



March 20, 2009

2008-2009 School Year, No. 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kristen Ruiz

March is surely shaping up to be an extremely busy month at Bond Mill. Thankfully, after the snow storm and the few days of cold weather the weather is now changing and we are starting to experience the first glimpses of spring; the daffodils and tulips are peeking out and the crocuses are in full bloom.

We have had the privilege to experience some budding talent these past weeks also. I had the opportunity to watch the third grade class perform at Stargazing Night. It was a night filled with songs, dancing and skits. It was a night filled with great entertainment. When it was all over we were treated to hot chocolate and cookies while watching the stars. We even saw Orion!!

One week later, we were off to Charles H. Flowers High School for the Destination Imagination Regional Competition. Seven third graders (Allison Fleming, Jacob Jett, Liz Knisley, Haley Roussin-Lally, Maria Ruiz and Matthew Stroud) worked together to create a script, costumes, scenery, props, a manned machine and an unmanned machine. They had to do all of this on their own without the parents telling them how to do things. Their theme was Operation Cooperation and they were tasked with doing their challenge in another country and to create a problem in their script and then to resolve it. The children did a great job and won first place and will now compete at the State Level in Towson on April 18th. Way to go Bulldogs!!

PTO CALENDAR


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|------------------------------|------------|
| Bond Mill Science Fair Night | March 26 |
| Revved up Fundraiser due | March 30 |
| Spring Break | April 6-13 |
| PTO Meeting | April 16 |
| Bond Mill Carnival | May 16 |
| Bond Mill Anniversary | June 13 |

I would also like to remind everyone to participate in the Revved up for Reading program. This is our final fundraiser for the year. What a great way to raise money for your school and all the children need to do is read books or be read to. The packet came home last Friday with all of the information that you need. I would like to thank Liz Steenrod and her committee for setting up this fundraiser. By participating in this fundraiser you encourage a love of reading in your child and support the school at the same time. All monies raised will need to be turned in by March 30th.

It is important that you save the following dates. On Saturday May 16th will be the Annual Bond Mill Carnival. It is a lot of fun for all who are involved and come to the carnival. It is held from 10am-3pm. It is a great time and Chair people Linda Landau and Mary Lehman need your help to make the carnival possible. Please call Linda at (301) 776-2135 to find out how you can help.

Also, on Saturday June 13th we will have a very special evening to honor Bond Mill's 40th anniversary. During the evening there will be entertainment, dinner, dancing, reminiscing and a student art show. Please save the date and let any other alumni or former teachers, etc. know about this exciting event. The theme of this event is, "The next 40 years." We hope to see everyone there. Please check the website and your child's Friday folders for more information coming soon.

Last but not least, as we all know there is a very strong possibility that our 5th graders this year will be leaving Bond Mill to go to MLK. I know there is a growing concern about MLK's school hours (9:30am-4:10pm) and I believe that if as a group we are concerned about the school hours that we should approach the Board of Education about changing the hours, especially for our incoming 6th graders. If you are interested in contacting the Board via email, please email me at murphruiz@pmkinc.com to see how we should move forward.

As always please come to the PTO Board meetings that are held every third Thursday from 6-8pm. Our next meeting will be held on April 16th. If you are unable to attend please check the website, e-list news or the PTO bulletin board for meeting minutes and other important information. 

- Kristen

PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD — 2008-2009

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DRAMA CLUB EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

I also had the opportunity to direct 32 very talented 3rd-6th graders in the drama club production of, "The Nifty Fifties". The children did a wonderful job and as always exceeded my expectations. The children performed twice for the school and then had their final performance for the community on March 14th. They performed in front of a packed house and they rocked the house!! I am very proud to have had the opportunity to work with these children. I will miss the 5th and 6th graders next year as the go to middle school. I will always have wonderful memories from all the plays that they have been in with me.

I could not do the drama club without the help of many people. I would like to thank my right hand men Brooke Estes, Kathleen Kennedy and Rolanda Brown. I would also like to thank the many people behind the scenes: Char Adams, Polly Gould, Bill Haslup, Kay Gentile, Phil Lazo (my go to guy for the sound system) and Jane Beery. I would also like to thank ALL of the teachers and staff in the building for letting us disrupt the building for the past 2 weeks on the stage and in the hallways. I would especially like to thank Eileen Kneriem for letting us use the media center for our green room and to Alyce Sherk for letting us get on stage early and disrupt before and after care.

Congratulations to the cast and crew for a totally awesome performance: Jaden Pink, Ann-Therese Greaves, Elizabeth Knisley, Maria Ruiz, Tim Roy, Sharon Gilbertz, Kari de la Viez, Karina Low, Gabriella Coco, Allison Lehman, Danielle Berard, BJ Robertson, Tessa Dobrow, Danielle Dyson, Taylor Roar, Adonis Belton, Liam Greaves, CJ Jurney, Heather Kim, Katie Cardinal, Caitlyn Yacuel, Jamie Snider, Bria Wallace, Shellianna Booth, Ally Watts, Racquel Clarke, Christine Gilroy, Sarah Hoover, Jonathan House, Ryan Lehman, Montana Reynolds, Dani Evans, Chynna Briscoe, Zanelle Camille, Billy Rosenberg, Kevin Kim, Tim Salzman, and Austin Slaght. 🎭

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Hospitality Committee would like to thank all of the families who provided food for the March staff luncheon. The next luncheon is scheduled for April 16th.

APRIL PTO MEETING

April 16, 6:00 pm at Bond Mill.

PGCPS BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE PUBLIC

The Prince George's County Board of Education is hosting meetings in March and April to give parents, faculty members, and residents a chance to discuss public school issues. The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Contact the Board of Education Office at (301) 952-6115 for more information. 🎭

District 1: March 30
Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School,
13725 Briarwood Drive, Laurel

District 2: March 9
Parkdale H.S.
6001 Good Luck Road, Riverdale

District 3: March 23
Suitland H.S.,
5200 Silver Hill Rd., District Heights

District 4: April 20
Isaac J. Gourdine Middle School,
8700 Allentown Road, Ft. Washington

District 5: April 29
Marlton Elementary School
8506 Old Colony Dr. South, Upper Marlboro

JOINING THE PTO

Do you and two friends want to have lunch with Mr. Fitzgerald? All you have to do is have your class reach 100 percent participation in the PTO. It is not too late! Every student whose class is at 100 percent will be entered in the drawing. Membership is only \$10.00 per family. Deadline for the drawing is March 27th. The name will be drawn on Monday March 30th. Currently the Bond Mill Staff is at 100% and the students are at 76%. Let's try to narrow down that gap! We will also like to have a Bond Mill Snow Cone Day but can only do that if we have at least 80% student participation. 🎭

REVVED UP FOR READING FUNDRAISER

On your mark, get set, GO!!!! Bond Mill's 2nd Annual Revved Up for Reading read-a-thon has started!! Students participating in the fundraiser will seek sponsors to donate for every minute they spend reading. The Read-a-thon began March 14th and ends on March 28th. Contributions for the fundraiser are due to the school on Monday, March 30th. All participants are invited to a party during school on April 16th (the Reading Rally) where there will be fun, food, prizes, and a book exchange. 🎭

SEEKING PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Please consider serving the Bond Mill Elementary School community by running for a position on the Bond Mill PTO Executive Board for the 2009-2010 school year. As students grow up and move on to middle school, their dedicated parents move on with them! Three of our five PTO Officers -- Vice President Howard Rosenberg, Corresponding Secretary Mark Brackett and Recording Secretary Monica Gribben -- will be saying goodbye in June. We hope to hold elections at the end of this school year.

For information about the five positions open for nominations, please contact Amy Brennan at 301-490-7662 or e-mail amybopd@hotmail.com. 🎭

NEW PTO WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The PTO recently has launched its brand new website. Carolyn Vincent, a Bond Mill parent, spent innumerable hours researching and developing the site. Congratulations and a big thanks to Carolyn for all her hard work in designing the PTO website and adding all its wonderful content. Please take a look at this new resource for Bond Mill parents, children, and teachers! You can peruse the site by going to (<http://bondmillpto.org>) on the internet.

If you would like to know more about all the features of the new website, be sure to attend the Overview Session scheduled for March 19th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the multimedia room (following the PTO Board meeting). If you can't attend, but would like to provide feedback on the site you can either complete the poll located on the left lower bar of the home page and/or send an e-mail. 🎭

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

REMINDER: If you have not submitted your "Staff Member of the Month" for March via paper voting, you can now submit it online! Just keep in mind that you should submit either the paper form OR the electronic form -- NOT BOTH. The form can be submitted for each student per family at Bond Mill. The form is accessible on the home page of the new PTO website (<http://bondmillpto.org>). 🎭