



Berkeley Lake Elementary PTA

Paw Prints



Jan./Feb.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) News
for the BLES Community

2018

Paw Prints delivers a snapshot of what's going on in the BLES community. It's brought to you by your PTA volunteers. Have feedback or ideas for the PTA? Send us a note at infoblespta@gmail.com.

Did you know that there are over 24 activities – school traditions – that happen every year at BLES because of PTA volunteers?

Some of those traditions are the Turkey Trot in November, Candlelight luncheons in December and Bingo Night in March.

Without our volunteers, these events wouldn't happen. You make the difference!

Please consider joining your PTA committees to create memorable experiences for our students.

We have a few positions – such as the **membership** co-chairs that will be opening for 2018-2019. Check out the "[why we do what we do](#)" section below to learn more.

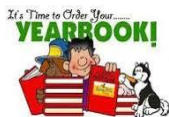
Even though it's in May, **Field Day** will be here before you know it. Cathy Shumate leads the Field Day committee and is looking for grade level coordinators. They assist Cathy by contacting a list of volunteers either by email or phone. This is an important job to ensure we have enough volunteers per class to help make Field Day a success. Email Cathy at cattcars00@hotmail.com if you're interested.

Are you good at design or have an eye for fashion? Consider volunteering for **yearbook** and **spirit wear** committees. Prefer a position you can work on at home? We need a **website** coordinator for next year, too.

We are thankful for each of you. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved between now and the end of the year. For now, **check out these [upcoming events](#)!**

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Today's top 3



1. **Do you have great pictures of activities around the school?** We'd love to have them for our yearbook. And, there's an app for that! Download the Balfour Image Share app from your favorite app store. Our BLES pass code is: 820422. Upload pictures directly from your smartphone or desktop. We'll try to use as many as we can. You can also find out more at <http://www.blespta.org/yearbook/>.
2. Several committee chairs are graduating to middle school this year. Please check out our [PTA Get Involved site](#) and thoughtfully consider getting



involved. Fill out our simple form and we can match you to a committee that suits your interests and available time. View our full list of committees [here](#).

3. We'll continue to be in the lobby the last Friday morning of each month so your child can order a yearbook and buy spirit wear.

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Why we do what we do

"I know how valuable it is to be involved in my children's school and have seen the benefits first-hand for parents, children and all the staff members at BLES!" says Danielle Rankin.

Danielle's been involved with the BLES PTA since 2012 when her daughter, Elsie, started kindergarten. Mrs. Sosa got her involved in classroom activities and her volunteerism blossomed from there. She says, "I could not have asked for a better person than Mrs. Sosa to help me get involved right away with the school."

After working in the media center, as room rep committee co-chair and serving on the PTA executive board as a vice president for 3 years, she says the opportunity to work with so many amazing parents and staff members has helped her create some lifelong friendships.

For the last 2 years, Danielle served as PTA membership co-chair. You've probably seen her around with her co-chair of the last 2 years, Sara Woolley.

Sara also got involved with PTA when her son, Trey, started kindergarten in 2009.

Sara quickly transitioned from room rep to PTA board secretary. Then, she served as PTA co-president for 2 years. She's also chaired the Cultural Arts Committee – helping our students have per-grade-level enrichment activities each year.

"My mom was always involved in my schools when I was growing up. So naturally, I learned how valuable it is to be involved in my children's schools."

Both Danielle and Sara will tell you how very rewarding it is to help enrich all students' educations with the various programs the PTA sponsors/supports. They know everyone is busy with their families and lives but finding even a small way to contribute is very valuable.

One of the many contributions Danielle and Sara have given the school is the annual "Back to School PTA Spaghetti Dinner". They say it's a tradition they've started that they hope someone will continue as they start their transition to middle school.

"It was so much fun cooking spaghetti and serving all the PTA families. We even found sponsors so we could have drawings for lots of fun prizes," says Danielle. "We all learned a great deal about cooking spaghetti for a large crowd from Mrs. Shockley – who has been gracious enough to open her BLES cafeteria to us."



Sara (left) and Danielle (right) serve up a spaghetti dinner in August to thank our BLES PTA members.





BLES is rich in diversity. So, it benefits from the various backgrounds and talents our families bring. Both Sara and Danielle say they hope others will share their talents with our school.

“You will get way more out of your time/experience than you put in,” says Sara.

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Upcoming PTA-sponsored events



1. **Feb. 7:** PTA spirit night at California Pizza Kitchen
2. **Feb. 15:** STEM night (rescheduled due to the January snow day)
3. **March:** Stay tuned for a new spring fundraiser...mmm – Krispy Kreme donuts...
4. **March 13:** PTA spirit night at Chick-Fil-A
5. **March 16:** Bingo Night! Seats fill up fast so plan to come early for the PTA general meeting and get a reserved seat for bingo

Support BLES when you shop



Did you know that when you shop Amazon, Ingles, Publix, OfficeMax a percentage of those sales could go to BLES?



Sign up with your online accounts.



You can also send in your Box Tops for education. To help with counting, you can download this [Box Tops Collection Sheet](#). Teachers also have copies.



New this year with Box Tops!

Make sure to put your name on your Box Tops collection sheets and put them in the wooden box in the main hallway near the water fountain. We'll hold a random drawing each month. All students who submit Box Tops will be entered.

The prize? A coupon for a free ice cream or an item from the student store.

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Why get involved in your PTA?

PTA is a membership association of parents and teachers that raises money to fund activities to help enrich our students' education experience.

Our volunteers do the committee work to plan and make the activities happen.

You are always needed – no matter how much time you can give.

Do I have to join a committee?

No. You can simply join for \$7 and/or make a monetary contribution. Membership numbers are important to show we are an active school that supports our students.

Will I have to come to meetings?

No, not unless you want to. We try to send email blasts with updates or weave our PTA general meetings into activities parents will already be attending – and we keep them short.

Like discounts?

Sponsor organizations give great discounts to PTA members. [Check them out!](#)

Have lots of time to dedicate? Or only a few hours during the whole school year? Want to know more?

(You can even have a good laugh at the write ups!)

[Click for a full list of 2017-2018 volunteer opportunities – with contacts!](#)



Spirit wear sales



Students enjoying PTA Spirit Night at Zaxby's

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Questions? Feedback? Contact us at: infoblespta@gmail.com.
Find out more about BLES PTA, officers, committees, etc. at: www.blespta.org.