



BUSHY PARK

PTA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

NOTE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Happy May BPES Family,

As we welcome the beautiful month of May, we want to take a moment to honor and recognize all the nurturing, guiding, and loving caregivers in our community—mothers, grandmothers, guardians, and those who step into mothering roles in so many ways. Your support makes a lasting difference in our children's lives, and we are grateful for all that you do. We also recognize that this time can bring a mix of emotions for some, and we hold space for that too.

This time of year also marks a transition for our PTA. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our current board members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such a passionate team. Please join me in welcoming our newly elected PTA board for the upcoming school year. We're excited for the energy and ideas they bring, and we look forward to seeing the great things to come under their leadership.

With just a month and a half left in the school year, we know the days will fly by with all the exciting events and activities ahead—so hold on tight! We're almost at the finish line, and we're going to end the year strong and full of fun.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school and community.

Warmly,
Voula Augustin

WHAT'S AHEAD

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 9
BUSHY BLOOM PICK-UP

MAY 12
5TH GRADE
CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
-AND-
SPIRIT DAY - WEAR
RED, WHITE AND BLUE

MAY 14
CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT NIGHT

MAY 16
SCHOOLS DISMISS THREE
HOURS EARLY

MAY 20
FIELD DAY
-AND-
TONY LOCOS SPIRIT NIGHT

MAY 30
END OF YEAR PARTY

JUNE 6
SCHOOLS DISMISS THREE
HOURS EARLY
-AND-
ALEX'S ICE CREAM NIGHT

JUNE 9
FULL DAY OF SCHOOL FOR
ALL STUDENTS

JUNE 12
5TH GRADE PROMOTION

JUNE 16
SCHOOL DISMISS THREE
HOURS EARLY

JUNE 17
SCHOOL DISMISS THREE
HOURS EARLY

JUNE 18
SCHOOLS DISMISS THREE
HOURS EARLY
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

INTRODUCING THE 2025 - 2026

PTA BOARD

We are thrilled to announce the results of our PTA elections held on May 7. Please join us in welcoming the dedicated volunteers who will lead our PTA for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

These individuals bring great energy and commitment to their roles, and we're excited about the fun and meaningful plans ahead.

Thank you to everyone who ran and to all who participated in the election process. Your involvement is what makes our school community so special.

Stay tuned for updates on meetings and ways to get involved. Let's make it a great year together!

THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Denise Meyer, Melissa Westerlund, Cathy Zwanetz

PRESIDENT

ALY
SCHWARTZBAUER

VICE PRESIDENTS

ERIN
KERBER

CANDICE
GERSTNER

RECORDING SECRETARY

SARA
MUSCO

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

LINDSAY
CALLAWAY

OPEN

TREASURER

ABIGAIL
KIER

**BUSHY PARK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
WAS FILLED WITH FUN, FOOD, AND
HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR
OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF**

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO DONATED AND HELPED WITH SETUP
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK -
YOUR SUPPORT MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
NICOLE OXENHAM AND NATALIE KINGSBURY
FOR CHAIRING THE CELEBRATION AND
MAKING IT SUCH A SUCCESS!**

**CONTINUE SCROLLING TO SEE
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR AMAZING
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!**



TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

MONDAY, MAY 5TH

Teacher Appreciation Week is off to a flavorful start! Thanks to your generous MemberHub contributions, we kicked things off with a Taco Lunch in honor of Cinco de Mayo – and it was a hit.

A special thank you to **Ernesto's** of Ellicott City for providing the delectable spread – our staff felt the love!



Take a peek at a few photos of the delicious setup below, and stay tuned for more appreciation throughout the week.



TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

TUESDAY, MAY 6

On Tuesday, we kept the appreciation rolling – literally – with our Snack Cart making its way around the building to treat staff members to some goodies on the go. From salty to sweet (and everything in between), it was a fun way to spread smiles and say thank you to our amazing staff.

Take a look at some photos of the cart in action!



TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

On Wednesday morning, our staff started their day with a warm and welcoming breakfast spread, thanks again to the generous support from our school community. It was a wonderful way to fuel up and feel appreciated midweek!



THANK YOU TO BPES PARENTS
DANNY AND KIMBERLY CULL
DIVE COFFEE ROASTERS
FOR THE DELICIOUS COFFEE!

TEACHER & STAFF

APPRECIATION WEEK

THURSDAY, MAY 8

To help our amazing staff chill out, we treated them to frozen goodies! From popsicles to ice cream bars, it was a sweet way to say thank you for everything they do.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

We wrapped up Teacher Appreciation Week with a crowd favorite—pizza lunch!

A delicious way to end the week and show our gratitude for all the hard work our staff puts in every day.



**WE ♥ OUR BPES
TEACHERS AND STAFF**

5TH GRADE SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Monday, May 12, 2025

Each year, our 5th graders take part in a unique and impactful civics education program called We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. As part of this initiative, students participate in a simulated congressional hearing that brings government and the Constitution to life.

In this program, students:

- Work in teams to research topics related to the Constitution and American government,
- Prepare and deliver short presentations answering constitutional questions,
- Present their findings to a panel of judges—often educators, local officials, or community leaders,
- Respond to follow-up questions to demonstrate their understanding.

This experience not only deepens their knowledge of American democracy but also builds public speaking, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. It's a proud and memorable milestone for our 5th grade students!

9:20AM - 10:00AM
OPENING CEREMONY

10:15AM - 12:30PM
SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

In groups of 3, judges will rotate to the different classrooms to listen to students' speeches and ask them follow-up questions.

Parents are welcome to attend and watch their child's hearing!
To find your child's assigned classroom and time slot, please check their ELA course on Canvas.

12:30PM - 12:45PM
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

An informal gathering where students can ask judges questions.

5TH GRADE SIMULATED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Monday, May 12, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA TO OUR AMAZING 5TH GRADERS

To our incredible 5th grade students,

We are so proud of the hard work, curiosity, and courage you've shown as you prepare for your congressional hearing presentations. Learning about our Constitution, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship is no small task—and you've tackled it with enthusiasm and teamwork!

Standing up and speaking in front of others takes confidence and bravery, and we want you to know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. You are developing the voice, leadership, and critical thinking skills that will serve you well for years to come.

Remember: you've got this! Believe in yourself, support each other, and take pride in all you've accomplished. Your PTA is cheering you on every step of the way.

To our 5th grade families: If your schedule allows, we encourage you to attend the hearings and witness the incredible work your children have put into this experience. Your presence means the world to them, and it's a moment worth celebrating together.

With pride and encouragement,
BPES PTA

**GOOD LUCK, 5TH GRADERS! WE'RE SO
PROUD OF YOUR HARD WORK—
GO IN WITH CONFIDENCE AND SHINE!**



CARRYOUT - EAT IN - DRIVE THRU

BUSHY PARK CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT NIGHT

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 14, 2025

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6AM AND 10PM,
20% OF ALL SALES
THAT MENTION BUSHY PARK
WILL BE DONATED TO THE BPES PTA.

**MOBILE CODE:
BPES25**



Clarksville FSU

6395 10 Oaks Rd, Clarksville, MD 21029
chick-fil-a.com/clarksville
www.facebook.com/clarkvillechickfila

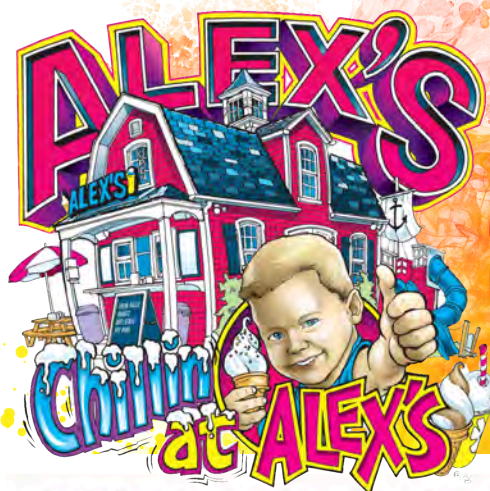
TONY LOCOS

**BPES
NIGHT**

MAY 20, 2025

710 Lisbon Center Dr,
Woodbine, MD 21797

**10% OF
ALL
DINE IN
AND
CARRY
OUT
SALES**



ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER

Indulge in your favorite ice cream flavors and support a great cause! We're donating 10% of all proceeds to **Bushy Park Elementary** to help kick off the new school year for **Spirit Day**! Bring your friends and family for a delightful day filled with sweet treats and community spirit!

JUNE 6, 2025



SCHOOL SUPPLIES SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO YOUR HOME

We're excited to share that we've partnered with **School Tool Box** to offer prepackaged school supplies for next year! Simply visit SchoolToolBox.com, enter our ZIP code (21738), find Bushy Park Elementary, and select your child's upcoming grade. Each box is customized to match the teacher-approved supply list. You can even add or remove items to fit your needs. Once you order, everything ships directly to your home—no crowds, no stress, and no last-minute shopping!

CLICK TO
ORDER



May 30th

5 - 8 PM

END YEAR Party

**UNFORGETTABLE
FUN!**

**LOCAL
VENDORS!**

**GREAT
FOOD!**

**ASTROJUMP
INFLATABLES!**

GAMES!

Please register online here:



**CLICK FOR
TICKETS**

Wristbands will be \$10 per child, 4 years and up and can be purchased online. When purchasing online, please include students name and homeroom for delivery. Wristbands will also be available at the event for \$15 per child. Families with 5 or more children attending the event will receive a \$10 discount. When purchasing wristbands, you must sign a liability waiver for each child. The waivers must be signed when you purchase online.

Food will be available for purchase from the following vendors: All Fired Up Brick Oven Pizza, Eat This, and Bad Monkey Ice Cream. Children must be supervised for the entirety of the event.

Thank you for registering for our event and we look forward to celebrating another wonderful year!

Questions?

Contact: Christina Yingling, christinamylingling@gmail.com

A special thanks to all of our sponsors!

YEARBOOK

"A Year of Sweet Memories"

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



DEADLINE TO ORDER IS MAY 12, 2025
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>

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>

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

LAST DAY TO UPLOAD PHOTOS IS MAY 12, 2025

SUPPORT JOHNS HOPKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Girl Scout Troop 2255 is collecting donations to support **Child Life Services at Johns Hopkins Children's Center**. These services help children in the hospital manage stress and anxiety through play and creative expression.

CALLING ALL BPES FAMILIES

Please consider donating coloring supplies and fidget toys listed in the SignUpGenius below. Donations can be dropped off in the grade pods or the front lobby by May 28th.

5TH GRADE COMMUNITY SERVICE

After donations are collected, Troop 2255 will team up with 5th grade students to assemble at least 30 gift bags for younger children and 30 gift bags for older children. Date and time for this special service project will be shared soon.

DONATION SIGN-UP

girl scouts 

BPES IS IN FULL BLOOM

A huge thank you to Aly Schwartzbauer, our **Grounds Beautification** Committee Chair, for her hard work and dedication to the beautiful new front beds at BPES!

Next time you visit, be sure to check out her efforts. Aly added rock around the flower beds to help with drainage and reduce mud, and added various species of flowering native plants making our school grounds even more welcoming!



BUDDY'S LAUGH CORNER



YOU SEE ME IN MAY WHEN
THE WEATHER IS RIGHT,
I ZIP AND I ZOOM, QUITE
A COLORFUL SIGHT!
I DANCE IN THE BREEZE
BUT STAY ON A STRING—
WATCH ME TAKE OFF
AND FLUTTER AND SWING!

WHAT AM I?

ANSWER ON PAGE 13

BEAR HUGS SPOTLIGHT



MISS AMES SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD BOOK?

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Pico de Gallo

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL (BESIDES BEARS!)?

Apple, my Golden Retriever

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE COLOR, AND WHY?

Green, preferably grass colored, I love growth

WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO SNACK DURING A BUSY DAY?

Anything Gluten Free

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL AS A KID?

Science

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM VACATION SPOT?

Anywhere with a tropical beach

DO YOU HAVE A HIDDEN TALENT?

I am an expert at Dr. Mario



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

Watching my students grow

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

Horseback Riding

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND A WEEKEND?

Poolside watching my girls swim and Coaching Swim Team

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WORK IN EDUCATION?

I love creating inclusive experiences for all children

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Be a life long learner

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

You can change your mind on what you want to do when you grow up!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING PART OF THE BUSHY PARK FAMILY?

Working and living within my own community

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

WHAT IS AAPI HERITAGE MONTH?

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month! It's a time to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of AAPI communities across the United States.

WHY IS IT IN MAY?

May was chosen to honor two key events: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the U.S. in 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, built largely by Chinese immigrant workers.

WHO IS PART OF AAPI COMMUNITIES?

AAPI communities include people from East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands, such as Samoa, Fiji, and Micronesia. Their rich cultures and traditions have shaped and strengthened the U.S.

ART, MUSIC, AND DANCE

From Yayoi Kusama's bold art to Bruno Mars' chart-topping hits, AAPI creators have brought vibrant energy to music, dance, and visual arts. Traditions like hula and Bollywood dance celebrate culture while inspiring creativity, self-expression, and a love of diversity.



GAMING

From Super Mario to Pokémon, AAPI creators have shaped some of the world's most beloved games! Companies like Nintendo, founded in Japan, have introduced imaginative worlds and fresh ideas that continue to inspire players across the globe.



FOOD



From sushi to pho to dumplings, AAPI communities have introduced delicious flavors that are now staples around the world! Their culinary traditions bring people together, build community, and share the rich stories behind every dish.



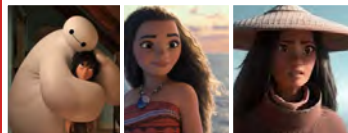
SPORTS

AAPI athletes have broken barriers and inspired millions across sports like figure skating, basketball, and surfing. Stars like Chloe Kim, Naomi Osaka, and Jeremy Lin show that hard work, passion, and pride can take you to the top!



MOVIES AND TELEVISION

AAPI actors are lighting up movies and television with powerful stories and unforgettable performances! They inspire young dreamers everywhere to celebrate their roots, embrace creativity, and tell their own stories.



MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE FULL BULLETIN BOARD AT BPES!

CELEBRATING AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

FOR THE KIDS



AMY WU AND THE PERFECT BAO

KAT ZHANG (K - 2ND)

A fun and flavorful story about a young girl learning to make dumplings—and embracing persistence and tradition.



LING & TING: NOT EXACTLY THE SAME!

GRACE LIN (K - 3RD)

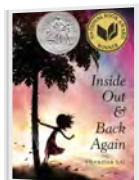
Twin sisters share six short, funny adventures that highlight cultural identity and sibling uniqueness.



JASMINE TOGUCHI: MOCHI QUEEN

DEBBI MICHIKO FLORENCE (2ND - 5TH)

Eight-year-old Jasmine is determined to help with her family's traditional Japanese mochi-making—even if it's "only for boys."



INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN

THANH HÀ LAI (4TH - 5TH)

A beautifully written novel-in-verse about a girl's journey from Vietnam to the U.S., filled with emotion, resilience, and hope.

FOR THE ADULTS*



CRYING IN H MART, MICHELLE ZAUNER, MEMOIR

A powerful memoir about food, grief, and a Korean American daughter reconnecting with her mother's culture.



DATING DR. DIL, NISHA SHARMA, ROMANCE

Kareena Mann dreams of having a love story like her parents, but she prefers restoring her classic car to swiping right on dating apps. Dr. Prem Verma is dedicated to building a local community health center, but he needs to get donors with deep pockets. That's when Kareena's meddling aunties presented him with a solution: convince Kareena he's her soulmate and they'll fund his clinic.



VERA WONG'S UNSOLICITED ADVICE FOR MURDERERS, JESSE Q SUTANTO, MYSTERY

Put the kettle on, there's a mystery brewing... Tea-shop owner. Matchmaker. Detective? Knowing she'll do a better job than the police possibly could—because nobody sniffs out a wrongdoing quite like a suspicious Chinese mother with time on her hands—Vera decides it's down to her to catch the killer.



THE BEST WE COULD DO, THI BUI, ILLUSTRATED MEMOIR

A stunning graphic memoir about a Vietnamese family's journey to the U.S. and the legacy of war and sacrifice.

*A NOTE ABOUT BOOKS, FROM OUR BOOKWORMS

Attempts have been made to include a variety of books spanning a variety of genres by a variety of authors either written by or themed around this month's heritage. Always check whether books may contain content that you might find upsetting or are appropriate for your family. None of these books represent the views of the BPES PTA nor do they represent an endorsement.



FATHER'S DAY IS COMING

Looking for the perfect gift for the awesome dads, grandpas, and father figures in your life?

[CLICK TO SHOP](#)



NEXT PTA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
AT 7:30PM

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



Answer to Buddy's
Riddle from page 10

A: A KITE

STAY UP TO DATE ON
EVENTS AND REMINDERS:



[FACEBOOK](#)



[PTA WEBSITE](#)