



# Bedford Hills Elementary

## ECHOES

Volume XXVIII No. 2

3506 Morningside Drive  
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[www.lcsedu.net/schools/bhs/](http://www.lcsedu.net/schools/bhs/)

### Important Dates

#### February 2018

- 2—Spirit Day
- 2-9—Scholastic Book Fair
- 5—PTO Board Meeting
- 8—VA Repertory Theatre performs  
“Huck & Tom & the Mighty Mississippi”  
and Family Fun Night with Book Fair
- 14—SCA Carnation Sale
- 20—Class Pictures & Spring Portraits
- 23—SCA “Wacky Hat” Day

#### March 2017

- 2— Spirit Day & Read Across America
- 5—PTO Board Meeting
- 9—Friday at the Academy Concert  
(Violin students)
- 15—Early Dismissal – 12:15 PM
- 16---No School for Students
- 19—47<sup>th</sup> Annual Suzuki Festival (Violins)
- 30—SCA “Twin” Day

#### April 2017

- 2-6—Spring Break
- 9—PTO Board Meeting
- 13—Spirit Day & R.E.A.D. Celebration
- 20—Field Day (rain date 4/27)
- 24—PTO General Meeting &  
Kindergarten Play
- 27—SCA “Duct Tape” Day
- 30—5<sup>th</sup> grade Reading SOL

### Spring Message from BHS Principal, Sherri Steele

Dear Husky Families,

I am having so much fun getting to know your wonderful children! They are working hard and following the Husky Way, Every Day! I am so thankful for your support and partnership in their education!

Just like our students, our BHS team is continuing to learn and grow together. We are committed to working together as a Professional Learning Community (PLC). We meet throughout the week in collaborative teams, along with administrators and specialists to analyze our student data, use evidence-based strategies to improve student learning, create common formative assessments and focus on ways to differentiate for the needs of all learners.

We are also collaborating with division leaders and other educators in Lynchburg City Schools as we work together to continue our collective ‘Tradition of Excellence’. Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Holmes and I are also ‘going back to college together’ on Thursday nights at Lynchburg College for a course on Urban Education that was developed in collaboration with Lynchburg College, Lynchburg City Schools and leaders in the field of education. As you can see, our BHS team is committed to high levels of learning for all students. We are dedicated to giving our Huskies our very best, each and every day!

Our partnership between home and school is also an essential aspect of your child’s success. Thank you for speaking positively to your child about school, learning and the importance of working through challenges. If you ever have questions, concerns or need support, our team is here to help. Please do not hesitate to call, email or set up a conference. If you are not receiving our weekly Husky Howler Newsletter through your email or if you need a

paper copy, please call the office and let us know. This is the best way to stay informed of school events. Also, please follow me on Twitter @BedfordHillsES.



In Service to BHS,  
Mrs. Steele, Principal

[steelesl@lcsedu.net](mailto:steelesl@lcsedu.net)

434-515-5210

# Important Dates

## May 2018

- 1—4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading SOL
- 2—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading SOL (part 1)
- 3—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading SOL (part 2)
- 4—Spirit Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Virginia Studies SOL
- 5—PTO Yard Sale
- 7—PTO Board Meeting
- 7-11—Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- 7-11—SOL Makeups & Remediation
- 15—5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math SOL
- 16—4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math SOL
- 17—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math SOL
- 18—5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science SOL
- 21-25—SOL Makeups & Remediation
- 25—SCA “Sunglasses” Day
- 28—Memorial Day (No school)
- 29—A.R. Celebration
- 30—K-2 Awards (AM) & 3-5 Picnics
- 31—3-5 Awards(Am) & K-2 Picnics

## June 2017

- 1—Last Day of School / Early Dismissal (12:15)

## From the Desk of PTO President, Sarah Muminovic

Happy mid-year, Huskies! Hard to believe that half of this school year is already in the books, right? I have been truly delighted with the many amazing accomplishments of our Husky community thus far and am looking forward to all of the exciting things yet to come!



In the first half of the year, the Bedford Hills PTO has been able to fund many wonderful initiatives for our school. A huge Husky thank you to all of you that chaired, contributed, and/or participated in our Fall Carnival, Silent Auction, and Raffle this past October. The success of this event meant that we were able to fully fund some of our amazing programs such as R.E.A.D, Accelerated Reader, and our beloved Watch D.O.G.S. program. We were able to purchase 4 new rugs for our teachers, provide external, enrichment assemblies for our students, and provide the Movement Education department with some new and much needed sporting equipment.

Looking ahead, the BHS PTO will be hosting our Annual Book Fair, appropriately themed, “Paws for Books: Come, Stay, and Read a Great Tale.” Our Husky readers can get their paws on a fun, new read beginning Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are many exciting events planned for Book Fair week, including one of Bedford Hills’ favorites, Family Fun Night on Thursday, February

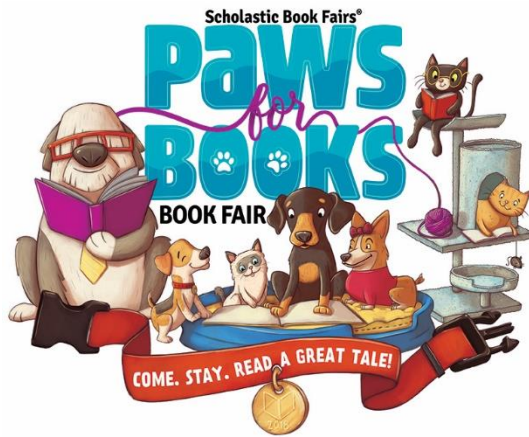
8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. We are PAWsitive you and your family will love Book Fair week!

As we continue to move along through the Spring semester, we can also look forward to Field Day on April 20<sup>th</sup>. This fun morning brings the whole Bedford Hills school community out onto the playing fields for games and activities for all of the grade levels. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Yard Sale sponsored by the PTO is held just in time to collect all of your donations from your spring cleaning. Our Used Book Sale is being held in conjunction with Yard Sale this year, so please store any of the books you may have cleared away after Book Fair to donate to this great cause! Be on the lookout for more information about these two events in the Husky Howler later this spring.

I would like to thank EVERYONE who has supported the initiatives of the PTO. Each and every contribution made; either in the form of a BoxTop sent in, by volunteering your time helping at an event, or by making a financial donation, has led to the many successful accomplishments and contributions this PTO has made to our beloved elementary school this year. I humbly ask for your continued support as we complete the second half of this school year.

Finally, if you have ever been interested in getting more involved in the PTO, now is a GREAT time! Our meetings are open to everyone and we would love to welcome fresh ideas and faces to the board. If you are interested in a board position for next year, please feel free to email me at [ptobedfordhills@gmail.com](mailto:ptobedfordhills@gmail.com) for more information. I look forward to hearing from you!

# Participate in our Spring Events!



## "Paws" for Books at The BHS Book Fair!

Ready for some Dog-gone good fun? Follow your furry friends to this year's Scholastic Book Fair "Paws for Books: Come, Stay, Read a Great Tale." **The fair begins Friday, February 2, and ends Friday, February 9.** In addition to regular shopping hours, we have some PAWS-itively awesome activities planned in the library:

**Monday, 2/5**, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m., there will be "Muffins with the Mama Cats".

**Tuesday, 2/6**, offers the Loved One "Book-nic" when grandparents or other loved ones are invited to join their students in forgoing their regular recess time to shop at the fair and then have lunch together in the cafeteria.

**Wednesday, 2/7**, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m., there will be "Donuts with D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)".

**Thursday, 2/8**, is Dress Up Day and Family Fun Night. During the school day, students can dress up as their favorite furry critter or bring in their favorite stuffed animal for a chance at a prize.

**Friday, 2/9** is your last chance to shop—grab your last minute items from 8:20-10:00 a.m.

**Shop Online too!** Purr-using the Book Fair is also possible on-line at [www.scholastic.com/bf/bedfordhillsschool](http://www.scholastic.com/bf/bedfordhillsschool).

Be on the lookout for flyers coming home in backpacks. Encourage a love of reading! Let the cat out of the bag and fill it up with books instead! Come join us!

Please contact Andrea Carothers ([andreacarothers@gmail.com](mailto:andreacarothers@gmail.com)) or Anne Wood ([annewood@verizon.net](mailto:annewood@verizon.net)) if you are interested in helping out/lending a paw with the Book Fair.

## HAVE A WAGGING GOOD TIME AT FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 FROM 6-8 PM

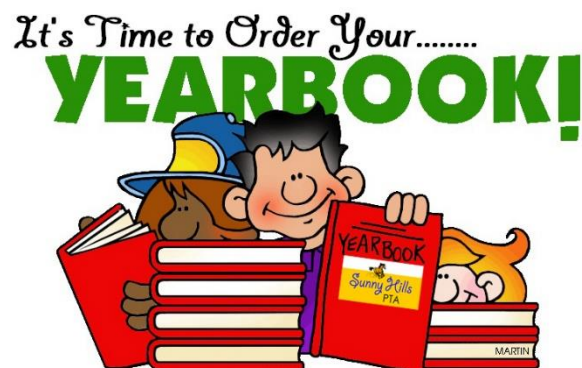
Family Fun Night runs from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and is a tail-wagging good time! In addition to the books and fun stuff for sale in the library, games and crafts will be offered at no charge, as well as balloon creations from Travis the Balloon Dude. Pizza slices and refreshments will be available for purchase, so you don't have to shop on an empty stomach or rush dinner at your own doghouse.



Contact Lisa Pacot ([lispacot@msn.com](mailto:lispacot@msn.com)) or Kate Sigler ([katewsigler@gmail.com](mailto:katewsigler@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping out with Family Fun Night.



# Extra! Extra! Read all about it in the BHS Yearbook



It's that time again; time to buy your yearbook! Online sales are currently open until March 19th at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) (code: 2943818). Pre-orders are the only time you can customize your yearbook. After online orders close, yearbooks will still be available for sale in the lobby the last two weeks of school.

Please also consider donating a few dollars to help pay for yearbooks for others who are unable to purchase. This will also help us meet our school's goal for number of yearbooks we need to sell.

And most importantly, if you have any photos that would make a great addition please send them as soon as possible. We are still looking for Carnival, field trips, and play photos as well as anything else to help capture Husky pride. Photos and questions can be emailed to [erica.elaine.powers@gmail.com](mailto:erica.elaine.powers@gmail.com). Thank you to those who have already taken part in capturing school memories!

## Roots & Shoots: Get involved with Gardening



Our first through fifth grade garden volunteers remained busy in the garden this past fall and picked many flowers, lettuce, tomatoes, basil, watermelon, and carrots! Third grade also harvested the Three Sisters – Indian corn, squash (pumpkins) and red lima beans – they planted in the spring as second graders. As the weather has grown colder, we have cleaned out the garden beds to the “Grow Heap” or a big compost pile in between straw bales. We have also collected lots of pumpkins in the grow heap and hope to have lots of pumpkin volunteers in the spring. We did not have as many monarch caterpillars as years past, but hoping for more next year. However, we did have an excellent year in the bluebird trail with 32 bluebirds fledged (babies that flew away) compared to 26 in both 2015 and

2016. This weekly data was collected by the students from April through August and submitted to the VA Bluebird Society in the fall.

We keep working in the garden all year and will put up the bird feeders this week. If you are interested in helping students fill the feeders periodically, please let me know. This can be done during recess or other convenient times – it does not take long. Garden prep and planting will be in March and we definitely need adult volunteers. Please consider helping us. I would like to have a planning meeting in February. Typically, we meet during recess on Thursdays from about 11 to 1:30. There may also be some special times to work with classes. The more adult volunteers we have, the more student volunteers can work in the garden. No experience necessary and we welcome younger children. There may also be an opportunity for a middle or high school student to do some watering if you know students who need volunteer hours this spring. As always, we will be looking for families and community organizations to commit to a week of watering this summer. That sign-up genius will go up in the spring. For more information or if you would like to be added to the email list or would like a tour of the garden, please feel free to email me – Kris Lloyd at [kdlloyd@verizon.net](mailto:kdlloyd@verizon.net).

# Save the Dates!

## Celebrate Spring at Field Day – April 20

Field day this year will be April 20, with a rain date of April 27. This is such a fun event for our school, and we will need many volunteers to make it happen. Please be on the lookout for the signup genius this spring so you can help make field day a success! Contact Lawrie Brust ([lawriebrust@yahoo.com](mailto:lawriebrust@yahoo.com)) or Marcy Farris ([mstovall213@hotmail.com](mailto:mstovall213@hotmail.com)) for more information or to volunteer.



## BHS Yard Sale – May 5: Turn Your Junk (and your nice stuff too!) Into Cash for the PTO!



Everyone does a little spring-cleaning right? Donate your unwanted items and turn them into cash for the BHS PTO. Volunteers are needed for a few hours to help set up beforehand, and, clean up after the event, which is held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.-Noon. All items can be dropped off May 4<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Contact Melody Barrera ([melodykay.barrera@gmail.com](mailto:melodykay.barrera@gmail.com)) or Heidi Carey ([heidicarey@comcast.net](mailto:heidicarey@comcast.net)).

## Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week – May 7-11

Watch for more information about how you can get involved in celebrating and appreciating the hard work performed by our teachers and staff all year long.



## Spring into involvement at BHS! Committee Members still welcome!

There are so many ways, both small and large, for parents to become involved in the BHS community. Here are some of the highlights and be sure to review the "Husky Howler" email message each week for more information about current school news and ways to be involved. It's never too late to join us and volunteer your skills!



**ACCELERATED READER (AR):** The Accelerated Reader program is designed to reward students for reaching a reading goal by year's end. The students read books and take the AR quiz on a school computer to earn points. The point goal for each student is determined by the student's teacher and librarian. Last year we held two separate AR Bonus Recess days in order to reward our kids at smaller incremental goals to help keep them motivated to achieve their overall reading goal for the year and had an end-of-the-year celebration. Contact: Kim Geier (kawils@yahoo.com) or Jennifer Ramey (jsmithramey@comcast.net).

**ART VOLUNTEER:** (Kindergarten only): No artistic ability required! Just a willingness to help and be active in your child's class. You will coordinate a 45-minute art/craft project for your child's class. The school art lobby is full of art supplies (paid for by the PTO) and ideas. Art volunteers might be in the classroom once a month or less. Check with your child's teacher for more information. Contact: Beth Hartman-Peters (birdandele@gmail.com) and Kimberly Milam (jnzane03@msn.com) who coordinate the supplies.

**BOOK FAIR:** A week-long event held in early February. Help us set-up/clean-up the Book Fair and help younger children select and write down wish lists. Contact: Anne Wood (annewood@verizon.net), Andrea Carothers (andreacarothers@gmail.com), or Eleanor Webb (etwebb@gmail.com).

**CARNIVAL:** The carnival is the primary fundraiser for Bedford Hills and it was held in October. We need some volunteers for next year! The opportunities are endless! It's a great event and we need to train some new folks to lead this event. Contact: Danielle Englund (Danielle.englund@gmail.com) or Sarah Muminovic (PTOBedfordHills@gmail.com) to learn more!

**CLASS STORY READER:** Depending on the class, parents come in and read on regular basis throughout the year. A sign-up sheet will be posted in your child's classroom on registration day. The Story Reader schedule is usually coordinated by the room parent or classroom teacher.

**CLASSROOM PARTIES:** Assist in the classroom during parties, send in food items and drinks, or send in paper supplies (plates, napkins, cups). This is usually coordinated by the room parent.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT:** This is a great night for the families of Bedford Hills to get together and have fun, in addition to shopping at the Book Fair. Help set-up clean-up or work various games. Contact: Lisa Pacot (lisapacot@msn.com) or Kate Sigler (katewsigler@gmail.com).

**FIELD DAY:** Have fun with the kids! You can help set up and run a game during Field Day, which is held in the spring. This is a great way to interact with the students in the friendly spirit of competition. Contact: Lawrie Brust (lawriebrust@yahoo.com), Marcy Farris (mstovall213@hotmail.com), or Nicole Rust (bartleyandnicole@netscape.net).

**HELPING HANDS:** This program focuses on providing food for students at BHS who would otherwise go without. Watch for information on how you can get involved by sending in donations or joining the committee. New members always welcome! Contact: Laura Bauer (laurabauer01@hotmail.com).

**HOSPITALITY:** Each month, we help celebrate the teachers' birthdays by providing a cake. Sign up to make a cake once or twice during the year, and provide food for a few PTO sponsored events throughout the year. Contact: Melanie and Dave Ellis (chalmersmelanie@hotmail.com).

**LEGO TEAM:** BHS has two different age-based LEGO teams during the After-School Extras Program, the Robotics team and the Junior LEGO team. Contact: Tom Herndon (tomherndon@hotmail.com) or Amanda Myers-Ramirez (ramirezam@lcsedu.net).

**LIBRARY AIDE:** (weekly or biweekly): Responsibilities include shelving books as well as helping students find and check out books. Contact the librarian: Mrs. Susan Wolk (wolksl@lcsedu.net).

**PLAYGROUND:** You will assist as needed with the Fall and Spring cleanups around the school and playground, which can include weeding, mulching, and planting. Contact: Deirdra Flavin (deirdra.flavin@gmail.com).

**PTO BOARD POSITION:** We encourage EVERYONE to attend our PTO meeting held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Let us know if you'd like to take a more active position and help us on our board. Contact: Sarah Muminovic (PTOBedfordHills@gmail.com).

**PURCHASE A T-SHIRT OR TWO:** Watch for flyers about new Husky spirit wear a couple of times a year and considering picking up some new items for your child and yourself to show your BHS Husky pride! Contact: Julie Flint (julieflint725@gmail.com).

**R.E.A.D. PROGRAM:** This program provides extra incentives for the younger readers at school. Contact: Shannon Buchanan (shannonleabryanth@yahoo.com) (Kindergarten) or Becky Davis (beckymathdavis@gmail.com) (First grade).

**READING TUTOR:** Help students improve reading skills in small groups or one-on-one. If interested, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Alisa Hite (aahite@gmail.com).

**ROOTS AND SHOOTS:** We have a fabulous garden at BHS! Come volunteer for special projects in our garden or in your second grader's class (once a week for 12 weeks in the Spring) while the children learn to plant and grow food in our garden. Contact: Kris Lloyd (kdlloyd@verizon.net).

**SILENT AUCTION:** Our Silent Auction is part of our primary fundraiser held in conjunction with Carnival in October. Volunteer now to help us gather donations and plan for next year. Contact: Kim Ness (kimberlymness@gmail.com).

**YARD SALE:** Everyone does a little spring cleaning, right? Donate your unwanted items and turn them into cash for the BHS PTO. Volunteers are needed for a few hours to help set up beforehand and help clean up after the event, which is held on a Saturday in the spring. Contact: Melody Barrera (melodykay.barrera@gmail.com) or Heidi Carey (heidicarey@comcast.net).

**YEARBOOK:** Help create a lasting memory for your child and be on our yearbook team. You can volunteer to be a photographer, help on picture days, or assist with advertising and collection. Contact: Erica Powers (erica.elaine.powers@gmail.com).



# Fall Carnival and Silent Auction: Thank You!



A huge Husky thank you to all who attended the PTO sponsored Annual Fall Carnival & Silent Auction in October! It was a beautiful day to spend in support of our wonderful Bedford Hills Elementary School community! The PTO would like to especially thank the many, many volunteers that contributed their time, their talents, or their treasures to the success of our Carnival! It was truly amazing to see so many alumni students and parents, college volunteers, new parents, veteran parents, faculty, and staff come together for this event! #huskypride

A very special thank you to the folks who chaired this massive event; Carnival Chair Danielle Englund, Silent Auction Chair Kim Ness, and Raffle Chair Melanie Ellis. They had many fabulous Co-Chairs to thank; Laura Bauer, Joe Bauer, Lisa Pacot, Sarah Fowler, Eleanor Webb, Jennifer Claiborne, Doris Boyers, Marcy Farris, Kellan Locklin, and Leigh Webb.

As we look forward to next year's Fall Carnival, please remember that this event is always in need of great parent volunteers to help coordinate, plan, and execute the day of "FUN"draising. If you are interested in chairing or co-chairing any of the Carnival committees, please feel free to reach out to the PTO President, Sarah Muminovic via email at [ptobedfordhills@gmail.com](mailto:ptobedfordhills@gmail.com), regarding your interest. There are many capacities in which you can assist with the ongoing success of Carnival.

The Silent Auction would like to thank our teachers and administrators for donating the awesome Teacher Experiences! Thank you to all the volunteers, before, after and during the auction! If you would like to help with next year's auction, please contact Kim Ness, [kimberlymness@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlymness@gmail.com)! It's never too early to get started!

Finally, we would like to recognize these businesses, organizations and families who provided corporate sponsorships or donations for 2017 to our Carnival and Silent Auction. Many, many thanks to all of our fabulous sponsors for the 2017 Carnival! When you patronize these local businesses, thank them for their support of our public schools and especially of Bedford Hills!

## **Husky Level (\$500+):**

Shane Claiborne, DDS  
BHS Administration and Teachers  
Brownstone Properties  
Central Virginia Orthodontics  
Brian R. Moore  
dish  
Disney  
Moore and Giles

## **Gold Level (\$250-\$499):**

F. Read Hopkins Pediatrics  
East West Acupuncture  
Dermatology Consultants (Dr.  
Kappa Meadows)

## **Silver Level (\$100-\$249):**

Campbell Insurance  
Murphy's Dental Laboratory  
Areva  
Riverside Runners  
Westover Jewelers  
Gladiola Girls  
American Girl  
Washington Capitals  
UPS  
Snowshoe  
Wintergreen  
Peakland Pilates  
Main Street Eatery  
Liberty Drama  
Liberty Basketball  
Randolph College Basketball  
Sherry Conrad Photography

## **Bronze Level (\$50-\$99):**

Chip Harvey Insurance  
HumanKind  
Delta Star

## **Family Sponsors**

- The Smith Family
- The Frenchik Family
- The Wood Family
- The Terry Family
- The Kelly Family
- The Hite Family,
- The Yarzebinski Family
- The Mann Family
- The Pacot Famiy
- The Personna-Policard Family
- An anonymous donor



# Help BHS Raise Funds to Support our Teachers & Students: Easy ways to make your usual shopping pay off for BHS!

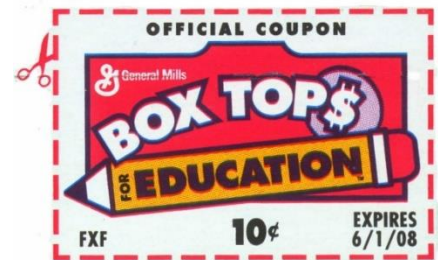
There are several things you can do at home that require no real time commitment but that will help the school by providing money or items to benefit BHS. ·

**AMAZON SMILE:** When you shop online, start your shopping at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), and link your account to Bedford Hills. (Called "Bedford Hills Elem Schl Parent Teacher Org Of Lynchburg Va"). Every purchase you make at Amazon benefits Bedford Hills, if you start through the smile.amazon.com site (and if you forget, it will remind you about it once you have linked your account!)



***\*We've already earned an easy \$25.80 this year!\****

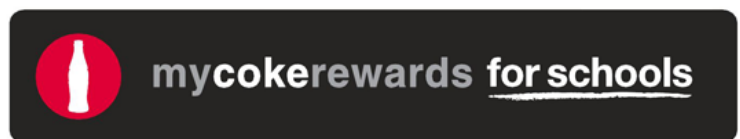
**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION:** Clipping BoxTops, which are special labels (see photo) on all General Mills products, is a great way to earn money for Bedford Hills without much effort at all. The website [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) features all of the products which carry the BoxTop label. Items include Kleenex, Avery office supplies, Ziploc, Betty Crocker, Hefty bags, Pillsbury, Juicy Juice, in addition to the familiar cereals. There are 71 "brands" that participate. Here's how it works: Clip BoxTops with the expiration date visible. Send them to school with your child or there is a collection basket in the PTO area just inside the front door. Special collection "contests" are also held during the year and winning classes usually win a small treat. For every BoxTop submitted, we get 10 cents! It may not seem like much, but last year we earned well over \$1,000 through this program! Contact Amanda McGovern ([mcgovern@lynchburg.edu](mailto:mcgovern@lynchburg.edu)) for more information.



***\*Guess what? We've already earned \$1,025.10 this year from BoxTops! Keep clipping and watch your child's folder for info about our spring contest!\****

**COKE REWARDS:** Due to program changes, we are no longer collecting Coke Product caps/codes. But the program still exists and we are still benefitting from it. Everyone with an email address can create an account at

[www.MyCokeRewards.com](http://www.MyCokeRewards.com) and input a maximum of 75 coke product points weekly and donate them to Bedford Hills Elementary School. Simply go to [www.MyCokeRewards.com](http://www.MyCokeRewards.com) and go down to "how it works" to create an account for your email. Then click on "donate" to look up and link your account to BHS (make sure you link your account to the correct Bedford Hills Elem school). Consider asking other family members or neighbors if they will use their emails and input codes weekly and donate the points to BHS. It's very easy and doesn't take much time.



**KROGER PLUS CARD:** Register your Kroger Plus Card for Bedford Hills. This needs to be done each academic year and does not carry over from the past year. All students will receive a page with a barcode on it. Take the barcode and your Kroger Plus Card to the service desk and with one scan, you will be helping Bedford Hills. (Or link your card online at Kroger.com)



***\*Great news here too! We've raised \$612.63 from Kroger so far. Add your name to the list and help us increase this easy fundraiser\**** Need a copy of the barcode? Contact Anne Wood ([annewood@verizon.net](mailto:annewood@verizon.net))

# Helping Hands Supports Students

Helping Hands is a food pantry that collects food items for BHS students who have been selected to participate in our weekend Backpack Program. Each weekday, we provide daily snacks and we send home food each Friday with children who may not have adequate access to food over the weekend. Research shows that if students aren't getting their basic needs met then their ability to learn, participate in class and comprehend information also suffers.

The group is parent-run and does not receive funding from BHS or the BHS PTO. Helping Hands survives solely from donations. Food donations can be dropped off in the front lobby and placed in the collection bin. No donation is too small! Please see the food suggestion list below. THANK YOU for your generosity and support! Questions or if you want to volunteer contact us at: laurabauer01@hotmail.com.

We need these food items in INDIVIDUAL SERVING SIZES:

V-8 Juice or 100% Orange Juice	Goldfish/Pretzels
Macaroni & Cheese Singles	Ramen Noodles
Peanut Butter Singles	Vienna Sausages
Canned Fruit	Beanie Weenies
Granola Bars	Tuna/Chicken Kits
Oatmeal (Box with individual packages)	Fruit Cups/Applesauce
Peanut Crackers	Nuts/Sunflower Seeds
Microwaveable Soups Spaghetti	Small Canned Vegetables •
O's or Ravioli	Pudding
	Microwavable Popcorn



Another way to get involved is to help pack food. Please consider signing up: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/5080a4daaad2da4f94-bagpacker>

## PTO ANNOUNCES NEW AWARD: The Bedford Hills Huskytarian Award

We are delighted to announce the creation of a brand-new initiative sponsored by the BHS PTO: **The Bedford Hills Huskytarian Award.**

This award has been created by the PTO President in an effort to recognize members of the Bedford Hills Community who have been outstanding supporters of our initiatives. To be recognized, the recipient must have demonstrated significant contributions in the support of PTO programs, be it financial, material, and/or in volunteer hours. The chosen recipients can be recognized for their efforts over a period of time or it can be for one, outstanding support effort.



Stay tuned for news this spring about our very first Bedford Hills Huskytarian recipient!

# Violin Notes



Practice equals progress! Mrs. Paris challenges **every** violin student to meet the “Strive for Five” goal (minimum of 20 practices per month). As you see violin cases, notice if there are colorful charms on a chain hanging from the case handle. 20 practices per month earns a treble clef charm and the equivalent of every day earns a treble clef and a super star. Unfortunately, there are some students who have not returned a practice calendar all year. Parents, please encourage your child to practice and record it on the monthly calendar. Progress is directly related to consistent, thoughtful practice and listening to the CD.

The fifth graders will be treated to a performance by the Linkhorne Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra sometime soon. The performance will include demonstrates of each section of the string orchestra and a variety of selections. Parents are welcome to attend and get a preview of what the middle school string program has to offer our students. Mrs. Paris will inform you of the date and time.

Come and join the Bedford Hills violin students when they perform at the Academy Center for the Arts in the Warehouse Theatre on Friday, March 9th from 7:30-8:30 p.m. with several other schools. You can also enjoy the LCS student art in the gallery. Everyone is invited to attend this free concert, hear the music, especially the Irish tunes, and enjoy a few cookies! The LCS Strings will use this performance as a fundraiser. Students in grades K - 4 will seek donations for our general string program. The students in grades 5-6 can apply all donations toward their spring performance trip to Busch Gardens on May 11th. All 5<sup>th</sup> grade violin students, even those who began violin this year, who meet the participation criteria are eligible to perform and enjoy the day at Busch Gardens.

On March 19th, all elementary and middle LCS string students will perform in the 47th Annual Suzuki Festival at 7:00 pm in the E. C Glass Auditorium. This concert, Mrs. Paris' favorite of the year, begins with orchestra selections and then progresses from the very advanced pieces to the concluding Twinkle Variations with all students on the stage. The concert is open and free to the public. Even the Twinkle Variations are amazing when performed by such an enormous group of string students.

Once the dates are established for the solo recitals and our spring concert they will be posted in the Husky Howler. All concerts are open and everyone is welcome to attend. Mrs. Paris will send home notes to involved violin parents well in advance of each performance.

Mrs. Paris would like to thank all the many parents who assisted with the tuning rooms and lining up students for our performances at Bedford Hills in December. It is quite a feat to get over 130 students tuned and in place for a concert, especially when they are excited. Mrs. Sarah English graciously assisted with the tuning and Mr. Mearkle provided delightful piano accompaniment for our school concerts. Thank you also to the parents who served as chaperones when we played at Peakland Preschool, First Presbyterian Preschool and the Seniors' Luncheon at Rivermont Presbyterian and to Mr. Allan Heer who provided piano accompaniment. The success of our program at BHS is due largely to the dedicated parents who encourage their children to practice and to our very supportive faculty, staff and PTO!

Meet the “Strive for Five” practice challenge and see how much progress you can make this winter and spring!



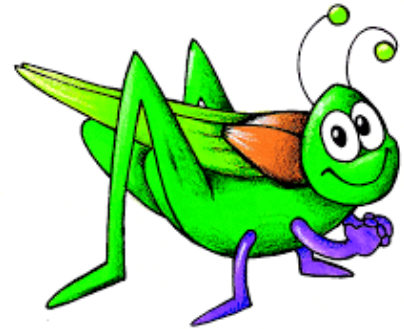
# Spring Highlights by Grade

Check out the amazing things our teachers have planned for each grade this spring. Contact your child's teacher for details as needed and talk to your child about their experiences as they move through the semester.

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## Kindergarten

WOW! It's hard to believe we have completed our first semester of Kindergarten. As they say... "Time flies when you are having fun!" The children were challenged with many new academic skills as they participated in exciting activities about themselves and the world around them. Reading and Math SOL's continue to drive our daily lessons. The many skills we have taught are coming together in full force as the boys and girls really begin to "show off" their reading skills.



We hope to make second semester as fun and challenging as the first. We will "travel" to many places this semester. January and February are busy months, as we celebrate Brotherhood/Friendship, Valentines, President's Day, and DAY 100! As we discussed Brotherhood/Friendship, the children learned about various people who have contributed to our history. We are sure you have heard all about Martin Luther King Jr., and will hear about George Washington, Abe Lincoln, and more. The children look forward to Day 100 with much excitement, as it is "Zero the Hero's" favorite day of the school year. Please look for notification from your child's teacher on how Day 100 will be celebrated in their classroom. We all look forward to the units on Life Cycles, Ponds, and Bugs!

Hopefully, we will be so busy spring will arrive before we know it! Please continue to reinforce the skills taught at school, at home. Practice reading each night with your child. Select some "easy readers" and let him/her read to you! The children should be using the decoding skills they have learned at school, to decipher new words. Also, ask your child to be an author and write sentences and/or stories, then tell him/her to be an illustrator and draw a picture to go with what they wrote! The PALS website <https://pals.virginia.edu/> has wonderful preplanned activities that you can do with your child. Just type in the website and go to the "For Parents" section. There are activities about daily reading, phonemic awareness, phonics knowledge and more. There are also suggested websites that can also be fun like Reading Rocket and Starfall.

We would like to thank all of our classroom volunteers! The children so enjoy the time spent with you during story time, art, and at parties. Your faithful commitment to our students is greatly appreciated!

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## First Grade

"I can read!" This is the time of year when we see so much growth in the children's reading and in their excitement over learning how to read! They are reading in the classroom every day but it is very important that you read and work with your child at home, as well. Start with practicing sight words and the weekly vocabulary words. You can do this by reading, playing Memory, and making up sentences with them. Next, have your child read to you. They can read their assigned story, library book, or a book from home and always make time to read to your child.

This has been an exciting year in math for the kids and we will end the year with learning how to tell time, count money, and make and read graphs! Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts at home. This is very important in helping your child prepare for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.





With spring comes spring fever. However, the children still need to be responsible for their homework. Please make sure your child completes all homework assignments and check it to see if they need help. Continue to go over the papers in the Monday work folder.

Let's replenish supplies! The kids have been great about taking care of their supplies and using them wisely however, many of them are running out of some items. Be sure to ask your child if they need any of the following: glue sticks, glue, crayons, or scissors.

Spring weather can get a little crazy so remember to have your child dress for the weather. We talk with the children about the weather and how important it is to know what the weather will be. Show your child how to check the weather at home by looking in the newspaper, looking online or watching the weather report on the news. Also, please label all coats, jackets, and lunchboxes with your child's name. Many items end up in the Lost and Found never to be seen again.

Spring field trip? We do not have any information to send home about the spring field trip, yet. We will let you know as soon as we have all of the details worked out.

Bedford Hills 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parents ROCK! You have been so supportive to your children and to our team and we thank you. The encouraging phone calls, notes, and emails are very much appreciated and the way you work with your children at home is remarkable.

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## Second Grade

We have enjoyed getting to know your 2nd graders this first semester! We are excited to continue and share some new experiences with them as the year goes on. Here are some of the new experiences that we will share with them.

In Science:

- Magnets
- Scientific Investigations
- Solids, Liquids, Gases,
- Scientific Investigations
- Life Cycles
- Plant Products

- Famous Americans
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Map Skills
- Economics
- Developments and Innovations
- Memorial Day and Independence Day

In Social Studies:

Once the weather gets warmer your second graders will start to get dirty for a good cause: Roots & Shoots! This program is designed to educate the students in gardening as they get hands on experience planting in our garden. Not only are they studying plants but they will be growing seeds to plant in our raised beds! The children will be tending the gardens and will be harvesting these wonderful vegetables as they are ready. Your child's teacher will send home more information once the Spring arrives and planting season begins.



Thanks for all your support at home, we appreciate your active role in your child's education!



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## Third Grade

We are having such a good year. But at the midway point, please check with your child about supplies. Pencils, glue sticks, and a new box of crayons always come in handy for the second part of the school year. Also, with cold and Flu season upon us, extra Kleenex and Clorox Wipes would be much appreciated! Valentine's Day is right around the corner. Your teacher will be sending a list of names soon. Please remember to share the love and include all classroom friends if you choose to participate.



March will be a busy month. Several students decided to participate in the Third Grade Enrichment Project, The State Report, in an ABC format. Please encourage your child to work on this often so the March 17th date doesn't creep up on them. All third graders who participated will show their projects on March 28. The annual Greek Feast was held at the beginning of January. Thanks to all the parents that donated items to make the Greek Feast a success!

Benchmark tests will be given March 1st through the 15th. SOL dates have been set. The reading SOL will be on May 2nd and 3rd. It is broken up into two days for third grade. The math SOL will be administered on May 17th. Our second field trip to Poplar Forest will be scheduled this May. More details to come! This is always a great field trip and students are excited to share what they have learned throughout the year! May 30th has been set for the third grade picnic.

Please make sure that your child is reading each night. Basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts are always important to keep fresh so that the students can solve multi-step problems quickly. Whenever possible bring up math and reading skills into conversations at home, whether you are cooking and talking about fractions, or reading signs as you drive through the city.

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## Fourth Grade

The spring semester promises to be a busy one for our fourth graders! Students will soon be given the opportunity to participate in 24. The 24 Game helps children sharpen basic math skills. Students who love a math challenge and also enjoy competition, may wish to join our 24 Club. Students in this club will be practicing for a chance to represent our school in a city-wide tournament. Your child will be bringing home more information in the near future.

Fourth grade will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14. Room moms will be reaching out to you soon for refreshment donations and hands-on help for the day of the party. All parents who wish to volunteer must have a security clearance well in advance of this date. Also, teachers will be sending home a class list. Children who wish to bring Valentines are encouraged to include all classmates.

This semester, fourth graders will be working toward reaching their AR goal of 20 points. Reaching the quarterly goals enables students to enjoy AR extra recesses and end-of-year fun activities. Students will also be trying their best to maintain 85% positive points in ClassDojo. Children who do so will be rewarded with quarterly Dojo celebrations.



Students will be taking LCS Benchmark tests in March. These assessments will help us gear up for our SOL state tests in May. Fourth graders will be taking their Reading SOL Test on Tuesday, May 1 and the Math SOL Test on Wednesday, May 16. In the meantime, it is very important that your child practices math facts and reads nightly.

And finally, the year will be capped off by our annual pizza picnic and SOL ice cream sundae reward to celebrate students' effort and hard work!

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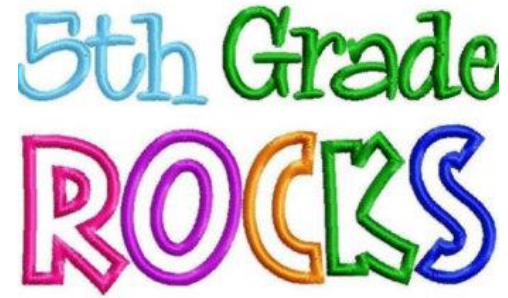
## Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade Wow! Can you believe it is almost the end of fifth grade? It seems like just yesterday, we were meeting you and your children at registration. Now an entire school year is almost over. We hope that we have done our best to prepare your children for the next stage of their education, MIDDLE SCHOOL.

We have lots of fun stuff left though this year. Be on the lookout for more details coming soon about our Spring Field Trip.

As the weather changes, we ask that you remind your students of the dress code and wearing appropriate clothing for school. Also, many fifth graders are beginning the first stages of adolescence. Please discuss with them the importance of daily personal hygiene, especially the use of deodorant/antiperspirant. We will discuss these things in Family Life Education in May, but for some it is important to have that discussion now. Information about the dates for family life will be coming soon. Thank you for your help in this matter.

As we are approaching the end of the school year, review the important dates listed in the calendar. We will send out a list of SOL testing dates shortly. Please try to avoid appointments on these dates. Thanks for all of your support this year.



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## Notes from the School Counselor: Kelso's Choice

Conflict or disagreement is normal and often happens when children get together. However, hurtful words, gestures, or physical attack are unacceptable ways to deal with conflict and disagreement at school. Our goal is to teach students several positive ways to handle these difficult situations when they have minor problems.

These small problems such as "James won't share!" or "Jane is humming and I can't think!" are examples of situations that can be dealt with by the student in a positive way. There are several different ways that students can try to handle their situation, we ask that they try at least 2 of the following ideas before seeking help from an adult:

1. Go to another game or activity.
2. Respectfully talk it over and listen to each other.
3. Walk away from the problem.
4. Share and take turns.
5. Ignore it.
6. Apologize.
7. Make a deal or compromise.
8. Wait and cool off.
9. Tell them to stop.



The exception: If the situation is hurtful to self or others, dangerous, or making them feel worried or afraid, Immediately seek assistance from an adult! By using this plan, we believe our students will develop effective problem solving skills that they can use again and again. This program will help empower and increase feelings of personal competence in young people as well as reduce tattling and giving them an important conflict resolution tool. It will help them to deal with conflict in a positive manner and to make appropriate decisions. We have to ask ourselves, "Is this a little deal or a BIG DEAL?"

For more information, please contact Ms. Debi Kipp, [kippdl@lcsedu.net](mailto:kippdl@lcsedu.net).



# REMINDERS: CARPOOL LINE

All students are encouraged to ride the bus which is provided by Lynchburg City Schools. **For those planning to walk or drive their students to or from school, please review the following information to help ensure a smooth and safe procedure for our families.**



## MORNING:

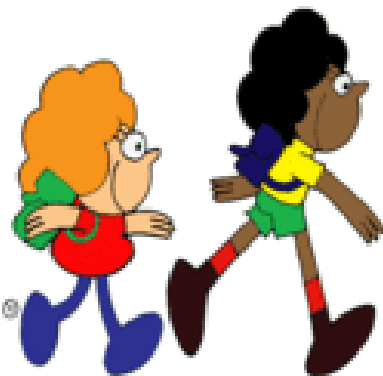
Parent vehicles should remain on the Bedford Hills side of Morningside Drive in the carpool lane until the school opens for student arrivals at 8:20 AM and the carpool line is granted access to the parking lot. All access to the BHS parking lot is by RIGHT TURN only. Vehicles should plan to travel Boonsboro Road to Clayton Avenue, then right on Morningside to join the carpool line. Vehicles can also approach the carpool lane via Indian Hill Drive, turn on Keystone, left on Eastwood and then left on Morningside Drive in order to join the carpool line. McGuffey Lane is considered overflow parking for BHS staff and parents and should not be used by the carpool line to cut ahead of the existing carpool line on Morningside Drive. **\*\*Do not park in areas where NO PARKING signs are located (Morningside Drive hill and close to BHS). Lynchburg Police Department will be enforcing a no tolerance policy for illegal parking this year.\*\*** Upon leaving the parking lot, you are restricted to a right turn only onto Morningside Drive.

## AFTERNOON:

The carpool line will form on Morningside Drive, the same as in the morning. Parent vehicles should remain on the Bedford Hills side of Morningside Drive in the carpool lane until student dismissals begin at 3:35 PM. All access to the BHS parking lot is by RIGHT TURN only. Vehicles should plan to travel Boonsboro Road to Clayton Avenue, then right on Morningside to join the carpool line. Vehicles can also approach the carpool line via Indian Hill Drive, turn on Keystone, left on Eastwood, then left on Morningside Drive in order to join the carpool line. McGuffey Road is considered overflow parking for BHS staff and parents and should not be used by the carpool line to cut ahead of the existing line on Morningside Drive. **\*\*Do not park in areas where NO PARKING signs are located (Morningside Drive hill and close to BHS). Lynchburg Police Department will be enforcing a no tolerance policy for illegal parking this year.\*\*** Upon leaving the parking lot, you are restricted to a right turn only onto Morningside Drive. All drivers should display their "Pup Pass" which indicates your child's name, in order to streamline the carpool process.

## WALKERS:

In the afternoon, parents who are walking to pick up their children should sign in on the clipboard in the lobby. After signing in, please wait outside to the left of the front doors and wait for your child to be released. Please do not stand in front of the entrance, as this impedes progress from the carpool line. **All parents and children should walk on the sidewalks only and avoid cutting through the parking lot for everyone's safety.** If you are parking a car and then walking up, please note that most of Morningside Drive near the school is a "No Parking" area on weekdays. Instead, park on McGuffey Street. Or better yet, join the carpool line!

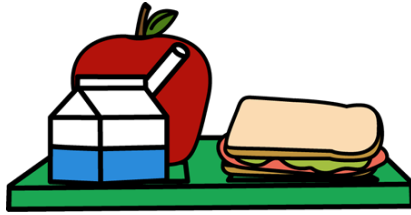




# REMINDERS FOR SPRING:

## School meals

These are the Student meal prices for the 2017-18 school year. Adult meals cost more.



- Full Price Breakfast -- \$1.15
- Reduced Price Breakfast -- No cost
- Full Price Lunch -- \$2.25
- Reduced Price Lunch -- \$0.40
- Milk -- \$0.60

We also continue to offer student accounts. Money may be placed on your child's account in any amount on any school day by check, cash or online through [www.mySchoolBucks.com](http://www.mySchoolBucks.com). Pre-payments can be made online through [MySchoolBucks](http://MySchoolBucks.com). With a MySchoolBucks account, offered free of charge, parents can monitor their student's account balance, receive low balance alerts, and view all cafeteria purchases.

Elementary students are allowed to charge up to three meals when they have forgotten their money or when their account balance will not cover the cost of their meal. After those meals, the School Nutrition Program will provide a student with a toasted cheese sandwich and a carton of milk, considered an emergency snack that is given at no charge.

**Student PIN:** Every student must enter a PIN to access his/her meal account. Parents, please help your child learn his/her student ID number (PIN) and be able to enter it into the pin pad at lunch time.

## Dress Code

As weather changes, keep the dress code in mind and plan appropriately for the weather that day. **The most important thing we ask is that students wear athletic shoes each and every day of school.**



We try to promote active play and movement during the day, especially at recess. These activities become very difficult and dangerous for students in flip-flops or high heels. For safety sake, please have your children wear athletic shoes daily!

A new Dress Code was recently adopted by Lynchburg City Schools and more information is available online in the 2017-18 Parent/Student Handbook, at [www.lcsedu.net](http://www.lcsedu.net).

## Background check required for ALL Volunteers

Every person who volunteers in Lynchburg City Schools has to have a background check each academic year. These are authorized by filling out a form online at <http://www.lcsedu.net/community/volunteer>. Once there, scroll down to the hyperlink "volunteer application." It takes about 5 minutes and it is FREE.

**Volunteers will be notified at a later date by e-mail that have been approved or rejected. If you have questions about this process, please see the BHS Office.**

NOTE: A successful background check is required for all BHS volunteers, including field trip chaperones, story readers, volunteer art, PTO, party helpers, etc. Please allow at least ONE WEEK for background checks to come back, prior to volunteering (but you may receive it faster).

