



BUSHY PARK PTA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

NOTE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear BPES Families,

Spring is here, and with it comes a whirlwind of activities, events, and opportunities to come together as a school community! These next few months will fly by, and before we know it, we'll be celebrating the last day of school! As we head into the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your support, whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply cheering from the sidelines.

We have some exciting things on the horizon: Bushy Blooms, Teacher Appreciation Week, Field Day, and End of Year just to name a few.

We wanted to share that, unfortunately, due to low participation, we've made the difficult decision to postpone "We Belong Together" (International & Multicultural Night) that was scheduled for this week. We were very excited to bring this traditional event to our community, but in order to create a meaningful and successful experience for everyone involved, we need a certain level of engagement and support. We are currently evaluating whether we may be able to reschedule for after Spring Break.

As always, we welcome your ideas, involvement, and feedback. Whether you have five minutes or five hours to give, there's a place for you in the PTA. Let's finish this school year strong together! Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Warmly,
Voula Augustin

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 7 - 10
BOOK FAIR

APRIL 14 - 21
SPRING BREAK

APRIL 24
TAKE YOUR CHILD
TO WORK DAY

APRIL 25
REPORT CARDS ISSUED

SPIRIT DAY:
TIE DYE

MAY 5
SPIRIT DAY:
STAR WARS DAY

MAY 7
PTA MEETING
AND
2025-2026 PTA
BOARD ELECTIONS

MAY 20
FIELD DAY

WHAT'S AHEAD

PTA ELECTIONS

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ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

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PTA Elections

**READY TO MAKE A POSITIVE
IMPACT ON OUR SCHOOL?**

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

- Research shows that parental involvement boosts student success.
- Being part of the PTA gives you insight into school policies and programs.

BUILD A STRONGER SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- The PTA helps fund essential programs, school improvements, and classroom resources.

CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

- Meet like-minded parents who care about education.
- Strengthen relationships with teachers and school administrators.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Whether you have an hour a month or more time to give, your involvement matters.
- Help create a welcoming, supportive environment for all students.

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR LEADERS
FOR THE 2025-2026 PTA BOARD!**



**DON'T FORGET TO GET
YOUR NOMINATIONS
IN BY APRIL 18!**

**CLICK OR SCAN TO NOMINATE
YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE**

PTA Elections

**THE FOLLOWING
POSITIONS NEED TO BE
FILLED FOR THE
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

PRESIDENT

Leads all PTA meetings • Coordinates the efforts of officers and committees • Serves as a member of all committees (except the nominating committee) • Reviews and signs bank statements monthly • Represents the PTA/PTSA at council meetings or appoints an alternate • Ensures duties outlined in the bylaws or assigned by the board are fulfilled.

VICE PRESIDENT(S)

Assists the President with PTA responsibilities • Steps in for the President when needed • Serves as an advisor to committee chairpersons and may lead a committee • Supports and helps coordinate PTA events and initiatives • Fulfills duties outlined in the bylaws or assigned by the board.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Takes and keeps meeting minutes • Maintains official records and bylaws • Tracks membership and attendance • Works with the President to prepare meeting agendas and conduct quorum checks • Ensures accurate documentation of PTA activities and decisions.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Manages PTA communications and social media • Maintains membership lists and bylaws • Sends acknowledgments, including thank-you notes and condolences • Updates and maintains the PTA website • Assists with distributing important PTA information to members.

TREASURER

Manages all PTA/PTSA funds • Keeps accurate financial records and reconciles bank statements • Handles payments, deposits, and financial reporting • Ensures budget compliance and oversees tax filings • Coordinates the annual financial review and audit process.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL!



**VOTING FOR THE 2025–2026 PTA BOARD WILL
HAPPEN AT THE MAY PTA MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025. MARK YOUR
CALENDAR AND MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!**

WE BELONG TOGETHER

Join us for We Belong Together Night, a special event celebrating our community's culture, history, heritage, and interests through food, music, performances, artifacts, and activities!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH

6:30 – 8:00 PM

WE NEED MORE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SIGN UP FOR THEIR TRADITIONS, BELONGING, AND STOP.

WHETHER AS A FAMILIAR CULTURE OR DISPLAY AN INTERACTIVE STORY, OR WEEDS—YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL BE A WONDERFUL SOCIAL!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TODAY! HELP US REACH THE RIGHT PEOPLE, CONNECT AND FUN. TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

QUESTIONS? CHAD @KVC OR BU @KVC

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES





BUSHY *blooms*

Add some color and life to your garden, or give the gift of plants and flowers to a loved one or favorite BPES staff with the PTA's Bushy Blooms fundraiser.

Order plants and flowers at:

<https://form.jotform.com/bpesptapres/BushyBlooms2025>



Payments can be made at:

<https://bpes.givebacks.com/store/items/679375>



All orders are due by MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 9TH.

Pick up will be just in time for Mother's Day, on
Saturday, May 10 from 9am-12pm.



STAFF SNACK CART SIGN UP



SNACKS IN BLOOM

Kindly check the available time slots to share some spring treats with our teachers and staff!

All contributions need to be delivered by
9:00am on Tuesday, April 29th

**CLICK TO
SIGN UP**



QUESTIONS? Please email
Nicole Oxenham at
oxenhamfam@gmail.com

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

HEAT WAVE

GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT



Hardcover \$14.99



\$5.99



Exclusive paperback \$7.99



Graphic novel \$18.99



\$5.99



Graphic novel \$12.99



\$11.99

Comes with poster!



What's the deal with Lucy's new school? Her virtual classmates all seem friendly, but there's something not quite right...
Exclusive paperback \$8.99



Low price!

A girl in the French Resistance helps the Allies on D-Day.
Exclusive paperback \$4.99

DON'T MISS OUT! THIS WEEK!

MONDAY - FRIDAY
5PM - 7PM

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE BOOK FAIR - [CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#)

BUSHY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

MONDAY
MAY 5

LET'S TACO 'BOUT
HOW AWESOME YOU
ARE! ENJOY A
CINCO DE MAYO
LUNCH FEAST!

THANK YOU FOR FILLING OUR SCHOOL WITH

SUNSHINE

AND JOY YOUR WARM PRESENCE
HELPS OUR STUDENTS TO

SHINE
SO BRIGHT!

YOU ALL ARE SUN-SATIONAL!

THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



TUESDAY
MAY 6

SNACK ATTACK!
THE **SNACK CART**
IS ROLLING IN WITH
TREATS JUST
FOR YOU!

WEDNESDAY
MAY 7

RISE AND SHINE!
A DELICIOUS
BREAKFAST
TO BRIGHTEN
YOUR DAY!

THURSDAY
MAY 8

YOU'RE SO COOL,
YOU DESERVE A
FROZEN TREAT!
CHILL OUT
AND ENJOY!

FRIDAY
MAY 9

NO 'KNEAD' TO
PACK LUNCH—
PIZZA
IS ON THE
MENU TODAY!



WANT TO HELP? SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE TO TEACHER,
STAFF & BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK! YOUR GENEROUS DONATION
WILL HELP PROVIDE TREATS FOR THE AMAZING TEACHERS, STAFF, AND
BUS DRIVERS WHO SUPPORT AND CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN EVERY DAY.

PAST PTA EVENTS

BPES PTA STEM AND CAREER NIGHT

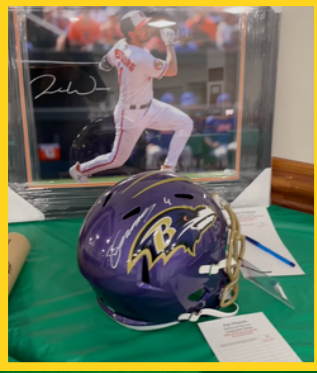
THANK YOU

to all the volunteers and participants that came to STEM and Career Night. A special thanks also to Mrs. Bengermينو for her support and Mr. Tez for his amazing performance!

We can't forget our board member, Candice Gerstner, for organizing this wonderful event for our students and families.



PAST PTA EVENTS

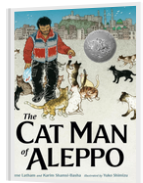


LUCKY YOU MUSIC BINGO

Adult Bingo Music Bingo was a blast on Saturday 4/22/25. There were lots of amazing prizes and auction items. Thank you to the chair, Christina Yingling, and all of the volunteers from Bushy Park PTA and Glenwood Middle PTSA who worked very hard to put this fun event together for all our families to enjoy.

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE

This month, we celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. People from Arab backgrounds come from many different countries and have helped shape our communities in important ways—through art, music, science, food, and more! It's a great time to learn about Arab traditions, try delicious foods like hummus and baklava, and read stories by Arab American authors. Let's celebrate the diversity that makes our world so special!



THE CAT MAN OF ALEPPO (AGES 6-10)

IRENE LATHAM AND KARIM SHAMSI-BASHA

a picture book that tells the heartwarming story of a man named **Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel**, who cared for the stray cats of Aleppo during the Syrian conflict. Despite the challenges of war, he found comfort in helping these animals, showing kindness amidst devastation.



WHEN ZA'ATAR MET ZEIT (AGES 3-7)

WAFI SHAMI AND SHAIMA FAROUKI

A charming picture book celebrating Arab cuisine; it tells the story of how two key ingredients come together to create a delicious dish.



FARAH ROCKS (MID GRADE CHAPTER)

MUADDI DARRAJ

A chapter book series featuring an Arab American protagonist, a young girl who is funny, smart, and full of energy but often feels torn between her Palestinian heritage and life in America. When a school project goes awry, she learns to embrace her roots and gain confidence in being herself.

YEARBOOK

"A Year of Sweet Memories"

The online yearbook store is **OPEN!**
Yearbooks are \$23 after taxes and fees.

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE

Yearbooks will be delivered to your child at the end of the school year.



We need your help capturing the amazing memories from this school year! If you have photos from any of the following events, please send them our way:

GENERAL GRADE PICTURES

PRE-K

<https://plicbooks.com/go/U228WQ>

KINDERGARTEN

<https://plicbooks.com/go/G6L7V1>

1ST GRADE

<https://plicbooks.com/go/2NHDBJ>

2ND GRADE

<https://plicbooks.com/go/GYFF4T>

3RD GRADE

<https://plicbooks.com/go/6Y613P>

4TH GRADE

<https://plicbooks.com/go/8VDT1R>

5TH GRADE

<https://plicbooks.com/go/QCEBZ6>

**IF YOU HAVE YEARBOOK
QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL**
BUSHYPARKPTAVOLUNTEER@GMAIL.COM.

EVENT PICTURES

SWEETHEART DANCE

<https://plicbooks.com/go/4X6HYZ>

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

<https://plicbooks.com/go/1A2A7L>

STEM AND CAREER NIGHT

<https://www.plicbooks.com/go/QBA7XE>

TALENT SHOW

<https://www.plicbooks.com/go/LWR22X>

SPIRIT DAYS

<https://www.plicbooks.com/go/JMTKYX>

BUDDY'S LAUGH CORNER



I WAKE UP WHEN WINTER ENDS,
DRESSED IN COLORS,
I SWAY WITH FRIENDS.
THE BEES LOVE ME,
SO DO YOU—
GIVE ME WATER, AND
I'LL BLOOM FOR YOU!

WHAT AM I?

ANSWER ON PAGE 13

BEAR HUGS SPOTLIGHT

MR. VAN METER ART TEACHER



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD BOOK?

My favorite childhood books were the Goosebumps series. They weren't too scary but got your blood pumping during the more alarming parts.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL (BESIDES BEARS)?

I always thought I was a monkey growing up as a kid, so monkeys are one of my favorite animals. I grew up near woods, so I'd spend a lot of time outside climbing on trees or swinging on vines. I also LOVE dogs. There's just something about the amount of love a dog can give you, that you can't get enough of.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL AS A KID?

My favorite subject in school was always Art, which makes sense considering I am the Art teacher. But I also really loved Music/Chorus because I like to sing.

WHAT'S THE MOST FUN PART OF YOUR JOB AT BUSHY PARK?

The most fun part about my job is being with the kids. I like imitating their voices, making them laugh, and watching them create amazing works of art! Oh, I also enjoy popping out from around corners to give the kids (and the staff) a little jump! Hahaha.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE GAME WHEN YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

When I was in elementary school my friends and I would always play handball during recess. I was really good because I was fast, had quick hands, and could throw really well.

WHO WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE TEACHER, AND WHY?

I've had so many memorable teachers over the years, from Elementary, to middle, high school, and college. But I can honestly say that two teachers stand out to me, and they're the reason I became an Art teacher.

First, my art teacher from Phelps Luck Elementary, Mr. Fox. He was such a fun, cool guy. He wore baggy 80's (M.C. Hammer style) colorful pants all the time, and he had the ability to connect with his students through his easy-going personality.

The second teacher, was Mr. Gardner who I had at both Mayfield Woods Middle School and at Howard High School. He had the same personality and teaching style as Mr. Fox. Gardner also pushed me to become a better artist, and to be a more outspoken person. He helped me with becoming the President of our National Honors Art Society in high school, and he led me to believe in myself as a leader. He took interest in the music my band was creating outside of school, and even helped us to create patches and t-shirts with silk-screening, which is something I still do today on occasion. I was able to meet up with Mr. Gardner last year and thanked him for everything he's done for me.

IF YOU COULD TELL YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Have fun—as much as possible. And when you find something you like, or you're good at, stick with it. When you get older you'll realize there's not as much time to do the things you enjoyed growing up. So enjoy it while you can!

NOT ALL GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

AUTISM ♥ ADHD ♥ DYSCALCULIA ♥ DYSLEXIA ♥ DYSPRAXIA ♥ TOURETTES

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Neurodivergence (**ND**) means a person's brain works in a special way.

Autism, ADHD, and Dyslexia are common forms of neurodivergence.

WE ALL THINK AND LEARN DIFFERENTLY.

SUPERPOWERS!

Some strengths of ND brains can be:

Great Memory
Creative Thinking
Super Focused
Honest and Loyal
Deeply Feeling

DIFFERENT, NOT LESS

Some Autistic people need strategies to help them interact with the world, but *different is not bad or wrong.*

Neurotypical (**NT**) brains are what most people are used to. It's not better, just more familiar.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Autism isn't a cold, you can't catch it. People are born with it, just like we are born with different eye colors, different hair, or different heights!

WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE?

ACCEPTANCE NOT AWARENESS

Autism doesn't need to be solved or fixed.

Accepting all forms of neurodivergence means we care for our friends as they are and can work together to include everyone in the fun.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Be a Good **Friend**!

Be **Patient**!

Use **Kind** Words!

Include Others!

Respect Their Space!

Be **Curious**, Not Critical!

Puzzle pieces have been used to represent autism for a long time, but many autistic people don't like this as it can make autism seem "like a problem to solve" or they are "missing a piece," **WHICH ISN'T TRUE!**

Instead, many prefer symbols like the **INFINITY SIGN**, celebrating all forms of neurodivergence as a natural & important way of thinking.

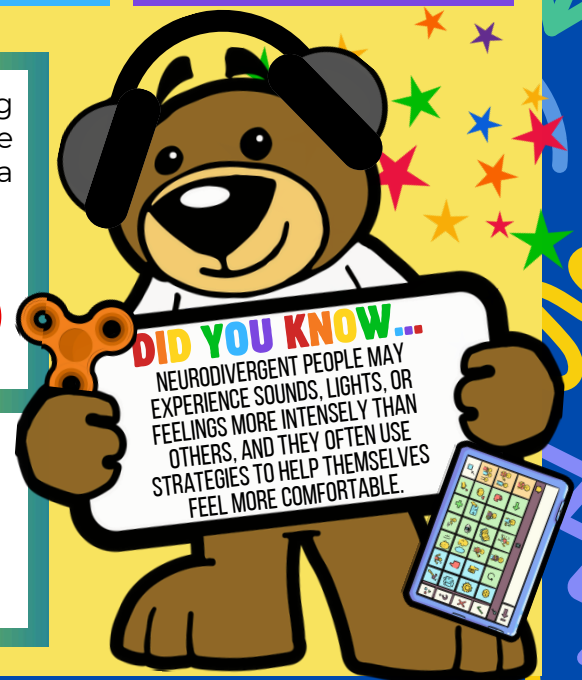


The **GOLD INFINITY SYMBOL** represents Autism.



Fun Fact: The chemical symbol for GOLD is Au!

The **RAINBOW INFINITY SYMBOL** represents ALL forms of neurodivergence.



NEURODIVERSITY IN FOCUS

BOOKS TO CELEBRATE UNDERSTANDING & ACCEPTANCE

FOR THE KIDS



FORGET ME NOT (AGES 9-12)

ELLIE TERRY

A touching novel-in-verse about a girl with **Tourette Syndrome** who struggles to fit in but learns to embrace her uniqueness.



ALL MY STRIPES (AGES 4-8)

SHAINA RUDOLPH & DANIELLE ROYER

A beautifully illustrated book about Zane the zebra, who worries that his **autism** makes him different, but learns to embrace his unique strengths.



MIGHTY MILA (AGES 4-8)

KATIE PETRUZZIELLO

A fun and inspiring story about a young girl who faces learning obstacles but is determined to do things her way, relatable for kids with **dyscalculia**.

FOR EVERYONE



A DAY WITH NO WORDS,

TIFFANY HAMMOND

A colorful picture book that explores the life of families who communicate without spoken language. It provides readers with a glimpse into the daily life of a young autistic boy who uses an assistive device to express his thoughts and feelings. It is a must-read for both homes and classrooms, promoting understanding and acceptance of nonverbal communication.

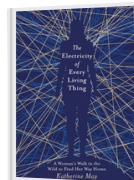
FOR THE ADULTS



THE KISS QUOTIENT, HELEN HOANG

FICTION / ROMANCE - AUTISM

Stella, a brilliant mathematician on the autism spectrum, prefers logic over social interactions. When she hires someone to teach her about relationships, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and love. Written by an autistic author, this novel offers an authentic take on neurodivergence.



THE ELECTRICITY OF EVERY LIVING THING,

KATHERINE MAY

MEMOIR - AUTISM & DYSPRAXIA

A beautifully written memoir about self-discovery and neurodiversity. Katherine May embarks on a long-distance hiking journey and, along the way, realizes that she is autistic and dyspraxic. This reflective and poetic book explores sensory experiences, late-diagnosed neurodivergence, and what it means to truly understand oneself.

GIFTS AS SWEET AS MOM

Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift? Surprise her with cozy, stylish spirit wear that shows off her school pride! Order now to make her day extra special.

[CLICK TO SHOP](#)



Answer to Buddy's Riddle from page 10

A: A FLOWER

**NEXT PTA MEETING
AND BOARD ELECTIONS**
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 AT 7:30PM

LOOK FOR THE ZOOM LINK IN YOUR EMAIL
OR ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

STAY UP TO DATE ON
EVENTS AND REMINDERS:



[FACEBOOK](#)



[PTA WEBSITE](#)