with helping our school. A special thank you to Mrs. Howroyd for her help creating the artwork with the students. We couldn't have done it without her!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 643-1700 or via Email kellymcdougalross@yahoo.com.

Kelly Ross

Student Enrichment Update

Our first big event of the 2013/2014 school year was a visit from author and illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka on September 26th! He was a huge hit with both students and teachers. He is the author of the Lunch Lady graphic novel series, as well as many picture books for younger children. He spoke to grades 1 through 8 in (4) separate sessions. He brought to us a very inspirational story of perseverance and believing in your abilities. He showed videos of his artistry, spoke about his journey to becoming an author/illustrator, and drew a few of his characters from his books live for the students. Mr. Krosoczka took questions from the kids and concluded with an encouraging message to use their imaginations during some of their spare time to draw and write some of their own stories and creations.

The Boston Museum of Science will make a return to Bolton Center School on October 22nd. They will present to the 3rd grade a program called "Geology: Rock Detectives," and in the afternoon they will conduct a session on "The States of Matter" for the entire 2nd grade. Both programs complement the school curriculum, and give the kids some hands-on experience in the subject matter.

The World Language area will host Mexican Artists showcasing their Wood Carvings from Oaxaca on October 23rd. This program will benefit all students taking Spanish. Throughout the day as students watch the artists work, all phases of the artistic processes will be shown. Students will also see video showing scenes from village life in Mexico, as well as exposure to other various facets of the culture in Mexico.

Although we have a lot of exciting programs and events coming up this fall, the events of last spring also deserve a mention.

The Patricia Lewis Writing Award selections were made at the end of April 2013, and one fabulous essay written by a student from each grade was chosen to receive a Barnes & Noble gift card. Congratulations to the student winners of these awards, and to all our students who submitted such wonderful writing samples.

The World Language area welcomed artists Mariano and Cilau Valadez, a father and son Huichol Yarn Painting team from Nayarit, Mexico who shared some fabulous yarn paintings with our Spanish students and demonstrated their artistry on April 26th. They discussed their region in Mexico as well as facts about the lives and activities of the Huichol Tribe.

French students were treated to a visit from a French Intern Student from Yale University on May 3rd. She came with a PowerPoint presentation to enrich our students with information on life and culture in France. Students had plenty of time to ask her many specific questions about the differences between French culture and American culture.

The 7th and 8th grade French students also had the opportunity to go on field trips to La Brioche French Bakery in Rockville. The bakery owners welcomed the students into their establishment to learn how to make sweet treats and pastries, as well as learn about French culture. These trips were a big hit with the kids!

The annual trip to Margarita's for the 7th grade Spanish students took place May 28th. Ms. Franco had a visit from the Lutz Children's Museum and a chinchilla, as her students studied and learned about South America on May 31st.

The Enrichment Area sponsored Career Day on May 22nd. This event is a great way for students to hear about on-the-job real-life experiences in a wide variety of professions.

A warm thank you to all the volunteers that helped last year with various Enrichment activities and events such as the "Run to Read" Road Race, the Read-a-Thon, and Career Day. Without the countless hours of dedication from the volunteers these great events would not be possible.

~Pam Halenar Chair, Student Enrichment