

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

I will be out of town next Friday so I am sending you announcements for two weeks.—S.H.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Submissions Deadline: The deadline for submissions to us for the November newsletter is **Wednesday, October 17**. Short articles (200 to 300 words), announcements and useful tips are welcome. Please send your submissions electronically to bhparentcenter@yahoo.com. *Thank you!*

ELAC Meeting: The first English Language Advisory Committee meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m.** This group is for parents who have children who are learning English in Bret Harte's English Language Learning program.

Improvement Committee: The Bret Harte Site Improvement Committee (BHSIC) will hold a special meeting **Wednesday, October 24 at 7 p.m.** to finalize planning for the Autumn Work Day on Saturday, October 27.

Autumn Work Day: Join us on **Saturday, October 27** for our 6th Annual Autumn Work Day. The event will be from about 9:00 –1:00 p.m. Projects include: gardening, graffiti removal, painting, and small classroom repairs. We invite all students, parents, teachers, staff and community members to come and help make Bret Harte a better place to be. Many teachers offer credit for citizenship or scholarship to their students who participate. Lunch will be provided.

Date Change for Annual Title I Meeting: Please note: the Annual Title I Meeting will NOW be held on Tuesday, **November 6 at 6:30 p.m.** It was previously scheduled for October 25. This meeting will present information about Bret Harte's test scores and our status under No Child Left Behind. Ms. Williams will explain programs which have been deployed to boost student achievement and improve the school climate.

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

I wanted to give you a taste of the announcements that your children hear at school. The following messages were read by students over the loudspeaker this past week. They are posted around campus for students to read in case they are in one of the rooms that is not connected to the school's loudspeaker system (portables and gymnasium. Thanks to Tracy Saldivar, one of our Instructional Assistants, for compiling and promoting these announcements!

“Bret Harte's Future Cheerleaders meeting has been changed to Tuesday, October 16. You need to bring a copy of your grades from the first marking period.

Do you like to play Sim City? See Mr. Bender in the Library for contest information.

Bravo tickets are here! Do something good and get rewarded. Prizes include passes to the front of the lunch line, etc. Watch for Leadership to explain more!

The Card Club is up and running, we meet everyday! There is still room if you are interested—see Ms.

Colt in Room 201.

There's a new "Movie Mondays" lunch club on campus. If you are interested, see Ms. Warner in room 208 for info and a pass.

There will be a dance for Halloween on October 31st. Anyone who is suspended or who is excessively tardy will not be allowed to go.

Beginning next week, we will start having tardy sweeps. The tardy sweeps are virtual. Ms. Williams will decide on a different period each day. She will pull up the names of students who were tardy for that period on her computer, then those students will need to serve detention. Tardy sweep detention will be every Wednesday. Students on this detention list will not be allowed to attend the upcoming dance. So get to all of your classes on time!!!"

HELPING BRET HARTE

Sometimes parents would like to feel a greater connection to Bret Harte but don't know how to make it happen. If you are one of these parents, here are some ideas to help you connect.

Newsletter Assembly: If you are available, please come to the Parent Center about 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, October 26** to help us with the assembly of November's newsletter. You'll be folding, stapling and counting. The job takes 2-4 hours, depending on the number of helpers who come.

Parent Center Library Help: The Parent Center has a number of useful books to lend to parents. We need help with typing an inventory and creating cards so we know who has checked them out. Can you help us with this time consuming task?

Adopt the Teacher's Copy Room: Our teachers are so busy that they rarely have time to tidy their copy room. If you would like to improve the quality of life for our teachers, in one small way, then you could volunteer to tidy the Teachers' Copy Room. This would take an hour or less of your time every week. Please let the Parent Center know if this is something you would like to do.

Display Cabinet Master: Do you like to make artistic arrangements? If so, you could become the Display Cabinet Master for the cabinet outside the Cafetorium. Whenever a teacher has enough items to fill the cabinet, then you would be responsible for creating the display. This would take an hour or so of your time about every month. Please let the Parent Center know if this is something you would like to do.

Boxes of Tissues: Boxes of tissues are almost always needed in the classrooms, especially as the cold weather begins and the kids have more runny noses. If you donate a box to one of your child's classrooms, it will be greatly appreciated. If you bring it to the classroom yourself (before or after school), then you could say "hi" to a teacher!

Yosemite Fundraiser: The Yosemite Planning Committee has launched a EcoMetro Guide fundraiser to raise money for the 2008 Yosemite trip! EcoMetro Guide is your local East Bay guide with green savings, maps and resources. EcoMetro Guide has hundreds of coupons and resources for exploring our community and supporting local, sustainable businesses. Find hundreds of dollars in everyday savings with offers for Farmer Joes, Whole Foods, Amtrak, REI, Ace Hardware stores, Chabot Space and

Science Center and many, many more! To see a complete list please visit: www.ecometro.com.

The books sell for \$20 and we'll receive 50% of each one sold. Save money and support our community with EcoMetro Guide! These books also make a great gift for friends, family, neighbors and teachers!

To make your purchase, please contact Ms. Warner by email: annekwarner@gmail.com or stop by Room 208.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

“The Three Doctors” Event: The “The Three Doctors” will be giving a presentation about their new book, “The Bond,” at the Oakland Museum on the evening of **Wednesday, October 17**. Middle and high school students are encouraged to attend. This would make an excellent field trip or event for parents and students.

If you don't know who these men are, and if you are interested in the challenges that urban African American boys must face, you should definitely attend this event. The Parent Center has a few copies of their other books, “The Pact” and “We Beat the Street.”

Here is the essential information:

Wednesday, October 17th

Oakland Museum 1000 Oak Street @ 10th Street

Private Reception 6:00 PM

Reading/Signing 7:00 PM

Tickets \$35.00 (reception, copy of "The Bond", reserved seating)

\$10.00 (reception, reserved seating)

\$5.00 (admittance to reading/signing)

Tickets are available at Marcus Books

3900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

Oakland

510-652-2344

Oakland Tech Information: You may view information about School Tours and Shadow Days at www.oaklandtech.com.

Tours of Oakland Tech for prospective students and their families will take place on:

-Friday, October 19th

-Friday, October 26th

-Friday, November 2nd

-Friday, November 9th

Tours will begin at 9:00 am in the Library, and will conclude at 11:00 am. If you are interested in a tour, please send an e-mail message to oaklandtechinfo@yahoo.com, including the number of guests in your party and your desired tour date.

Annual Parent Leadership Conference: OUSD's Family & Community Engagement Office is sponsoring a **Parent Leadership Conference on Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** The conference will be held at Patten University, 2433 Coolidge Ave. Topics include Discipline, School Budgets, Programs for Exceptional Children, English Language Learners, No Child Left Behind & School Improvement, Translation Services, A-G Requirements for High School Students, California High School Exit Exam, Equity Plan, Parents in Governance, K-3 Standards, 4-6 Standards, and Parent/Teacher Relationship Building. Registration forms are in the Parent Center. For more information, please contact Gulliver Scott, Administrative Assistant, at 879-8008.

Marcus A. Foster Institute Family University: The Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute is presenting a great learning opportunity. You'll learn how to chart a financial plan for college, identify, understand and support diverse learning styles, create an education plan with clear and measurable goals, effectively advocate for your child's educational needs, and more. Information will be presented in three more Saturday workshops (the first was October 6).

November 3, 2007	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
January 5, 2008	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
February 9, 2008	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Families will receive a **FREE** refurbished computer if they complete at least 3 Saturday workshops in the series. Breakfast, Lunch, Childcare and Raffles are included.

The cost is \$25 per family for all 4 sessions. Limited scholarships are available. Workshops will be held at the First Unitarian Church at 685 14th Street, Oakland. For more info, call 835-0391 or <http://www.mafei.org/>. Stop by the Parent Center to pick up a registration form.

Phew, that was a lot! Have a good weekend!

Sharon Higgins, Eva La and Gerarda Gonzalez
Parent Coordinators
Bret Harte's Parent Center, Room 102
879-2068