



# THE BANNOCKBURN BANNER

PTA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2004



## *Co-Presidents' Letter*

It's hard to believe that less than a month ago, our children were still enjoying the last few days of summer vacation. Now, they seem well integrated into the routine of another school year.

Our smooth start this September was thanks, in part, to several members of the Bannockburn community. We wanted to take a moment to thank them all for their hard work behind the scenes. To begin, Bannockburn's exterior looks wonderful thanks to Jim Mahaffie, Betsy, Haley and Mimi Lawrence, and Shari Fisher. These folks spent long hours in the warm August sun mulching, weeding, planting flowers and building stone pathways. The result is obvious, a more beautiful and appealing Bannockburn Elementary School. Inside, the once infamous, pink hallway is now a sunshine yellow, and we thank everyone who lent a hand to this artistic effort. And on the first day of school, Peg Philleo, with help from Kate Bryer, welcomed new parents to our community with the well-attended Newcomers' Tea.

The next chance to mix and mingle will be the Welcome Back Picnic. Our recent soggy weather forced us to postpone last Friday's popular event. We hope to reschedule for a Friday evening in early October. Teachers, staff, as well as our new principal, Mrs. Kimberly Bosnic, will be on hand. Hope for drier weather and plan on music, food and fun thanks again to the efforts of Kristi Peterson.

If you've had the chance to fill out and return the PTA membership form, many thanks. If not, please don't let another day go by. Extra copies of the form are available in the Front Office or you can download a form from the Bannockburn Elementary School website: [www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/bannockburnes/index.htm](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/bannockburnes/index.htm).

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## *From Our Principal Kimberly Bosnic*

Dear Bannockburn ES Parents,

We are off to a great start of the 2004-2005 school year here at Bannockburn Elementary. We busily prepared for the school year, with the help of many parents and staff, to give parts of the school a "mini-facelift!" We worked together to paint our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade wing a bright, sunny yellow. Parents purchased and planted barrels of flowers in front of the school, and re-mulched the area. Our building service team worked endlessly to ensure we had a spotless building! Our staff worked hard during those days before August 30th to make sure that the rooms were ready for students, with all instructional materials and schedules ready to go.

We have already had a very busy September, with our Back-To-School Nights and our PTA meeting. Our Volunteer Training Meeting is also scheduled for Wednesday, September 22nd. We hope to see all brand new and veteran volunteers at this training, as there is a lot of information to share. Parents will be receiving a letter shortly stating that we are postponing our Math Information Nights, previously scheduled for September 28th and September 29th. The letter also contains a needs assessment survey that we are asking parents to complete and return. As we begin our plans to reschedule a Math Information Night, this survey will give us valuable information.

We look forward to working with students and parents during this school year, and I encourage you to work as a team with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to ensure student success!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Bosnic, Principal

Bannockburn ES Staff

Per family, the economical dues of \$20, goes a long way toward enriching our children's educational opportunities. Again, this year's dues will reserve your copy of the school directory and the school calendar, both of which are invaluable resources. Once they are printed, any PTA member interested in purchasing additional directories can do so for \$5. Just contact Ned Goddard at 3012295660@comcast.net. Calendars can also be purchased for an additional \$3. Please get in touch with Janice Huey at hueyjb@msn.com. Non-PTA members can also purchase these items, but at a much, bigger price tag. One more reason to become a member!

Another useful resource is Bannocknet. If you're not yet registered for this online tool, please contact Peter Hobby at phobby@comcast.net. Bannocknet is one more way to keep up with all the events and activities going on at Bannockburn. And while online, please double check and make sure your personal information is correct in the soon to be printed Student Directory. You can find your way to this database through the previously mentioned Bannockburn website. This updated resource is the hard work of Benno Schmidt, Peter Hobby, Ned Goddard and our Media Specialist, Anita Hardy. The website has scads of valuable information for everyone: students, parents and staff. It includes a running calendar of school events, information about various PTA-sponsored clubs and activities as well as a link to the MCPS website. If you haven't had a chance to browse through the site, make a date with your computer soon!

Want to get more involved? New and old Bannockburn parents, who want to volunteer, need to be at the school tonight. Please join us in the All-Purpose Room at 7 p.m. for a mandatory, but informative, volunteer training session. Our principal, Kimberly Bosnic, will cover topics including safety, behavior and confidentiality issues. Following the presentation, all potential volunteers must sign a Volunteer Registration Form. The PTA will provide babysitting in the gymnasium.

This might be a good time to mention the PTA committee chair openings still vacant. We need parents willing to take on the responsibilities of Homeroom Liaison, Mayfair, Office Assistance, Fifth Grade Activities and School Safety. If you have any questions about any one of these positions, please contact Janice Huey at hueyjb@msn.com or Meredith McGuire at merrywrites@aol.com.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm invitation to all members of the community to attend our monthly PTA board meetings. Generally, meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Media Center. (Check the school calendar and watch Bannocknet and the BES website for any changes.) We encourage your participation when we discuss upcoming events, budget matters, and other issues that affect every child enrolled at Bannockburn.

Suggestions, ideas and comments are always welcome. Let's make this successful and enriching year for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Huey

hueyjb@msn.com

Meredith McGuire

merrywrites@aol.com

## Sally Foster and Harry London

### Order forms are here! ... Time to help B.E.S.

As you all have noticed by now, Sally Foster Gift Wrap and Harry London order forms were sent out in the Wed. envelope on Wed. Sept. 8th. We are very excited about the product selection offered this year. As you proceed with your order, please remember a few things:

This year any class that hits 70% participation or higher will get a pizza party and Mr. Mills will be hosting an ice cream social for the top four selling families!

And.....

You have until Oct. 15, 2004 to place your orders.

Write your child's name, phone number, grade and teacher on the order forms.

Collect payment in advance. Make checks payable to Bannockburn PTA.

Add Maryland Sales Tax (5%) to all orders.

Please tally your completed orders vertically and horizontally.

Every order helps us improve the quality of our children's education. Remember 50% of every dollar collected stays at the school. This money will be directed by the members of the PTA in ways that will benefit our children.

If you have questions: contact Kate Bryer at 301-320-9267 and zeiselbryer@comcast.net or Darryl Jodrey at 301-320-2949 and djodrey@corus.jnj.com.

<b>The Bannockburn Banner</b>	
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## *Making Bannocknet Better For You*

Bannocknet will now offer weekly community announcements via e-mail. All messages not explicitly covering Bannockburn school or PTA business will be sent out once a week on Wednesdays as a single e-mail. The material in the e-mail is considered unofficial and not necessarily endorsed by Bannockburn Elementary School or the PTA. Appropriate topics include car pool info and requests, non-school sports team announcements, and lost/found item reports etc. Business advertisements will be permitted, but these will be listed in a separate section of the announcements.

Advertisements for a given person/business will not be posted more than one time each calendar month. All unofficial e-mails sent to Bannocknet will be included in the weekly announcements as we transition to the new system. If you have a post that you would like to include in the Weekly Community Announcements, please send an email by COB Monday to be included in Wednesday's e-mail to: Lori Rieckelman at [rieckell@aol.com](mailto:rieckell@aol.com).

Messages for the announcements cannot exceed 200 words. Please do not use html coding in your message - for example, you can include a link to an image in your message, but you cannot embed an image so that it automatically loads in the reader's email program (this can really slow things down). We also request that you do not include attachments. All messages in the announcements will be sent in the same font and size (formatted by the moderator when the weekly message is sent - so it does not matter what font or size you use to submit it, as it will be standardized later).

### *2004-2005 PTA Executive Board*

Please contact this year's board members with questions, concerns, or suggestions. And remember to thank them for their efforts!

**Janice Huey & Meredith McGuire**

Co-Presidents

**Jim Kretz & Sana Shtasel**

Treasurers

**Lori Karaosmanoglu & Chelle Parsky**

Communications & School Support VP's

**Tundi Agardy & Anne LeBeau**

Fundraising VP's

**Trish DeRuggiero & Kim Moulard**

In-School, Cultural, & Community Service VP's

**Stacy Kincaid & Dominique Maggio**

Enrichment & After-School Clubs VP's

**Kim Brams & Kate Kuhn**

Social Activities VP's

**Amy Hancock & Keith Parsky**

MCCPTA Reps

**Sarah King**

## *Bannockburn Class of 1966*

### **Makes Generous Gift to School**

The class of 1966, which included current Bannockburn parent Steve Zeisel, is making a very generous donation of more than \$1800.00 to our media center this fall. Ken Wagman, who contacted the PTA at the beginning of the summer, was one of the organizers of the effort to solicit contributions from fellow class members living around the country. Ken, who currently lives in California, fondly remembers our community and school. He emphasized that the class of 1966 wished the donation to be used for the purchase of books, given that many of the class members "have been bibliophiles for almost half a century." Our Media Specialist, Mrs. Hardy has been working with a class of 1966 representative to make decisions about book selections. The PTA extends its gratitude to Steve, Ken and the rest of their classmates. Our children, and many more to come, will benefit greatly from their generosity.

## *Media Center Gets New TV Equipment*

If you are a fifth grader you probably already know that the TV studio has been updated with new equipment over the summer. Using donations from last year's "no show" fundraiser as well as monies from other fundraising efforts, the PTA was able to provide Mrs. Hardy with just over \$4000.00 to replace old equipment, including such items as microphones and monitors. It's just another example of your dollars at work to make our BES kids look and sound better!

## *We Appreciated Your Helping Hands*

Ruth Rabner, Kim Moulard, Trish DiRuggiero, Linda Foreman, Michelle Cho, Lori Karaosmanoglu, Phoebe Eliopoulos, Janice Huey and Meredith McGuire all worked together to get the first week of Wednesday Envelopes ready for the teachers to send home. With so many helpers it definitely was light work.

## *Check out the Bannockburn Elementary School Web Site!*

If you haven't already discovered how wonderful and useful our web site is, you should take some time to explore the many changes and additions. Benno Schmidt and Mrs. Hardy have been hard at work to make this a resource that you don't want to overlook.

Just some of the things you will want to check out are the Media Center page with its grade level links to specific topics, the up-to-date PTA Events Calendar, and the Community Service page. Plus you will find school lunch menus, MCPS recommended reading lists for all grades, and much more!

The address is <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/bannockburnes/>.

## *Bannockburn gets honored for community service*

On Wednesday, September 8, 2004, Bannockburn Elementary School was honored by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless at its "Celebrating Partnerships" breakfast. The Executive Director of the Coalition, Sharan London, was joined by the President of the Montgomery County Council, Steven Silverman, to present this award to Bannockburn. Our new principal, Kim Bosnic, along with Bannockburn's school counselor, Elizabeth Whiting, and PTA Community Service Co-chairs, Sheryl Israel and Heidi Bumpers, received this award on behalf of the school.

Bannockburn students have worked closely with the Coalition on a number of community service projects, including making sandwiches for homeless persons, donating school supplies, and the annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Mini-Walk. In addition, last year a number of Bannockburn classes participated in educational awareness programs regarding homeless issues that were run by Coalition staff.

Bannockburn is continuing its partnership with the Coalition, and has started planning a number of projects for the students this year. We are currently collecting new and "like new" school supplies in a box located in the front foyer of the school. These donations will go to families that have moved into transitional and permanent housing operated by the Coalition. We will accept donations through September 30th.

We are also tentatively planning to hold the Help the Homeless Mini-Walk on October 20th during recess (save the date -- we'll need volunteers!). We are trying to plan some educational awareness programs for the students in advance of the Mini-Walk so that the students will have a better understanding of how their efforts help needy people in our community.

If you have questions or would like to help with the community service projects this year, please contact Sheryl Israel at [sheryl.israel@shawpittman.com](mailto:sheryl.israel@shawpittman.com) or Heidi Bumpers at [hdbumpers@JonesDay.com](mailto:hdbumpers@JonesDay.com).

## *Ledo Pizza Nights*

Mark Your Calendar! It's Bannockburn Elementary School Nights at Ledo Pizza on Monday, October, 18 and Tuesday, Oct. 19. Dine in or Carryout -- Ledo's donates 20% of your tab to the PTA. Please make sure that you mention Bannockburn Elementary School. In addition to pizza, Ledo's also serves delicious pasta, subs, salads and more. Ledo's is located at 5245 River Road, Bethesda, MD. See you there!

## *We Still Need You*

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who have already volunteered to fill the many important chair positions that enable us to run so many fabulous programs. Your contributions most definitely make our school a great place for kids to learn. For anyone who would still like to be a part of this incredibly important effort, we do have some positions we still need to fill. These include: Homeroom Liaisons, Mayfair co-chairs, School Safety co-chair, Fifth Grade Activities Team, Bingo Night co-chair, Skate Night co-chair, and Office Assistance Coordinator. If you want to know more about any of these positions please contact Janice Huey or Meredith McGuire.

## *Thanks Again For the Fabulous Makeover*

Jim Mahaffie aided by Shari Fisher, Anne Myers, Janice Huey, Betsy, Haley, & Mimi Lawrence, and our Building Service Team did an awesome job of clearing, landscaping and planting. The school looked wonderful and inviting to all the new and returning students, parents and staff.

## Notes from our school counselor

Elizabeth Whiting

### Child Assault Prevention

The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program will be presented to the 2nd grade classes in October. This is the 4th year of the program here at Bannockburn. The PTA is generously funding our school's workshops. In the past, Montgomery county and private funding provided this service free to public schools. However, county funding was cut last year because of budget constraints. As a result, public schools had to pick up part of the cost. Unless county funding is restored, the cost of the program will increase for us next year. This is a very useful workshop which teaches empowerment and safety procedures to our students.

A letter with more explanation of the program will be sent to all 2nd grade families along with a parent resource handbook. It is a good idea to dig out that old handbook and review the safety concepts with your older children. If there are any questions about CAP, please call me at the school.

### Parent Program on Stress and Anxiety

Sonya Braverman, LCSW, will speak with parents of the Whitman cluster elementary schools on anxiety and stress in children. The program will be in the evening at Bannockburn with the date to be determined. A flyer and Bannocknet notices will go out to all parents when the date has been confirmed. Ms. Braverman has been a respected therapist in the community for many years. Look for this program in October or November. It is sponsored by the Whitman Cluster Elementary Counselors.

### Kids College K-12

The Montgomery College catalogue of fall courses for all students K-12 is now available. Copies may soon be in the information boxes in Bannockburn's front hall. Information can also be obtained at their web site: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youth.html](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youth.html).

### How To See The Counselor

As Bannockburn's Counselor, I am available as a resource for any child or family in the school. Parents can call me at the school number of 301-320-6555 or write a note or email. Children may request to see me by putting a note in my Counselor's Box in the Media Center, by telling their teacher, or by telling me when they see me around the school. (I do sometimes forget if I don't write it down at the time). The principal, teachers or other staff use me as a resource as well and I may see children at their request. The reasons children request to see me are as varied as the children themselves. Each is unique.

Elizabeth Whiting

Counselor

## Calendar

September 22	Principal's Coffee for grades K-2, 9:30 am to 10:30 am Parent Volunteer Training in the Media Center, 7 pm
September 23	Parent Information Meeting for Instrumental Music Students in the Music Room, 9:30 am
September 24	Principal's Coffee for grades 3-5, 9:30 am to 10:30 am
September 30	Tryouts for Instrumental Music Beginning Students Last day to sign up!
October 4	Early Release Day K-AM in School (No School for K-PM)
October 5	PTA Meeting in the Media Center, 7 pm
October 8	Newsletter Deadline
October 11	Columbus Day Open House, 9:15 am to noon
October 14	Individual School Pictures
October 15	Professional Day – No School
October 22	Artist in Residence Performance at Whitman High School, 7 pm

### Many Thanks to Many Painters

The Yellow hall looks so great thanks to these parents and staff members:

Linda Syverson Guild, Shari Fisher, Trudi Bick and her son Chris, Ruth Rabner, Karen Clarkson, Dominique Maggio, Risa Sandler, Janice Huey, Chelle Parsky, Hilary Joel, Joan Chadwick, Ross Mills, Claire Hearle, Lanee Howell, & Mr. Johanson

## *Easy Money For Bannockburn!!!*

Everyone who buys groceries can help, and there is no cost or hassle for you. There are three separate programs that benefit the school. Sign up now for one, two or all three...

### **Giant Bonus Bucks Program:**

After you register, Giant Supermarket (all locations) will donate money to our school automatically every time you shop with your Giant Bonus Card. It does not matter how you pay for your groceries (cash, check, credit card...) as long as they scan your Bonus Card or get your telephone number. It works with Peapod.com as well, if you register your card number online.

What to do? Even if you participated last year, you must re-register your Bonus Card online and designate our school. Please go to [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com) now! From the home page, click "Visit Your Local Giant". Then click "A+ BonusBucks". Then click "Designate your Schools" and select BES. You will need to have your Bonus Card number handy. If you lost your card, ask for the number next time you shop, by giving your telephone number. If you do not yet have a Giant Bonus Card, you can easily get one the next time you are in the store.

### **Giant Gift Cards Program:**

This program is for people willing to purchase Giant Gift Cards from the PTA to use as their method of payment at Giant (instead of cash, checks or credit cards). Our school PTA keeps 4% of the value on all Gift Cards we sell, but there is no cost to you.

What to do? You simply buy gift cards from our PTA Giant rep, Ellen Stoute, in increments of \$50 or \$100. You pay the exact face value (no extra), via a check to the PTA and the Gift Cards are delivered to your home. You can get Gift Cards just one time, occasionally/holidays, or on a monthly cycle (e.g., \$200/month) – whatever you arrange with Ellen. And you don't need to use an entire card in one shopping trip. Contact Ellen at 301.469.9499 or [ejstoute@comcast.net](mailto:ejstoute@comcast.net).

### **Safeway Program:**

The Safeway Club for Education calculates and makes a donation each time you make a purchase and show your card. The program will donate up to 3% of your total purchase to Bannockburn if you designate our school online and then use the card.

What to do: If you don't have a Safeway Club Card, you can sign up for one at the store and use it immediately. If you already have one, you must re-register your card by going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), click Sign Up and designate Bannockburn with group ID# 6472395. You will need your Safeway Club Card number.

So please don't wait! Sign up today. This is an easy way to earn money for our school!

Thank you. Any questions? Contact Hilary Joel at [hilaryjoel@earthlink.net](mailto:hilaryjoel@earthlink.net) or 301.365.5783.

## *Save the Date for Math Day!*

Math Day will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2005. As usual, we will need a lot of parents to help run the math games (in 1½ hour shifts), as well as to help set up the night before. So mark your calendars now! More details to follow!

Deborah Duffy, Lori Karosmanoglu and Karen Melchar

## *Cafeteria News and Reminders*

The cafeteria continues to offer the convenience and flexibility of a computerized cash register system.

The personalized identification number (PIN) for returning students will remain the same. New students received their PIN number on the first day of school.

When making a deposit by check, please write the student's complete name and PIN number on the front of the check. To make a combined deposit for family members at this school, please indicate the deposit amount for each student next to the name.

Returned checks will be subject to a \$25.00 service charge.

Any money left on a student's account last year will be available for spending this year.

To make a payment, download the form from the MCPS website: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/foodserv/debitsystem/backtoschool.shtml> or request a copy from the school cafeteria.

Meal	Prices:	A la Carte	Prices:
Lunch:	\$1.85	Milk:	\$.40
Reduced Lunch:	\$.40	Chips:	\$.65
Breakfast:	\$1.00	Cookies:	\$.25
Reduced Breakfast:	\$.30	Ice Cream:	\$.50

## *This is you PTA newsletter!*

The Banner is one of the best ways to communicate to all Bannockburn Elementary School parents. If there is anything you would like to include in the newsletter, email your text to Chelle Parsky at [chelleparsky@parsky.org](mailto:chelleparsky@parsky.org). Or you may leave a disk in the PTA mailbox. Next month's deadline is Friday, October 8, at 3:30 pm.