

The Bear Essentials - News You Can Use!

Short weeks are always so busy...and with the threat of bad weather and Valentine's Day—it was extra hectic at the Lake this week!

First, we received news that our wonderful counselors, Ms. Marantz and Dr. Griffith will be honored this June at the American School Counselors Association annual conference in Minnesota for being one of the 45 counseling programs across the US this year to be recognized by earning the RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) designation. WOW! We are so proud!

Speaking of great counseling programs. Two of ours—our On-A-Roll program and our Berkeley's Best program—recognized students for their achievement this week. On-A-Roll honors students who have worked diligently to improve their academic grades from the previous quarter. Students recognized for this include: Madison Mort, Leslie Hernandez, Narin Banian, Anneliese Pelcastre, Nikolas Pichot, Jorge Dominguez, Michelle Dearborn, Lola Kirstein, Cydney Merrick, Tiara Tyler, Haley Torres, Jose Garcia, Kyle Doan, Destyn Blanks, Eli Johnson, Eric Leon, Haniel Serrano, Alvaro Silva-Ventura, Roman Fish, Samuel Bennett, Mauricio Mendoza, Jibril Pinkston, Xitlali Espinoza, Dylan Nabeth, DJ Phipps, Rhett Wells, Courtney Zehnder, Andrea Flores, Ashley Angeles, Alex Bennett, Brian Nguyen, Josalyn Osborne, Jonathan Lara, Seyedeh Bozorgnia, Christine Baek, Melisande Tello, Vincent Tran, Francisco Alba, Andrea Juarez, Abigail Burke, Courtney Danridge, Victor Dunn, Ameir Harmon, Kameron Achtenberg, Jesus Medina, Timothy Cooper, Christaly Dominguez, Carlos Enrique-Gomez, Ava Gilbert, Melissa Martinez-Osorio, Joshua Silva, David Molina Alvarado, Jason Arenas, Jade Oliveros, Guilebaldo Clemente, Yasmeen Gaye, Breanna LaBar, Brandon Moreno, Bryan Delacruz-Hernandez, Bryson Anthony, Luis Torres, Gimena Flores, Daniela Zuccala, Tyjuan Carver, Yazlynn Orozco, John Roe, Ulises Flores, Makenzie Osborne, Araceli Rodriguez, Demi Lehman, Emmanuel Sanchez, Stefani Cruz, Huakai Qin, Chloe Bingham, Fernande Lara-Lugo, Mayra Pelcastre, Scorsese Simms, Torey Walker, and Kianna Sams.

Berkeley's Best recognizes students who have shown outstanding character and citizenship. Our Berkeley's Best students are : Jessica Duran, Sam Choate, Beverly Zheng, Kristhy Lopez, Emily Melgar, Denny Cajo, Anneliese Pelcastre, Bryan Garcia-Martinez, Alexa Cardenas-Brito, Andres Medina, Daniel Li, Haley Torres, Jose Garcia, Le'Anah Smith, Ceara Higgins, Keishawn Hampton, Carter Hanson, Joseph Mends, Renee Kramer, Adolfo Macario-Calvac, Santiago Ruiz, Chester Gutu, Peter Dixon, Hannah Creedon, Jared Blackmon, Evelin Macario-Calvac, Mario Lopez, Christopher Granados-Martinez, Aniya Anderson, Levi Chafin, Lizeth Pena, Orlando Martinez, Trey Woolley, Maja Chec, Jayonna Lindsey, Nathan Rivas, Michelle Hernandez, Seyeden Bozorgnia, Christine Baek, Anny Gaspar, Diana Ventura, Mahyssa Sotelo, Angel Garcia, Abigail Burke, Victor Dunn, Sofia Conejo, Catherine Flores, Carson Barnhill, Ansa Liebenberg, Ching-Tai Chang, Da'zae Washington, Ekeiso Imasuagbon, Bradley Johnson, Knighton Walker, Dalia Elmamoun, Alexander Gonzalez, Misahel Nunez, Stefany Ramirez, Kevin Chen, Tyjuan Carver, Disha Dave, Katherine Ruiz, Stefanni Cruz, Logan Goins, Mistafulus Simuel, Emily Orellana, Alicia Cruz, Kimberly Rangel-Aldana, Valeria Acosta, Arturo Cerda, Saamira Banit, and Alondra Rodriguez-Flores.

Although not students, I'd like to also recognize the following individuals who did a great job helping us in our café recently. Thanks to : Rob Hiller, Leigh Ann Letson, Sandra Orci, and Holly Davis.

If you've been following the news, you know that Georgia is one of the states that President Obama granted waivers to regarding AYP. I know you are interested (as am I) in what this specifically means. As soon as I have all the details, be

assured-I will share them with you.

While I'm on legislation, Mr. Wilbanks asked us to ask you to consider contacting your representative from the Gwinnett delegation to the Georgia House of Representatives regarding HR 1162. This is a suggested constitutional amendment to address charter schools. HB 1162 enables the General Assembly to re-direct tax funds to any type of special school over the objections of local boards and local taxpayers. There is no appeals process. HR 1162 would give the General Assembly unlimited power to decide and define what constitutes a "special school" under the Georgia constitution. It also prohibits the Supreme Court from reviewing state use of these new powers by using such a broad term. Mr. Wilbanks asks that you review HR 1162 today and call your legislator about it.

At its most recent meeting, our K-Kids hosted Ms. Carisa Hettich from the American Red Cross-Metro Atlanta Chapter. She spoke to our K-Kids about home evacuation during types of natural disasters. February is Severe Weather month, so the students were interested in what to do in case of tornadoes, hurricanes and floods. While we practice various evacuation/safety methods at school, it is important for families to think about such safety procedures within their homes. For more information, you may contact www.atlantaredcross.org. Did you know our K Kids (Kids Kiwanis) Club is the largest in the US? Did you also know they'll be sponsoring a pancake breakfast for us here at Berkeley Lake on 4/21? YUM!

Of course, tomorrow (2/17) and Monday (2/20) are school holidays. Enjoy the long weekend—we'll see you next week for a very full agenda. The Book Fair runs from 2/21-2/24 with evening hours on 2/21 from 5-6PM before PTA and on 2/24 from 5-7PM (before Bingo Night).

Tuesday, 2/21, is our second Fine Arts Night. This one will feature our 4th graders singing and dancing. The PTA meeting will begin at 6:15 with the program following immediately.

Because we received overwhelming support from our community for Berkeley Lake to become a schoolwide Title program next year, we will be holding our first Schoolwide Title Program planning meeting next Friday, 2/24.

The evening of 2/24 will be our annual Bingo Night. Ms. Sosa and Ms. Mettillie already have lots of wonderful prizes to give away. I hope you will join me for this really fun family evening. Hats off to our sponsors: Twisted Taco, IC Racing, Discovery Point, Nails N'More, Mori Luggage & Gifts, Pure Taqueria, Lenka Taylor (massage therapist), The Flying Biscuit, Belk, JR's Log House, Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble, Gladiator's, Brunswick Zone Bowling, Queen Bee Designs, Gary's Honey, Shane's Rib Shack, Van Michael's, Copeland's, Starbucks, Zaxby's, Trader Joes, and Ann Tiberghien. Also don't forget that at Bingo Night, the PTA will have special pricing on the 2011-2012 yearbook. That night only, you can order the yearbook for just \$25. The PTA will be taking yearbook orders in the front lobby, before Bingo starts.

The morning of Saturday, 2/25, we will hold our final Fifth Grade Saturday Writing Workshop and our first Fourth Grade Saturday School here at Berkeley Lake. Thanks to all who have and will participate.

Did you know that registration for Gwinnett Online Campus is open now until 2/29? Families who wish to enroll students full-time in grades 6-12 for the 2012-2013 school year need to submit a registration intent form during the month of February. The one page Intent to Register form is located on Gwinnett Online Campus' website gwinnettonlinecampus.com. Parents can mail, fax or drop off the Intent to Register form at GOC's main office at



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Important calendar dates :

- 2/17 Student/Teacher Holiday
- 2/20 Student/Teacher Holiday
- 2/21-2/24 Dental Clinic
- 2/21-2/28 Book Fair
- 2/21 Chess Club
- 2/21 BLAST
- 2/21 Title Orientation Meeting—Conference Room-5:30-6:15PM
- 2/21 4th Grade Music and Dance program—6:30PM
- 2/22 Adult English Class
- 2/22 BLAST
- 2/23 Terrific Thursday
- 2/24 Strings
- 2/24 Bingo Night! - 6-8:30PM
- 2/25 5th Gr Writing Workshop:8:30-10:30
- 2/25 4th Gr Saturday School:9:00-12:00
- 2/27 Early Release—12noon
- 2/28 Early Release—12noon

Remember—
No School
on Friday, 2/17
and Monday,
2/20.

2595 Beaver Ruin Road, Building F, in Norcross. Hours are 7:30AM –3:30PM Monday-Friday.

Here's a technology resource for your children. It's an engaging way for students to learn the general location of the letters on the keyboard to help youngsters learn to type. It's called Keyboard Climber Games and can be found at TVOKids.com.url

That's all the news for this week. Enjoy your Presidents' holiday weekend!

Dr. McLeod