

## Announcements for the week of January 28

### SCHOOL EVENTS

**ATTENTION! Staff Development Day:** NO SCHOOL for students on **Monday, January 28**. This is a district-wide Staff Development Day.

**Bret Harte G.A.T.E. Parent Meeting:** Are you interested in how Bret Harte can better meet the needs of its gifted and talented students? Come to a meeting to brainstorm ideas, **Thursday, January 31** at 7 pm in Room 100. Contact Celia Davis at 530-7813 or [celia@datacenter.org](mailto:celia@datacenter.org), or Karen Ohlson at 336-9469 for more information.

**Rescheduled February SSC Meeting:** The February SSC meeting has been re-scheduled for **Wednesday, February 6 at 5:30 pm**. Network Executive Officer Harriet MacLean will be attending to discuss our Program Improvement Year 4 status. You are encouraged to attend.

**Rescheduled February PTA Meeting:** The February PTA meeting has been re-scheduled for **Wednesday, February 6 at 7 pm**. District 4 School Board Member Gary Yee will be present to discuss the attendance boundary and other school district issues. Also, the PTA will be discussing a new dress policy for Bret Harte for next year at this meeting. Community input is being sought regarding what the policy will be and how it should be advertised.

**Oakland Public Schools Jazz Festival:** Bret Harte's Jazz Band is one of ten public high school and middle school jazz bands that will be participating in the 6th Annual Oakland Public Schools Jazz Festival on **Thursday, February 7**. This afternoon/evening event will conclude with an exciting student performance. The public is invited to attend the **free show at 6:30 p.m.** in the Rawley T. Farnsworth Theater at Skyline High School, 12250 Skyline Blvd.

**Yearbooks:** Get your 2007-2008 Bret Harte Yearbooks now! Buy them during lunch at the Attendance Office window or in Room 301 (before/after school). They are only \$30, so get one before they sell out! The first payment (\$15) is due by March 7<sup>th</sup>. The second payment (\$15) is due by May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to these three students: **Elijamira Hassizilon (8), Kwabena Lewis-Ingram (7), and Rain Holmes-Martinez (6)**! They are the winners of the School Site Oratorical Fest competition which was held at Bret Harte on January 23. On Friday, February 15 they will be representing Bret Harte at the Secondary (school) Regional Competitions. The winners of that event will advance to the Finals Competition of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Fest which will take place on **March 7 from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.** at the Allen Temple Life Center, 8501 International Blvd. For contest details go to [www.tapestryleps.com](http://www.tapestryleps.com).

### PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

-A Walk Audit is going to be done for Bret Harte, as part of the Safe Routes to School program for **Thursday, February 7**, at the end of the school day. This requires some emailing and phoning, so please contact Shawna Brekke-Read (PTA President) at [brekkeread@california.com](mailto:brekkeread@california.com) to let her know if you're available to help with this.

(A Walk Audit means that a group of people will walk the neighborhood around Bret Harte to

determine how "friendly" the streets are to a walker. Is there a sidewalk? Is there a safe place to cross the street? Is there room on the sidewalk for a person to comfortably and safely walk? Are cars a threat to a walker, due to narrowness of the sidewalk or speed of passing cars? Is the route itself safe from other hazards? It can be an effective tool, but, for Bret Harte, the PTA told TALC that the survey needs to extend beyond the first few blocks around the school. Instead, it needs to extend to the neighborhoods where kids actually walk, including below the freeway, towards the Dimond, towards the Laurel, essentially extending to 35th Ave and Fruitvale. It's also helpful for community members and decisionmakers to be a part of the survey, so that any planning for improvements will have both grassroots and policymakers' support. Let Shawna know if you can help or if you know someone else who would like to participate.)

## **OUSD & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Latino Education Summit:** The 8th Latino Education Summit, "Education is Everybody's Business" conference, will be held on **Saturday, February 2** at the University Gymnasium of the California State University, East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. The summit will have inspirational speakers, informative workshops and a resource fair in which educators, parents and students alike will learn critical information about succeeding in high school and broadening career and college-going opportunities.

A variety of education, scholarship and health topics will be addressed and resources will be provided to participants. Special emphasis will be given to qualifying, applying, paying for and succeeding in college. Senior students from high schools throughout Alameda County are particularly encouraged to attend with their parents.

Admission, lunch and entertainment for all participants will be provided free of charge. As a newly-added service, for the first time, California State University, Chabot College, and other higher education institutions will be offering on-the-spot admission to eligible high school seniors who will attend the summit.

For more information, contact Hector Garcia, (510) 670-4235, [hgarcia@acoe.org](mailto:hgarcia@acoe.org).

**GATE Conference:** Here is information about the 2008 GATE Conference for Parents & Caregivers.

Date: **Saturday, February 9, 2008**

Time: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Continental breakfast and childcare are provided.)

Place: Fruitvale Elementary School  
3200 Boston Avenue, Oakland

No cost to attendees.

Who should attend and why:

Who: Parents/caregivers of GATE identified students, and of high potential students of all ages.

Teachers are also welcome.

Why:

- Learn more about strategies used for GATE students in the classroom
- Learn techniques for helping your child
- Share ideas about GATE with other parents

Sessions:

- Helping Your Capable Child Achieve – Parenting the GATE child
- Are There GATE Kids in Here? – finding out what should be happening in the classroom for GATE students
- My Teenager is Already in College? – Understanding Advanced Placement
- Driven to be Perfect – understanding the Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted
- Roundtable Discussions – more topics of Interest (e.g. summer programs, parents' choice, etc.)

Translation services will be made available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Cambodian. Contact information: Juanita Jackson at 879-8433 or Shelly Weintraub at 879-8477 or [shelly.weintraub@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:shelly.weintraub@ousd.k12.ca.us).

**Marcus A. Foster Institute Family University:** Mark your calendars. The Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute is offering one more Family University Session to the Bret Harte community. The last session will be on **Saturday, February 9** from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. For more info, call 835-0391 or <http://www.mafei.org/>.

## STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements read to students on January 22:

- Heroes is here!! Heroes is a book drive. If you have any old or like-new books and would like to donate them, there is a book bin outside the main office. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Carroll in the library.
- Ms Promes' cooking club will meet today at the beginning of lunch. If you are signed up, come to room 107 and don't be late!!
- And remember, this is YOUR community here!!! Please try to make it better everyday!!!

**Bret Harte Middle School Announcements:** If you have items to include in our weekly email announcements, please call us ! or send them electronically to [bhparentcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:bhparentcenter@yahoo.com). If we receive them before 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, they will be included in the messages posted on Friday afternoons.

Have a great week!  
The Parent Center  
Room 102  
879-2068