



Bear Prints

A World Of Possibilities

Blesbearprints@gmail.com

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Visit us at

www.Gwinnett.k12.ga.us/BerkeleyLakeES/

and at

www.blespta.org

**Bear Prints
is supported by
your PTA dollars
and hours.**

Berkeley Lake Elementary

PTA

everychild.onevoice.

Support the BLES Business Partners

BLES will be having its final fundraiser of the school year on April 13.

Please join us to have a great time with friends while raising money for our school!

Watch for more details!

**April 13
Jason's Deli
at The Forum**

The PTA needs you!

If you are interested in being an active part of BLES, contact Guillermo Finol at:

gfinol@bellsouth.net



March 26, 2009 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Here's a chance to play games, have fun AND strengthen your math skills. Drop in any time 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on March 26 to learn and play games that will further your understanding of math concepts.

You can pick up a "passport" and then "travel" to three classrooms and play games. Get your passport stamped in all three rooms and you will be eligible for a FREE HOMEWORK PASS. (Turn the passport into your teacher the next day to receive the homework pass!)

In addition, we will have free take-home math game kits for the first 200 families that arrive so you can play these fun games and learn together at home!

Add this to your family's calendar now and plan on joining us for this evening of learning and enjoyment!

A form to make reservations for this exciting night were sent home recently. We hope everyone has returned their forms. If you still need a form or have any other questions about Family Math Night, please contact:

Peg Gonzalez: peg_gonzalez@gwinnett.k12.ga.us

Immunization Requirements for Elementary and Middle School

Immunization requirements for all children entering Kindergarten and 6th grade and new enrollees now include two doses of measles vaccine, 2 doses of mumps vaccine and one dose of rubella vaccine.

Also required are two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. Children having the documentation of the disease or laboratory proof of immunity do not need the vaccinations.

Since the second varicella vaccine was not required when they entered school, most of our 5th graders do not have record of that immunization on file. This record must be received for entry into Middle School.

Many doctors and the health department are giving the required vaccinations at routine visits. If your child receives vaccinations, ask your health care provider for the Georgia Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231). Please send a copy of the certificate to the school clinic. It will be filed in your child's permanent record.

Boy Scouts Hold Food Drive!

Cub Scouts Pack 650 is "Doing a Good Turn" by collecting canned food for the Atlanta Community Food Bank (www.acfb.org) as part of the regional Scouting for Food event.

Starting March 21, Boy Scouts of all ages will visit local neighborhoods and invite residents to put a sack of canned food on their porches by 10:00 a.m. on March 28. The scouts will return then to collect the donations.

Donations can also be brought to Publix at Tree Summit Village on March 28. Boy Scouts will be on-site in the parking lot between noon and 5:00 p.m. to assist you.

Sponsors Needed for Sunshine Math

The PTA is looking for individuals or corporations to sponsor Sunshine Math for the 2009-2010 school year.

The total cost is estimated at \$1,500 to \$2,000 and includes prizes, parties, and copying the weekly worksheets! Contact Guillermo Finol at: gfinol@bellsouth.net

Funds Needed to Support BLES PTA

Due to the status of our present economy, the PTA will not sponsor an additional fundraiser this year. Therefore, to continue our scheduled programs and activities, additional funds are required.

Any monetary donation made to the BLES PTA, by you or your corporation, would be greatly appreciated. These donations are tax deductible, and a receipt will be provided.

Please make checks payable to the BLES PTA and include the name of your child and his/her teacher.

Thank you for supporting our school and the endeavors of the PTA.

Got Paper?

The BLES PTA needs paper! If you can donate, please contact Guillermo Finol at:

gfinol@bellsouth.net.

Georgia Pacific employees: please ask at work about their donation policy!

Book Fair March 26 – April 1

Mark your calendars—the Spring Scholastic Book Fair will be here before you know it! It will be held right before Spring Break. This is a great time to get books to read over the spring vacation or stock up for summer reading.

For more information, read your weekly Bear Essentials or look for fliers in the Friday Folders. If you are interested in helping out, please call the school and ask for the media center. See you at the FAIR!

From the Principal's Desk...

Last month, we started the class list process for next year by asking you to give us your input into the type of environment in which your child best learns. I know it was only February and we have a lot of school to go for this year, but this is an important process that takes a lot of time to do correctly.

Thanks to all who responded with input regarding their child's placement. If you have not yet done so, but still wish to, please send in your form ASAP. If you have misplaced the form, send me a note. You are welcome to share what learning environment attributes optimize your child's achievement as well as any potential classmates you would prefer not to be in your child's class. I will try to honor all these requests. However, please know I will not honor specific teacher requests as all our teachers are outstanding professionals.

This month, our classroom teachers, led by me, will begin their first round of meetings to develop next year's class rosters. Teachers will be looking at balancing classes by gender and ethnicity as well as placing your child in a room that will optimize his or her learning. As important as matching a student to a teacher is matching a student to the right mix of peers.

Over the next two months, there will be three rounds of classroom teacher meetings to develop lists. After the second and third rounds of meetings, our ESOL, gifted, Special Education and Special Areas teachers and our counselors will also review class groupings. Each teacher will be checking to make sure the classes developed really work for each of our students.

Finally, the administrators will do a final check and verify your input was honored and that the classes are the best we can develop to maximize our students' learning. As you can tell, we take this process very seriously. There are computer programs that develop class lists that take little time and many schools use them. However, we believe that by putting our time in upfront, we can provide your child with a better experience throughout next year.

Thanks, in advance, for your help with and support of this process. If you have any questions about it, please feel free to call me at 770-446-0947.

Dr. McLeod

Reminder: Dental Program

Berkeley Lake Elementary is again cooperating with the East Metro Health District to provide the opportunity for students who do not have access to dental care to participate in a preventive dental program.

From April 28 to May 1, 2009, during school hours, dentists and dental hygienists will come to the school and do dental screenings, cleanings, fluoride treatments, and sealants. A report will be sent home and the dental form for school can be completed. If follow-up work is needed, more information will be provided on how to seek further care.

The Health District does not bill or charge parents for their school services. If a child has Medicaid or Peachcare for Kids, it is filed for them.

Fifth, third, and first graders will receive permission forms for parents to complete and return to school if they choose to have their child receive care. Students in other grades who need care may also participate; parents should request the forms for these students.

Watch for more information and permission forms in April.

B-I-N-G-O NIGHT SELLS OUT!!!

A big thank our sponsors, volunteers and attendees for making Bingo Night such a huge success. It was the perfect example of collaboration!

Of course, the evening would not have been possible without the generous contributions from our wonderful sponsors (see the list below). We also had an overwhelming number of volunteers who organized and served the café food, set up and cleaned the cafeteria, and sold tickets.

A very special thank you goes to our guest bingo callers, Dr. Mcleod and Miss Polly. Also, let's "give it up" for fourth grade teacher Kevin Paul, for his delightful performances between the games. Thanks must also be given to art teacher Jamie Treadwell, for designing the power point presentation in recognition of our sponsors. Kayla and Kate were responsible for the Café, thank you so much! Last, but of course, not least, thanks to all of the families who attended! The BLES PTA is very appreciative. Thank you for supporting the goals of the PTA and helping us develop a strong relationship between our PTA, School and Community.

-Maricruz Sosa

BINGO Night Present Sponsors 2009

Salon Moda: Certificates for a facial, a massage, and a cut/style

10305 Medlock Bridge Road, Duluth

Classic Nails: A certificate for manicure/pedicure

4772 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody

Best Buy: A gift card for \$50.00

Ippolito's: A gift card for \$25

The Forum, 5275 Peachtree Parkway, Norcross

Gwinnett Gladiators: Two premium tickets

6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

Barnes & Noble: Two gift packs

5141 Peachtree Parkway Norcross

The Flying Biscuit- Two \$25.00 gift certificates

5270 Peachtree Parkway, Norcross

Brunswick Zone: A certificate for a family fun pass for 6 (value \$69.00)

6345 Spalding Drive, Norcross

Croppin Diva Designs: A stationery gift pack

Blog: www.croppindiva.blogspot.com

Email: Croppin_diva@yahoo.com

A Child's Space

www.achildsspace.net

Busy Bee Designs

qbdesigns@comcast.net

www.queenbee.cceasy.com

Shane's Rib Shack: Three \$25.00 gift certificates

5770 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross

Brian Boardman: Legos, Legos and legos

Upcoming Dates

April

3 Spring class parties

6-10 Spring Break—NO SCHOOL!

14-17, 20 CRCT for grades 3, 4, 5

21 Running Club Begins

22-24 CRCT for grades 1, 2

25 Planting Day 9-11:00 am

May

1 Bear Cub Cookout

4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week

6 School Nurse Day

7 Kindergarten Registration

11 Kindergarten Round-Up

13 Cafeteria Employee Day

19 Last day of Running Club

May 20 ... Last day of school!

Bear Prints is edited
by Susan
and is translated into Spanish
by Diana Diazgranados
and Wiley Rinaldi.

Be Green to Earn Green for BLES

Recycle your Capri Sun and Kool Aid drink pouches and BLES will receive \$.02 per pouch. Begin collecting today and turn into the school with your student.

Play N Trade: Retro Duo Console
Peachtree Corners

Monkey Joes: 12 Certificates to enter

Starbucks: Chocolates and treats
4205-A Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth

Kids Chess: One chess set
2501-E Piedmont Rd. Suite 160 Marietta
www.KidChess.com

Read It Again: Gift certificate
3630 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 314 Suwanee
www.read-it-again.com

Sassy Girl Design: Gift bags
3707 Main Street Duluth
www.sassygirldesign.com

Camp Invention Returns to BLES

Berkeley Lake Elementary is pleased to host the Camp Invention program, an exciting weeklong summer day experience for children entering grades one through six during the week of June 1-5, 2009, with all new activities!

The program is designed to inspire creativity and inventive thinking through loads of hands-on activities and F-U-N! Children will participate in five inventive modules each day, including: the ***Viking Treasure Trek: The Quest Begins***[™] module, where children will become the first to find the hidden treasure of the Vikings; the ***Land Sled X-Treme***[™] module, where they will engineer and build the next great land vehicle; and the ***Comic Book Science: FlyJack and Jill***[™] module, where they learn how superheroes fly and then create their ideal comic book star.

Camp Invention integrates science, mathematics, history, and the arts in an exciting environment conducive to learning disguised as fun!

Kathy Bentley will direct the program, and certified teachers from Berkeley Lake will lead five modules each day. Enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as counselors. The program features a low staff-to-child ratio, with one staff member for every eight children.

The registration fee includes snacks and a Camp Invention T-shirt. Register before March 31st or bring a friend to receive \$20 off the base registration price of \$205; online registrants receive an additional \$5 savings! **Hurry! If you register by March 31st, you may choose to make 3 payments of \$61.68.**

Call 800.968.4332 today to inquire about savings opportunities for your family. Registration is limited to 110 children and spaces are limited. Don't let your child miss all the fun!

For more information or to register, visit www.campinvention.org or call 800.968.4332.