Nov./Dec.

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

2017

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 <a href="mailto:infoblespta@gmail.com">infoblespta@gmail.com</a>.

We're getting ready for the busy holiday season. This is a quick reminder of the activities we have planned in November and December. We look forward to spending time with our BLES family.

A few notes from your PTA board and committees:

- Do you have great pictures of activities around the school? Share them. 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 <a href="http://www.blespta.org/yearbook/">http://www.blespta.org/yearbook/</a>. Thanks for the memories!
- Several of our committee chairs are graduating to middle school this year. We hope new members
  will check out our <u>PTA Get Involved site</u> and, well, get involved! Fill out our simple form and we
  can match you to a committee that suits your interests and available time. Also, you can view our
  full list of committees here.
- Remember the last Friday of each month, too. We'll continue to be in the lobby so your child can order a yearbook and buy spirit wear.

We are thankful for each of our members and give a special thanks to our dedicated and hard-working volunteers. You make our school special and give our incredible teachers and staff much-needed support.

**In this issue:** Top 3 | Why we do what we do | Support us when you shop | Why get involved?

Today's top 3



- Our Turkey Trot tradition lives on! Join us on Nov. 11 at 8:30 a.m. at the school. There is a 4-mile run around Lake Berkeley and a 1.5-mile fun run/walk near the school grounds. Also, K-Kids is hosting their annual pancake breakfast. Run/walk, come to cheer everyone across the finish line and enjoy breakfast. Special thanks for Ellissa Friedman and her committee for organizing.
- 2. We're showing our thanks to you with our first PTA Executive Board Meet, Greet and Treats. The PTA Executive Board and several committee members are bringing appetizers and desserts. You bring your questions about the PTA. Join us if you are interested in being involved with our committees or if you just have questions about what being a part of the PTA means. We'll be in the school cafeteria on Nov. 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. There will also be a special election for our new co-President elect, Tara Givens. See you there!
- 3. Want to get involved even if it's just to see how our programs work? Now is a great time to shadow our current volunteers and learn how to keep our great school traditions alive next year. Join us at the Nov. 8 meet and greet or visit our <u>BLES PTA site</u> to learn more.

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## Why we do what we do

Rose Merrick, yearbook and spirit wear co-chair, has been designing our yearbook for the last four years. For the last three years, she's designed our spirit wear, too. She loves design and marketing. That's her trade so she's able to lend her skills to the school. The thing she loves most? Seeing the kids' expressions when the books arrive at the school each spring. She says, "Hearing their remarks that they think they've got the coolest yearbook in the county is such a satisfying feeling."

Volunteering at the school helps her get to know the administrators, teachers, kids and other parents. Being visible in the school lets her watch her children grow and develop. Rose says it helps her build relationships with her kids' teachers and their friends, too.



One relationship Rose has built is with her co-chair. "I do spirit wear and yearbook with Marion Redfearn – which takes the word JOB out of it!"

Marion came to the Berkeley Lake community from the U.K. a little over two and a half years ago. She got involved with our PTA to get to know the school and the community. "There were lots of things very new to us. I have always felt it's important to be as big a part of my children's education as possible. Volunteering for PTA activities gave me a chance to meet 'like-minded' people."

Since moving here, she's had the opportunity to be a stay-at-home mom for the first time in her working life. That gave her time to invest at the school.

"PTA feels like time well spent!" says Marion. "I've been co-chair of the spirit wear committee for about a year and a half and this is my first year co-chairing the yearbook committee. It goes without saying that working with Mrs. Merrick on both committees is a fun experience!"

We'll be sending these two off to middle school soon, and their presence will be sorely missed. "This is my final year with BLES," says Rose. "And I am truly

going to miss it all. I've made some great friends along the way being a part of the PTA!"

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## **Upcoming PTA-sponsored events**

- 1. Nov. 8: PTA Executive Board Meet, Greet and Treats
- 2. **Nov. 11:** Turkey Trot (and K-Kids host their annual pancake breakfast)
- 3. **Dec. 5:** Spirit Night at Jason's Deli (to complement Barnes and Noble Night with Ms. Page's activities and the choir performance)
- 4. Dec. 7 & 8: Candlelight Luncheon

# 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.

### New this year!

Make sure to put your name on your Box Tops collection sheets. 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, too. 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!

**Pictured:** BLES students at the Duluth Fall Festival Parade, Spirit Night at the California Pizza Kitchen and the Charleston Wrap Pig Races.

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

Want to know more? (Or even have a good laugh at the write ups!)

Click for a full list of our 2017-2018 volunteer opportunities – with contacts!

Questions? Feedback? Contact us at: <a href="mailto:infoblespta@gmail.com">infoblespta@gmail.com</a>. Find out more about BLES PTA, officers, committees, etc. at: <a href="mailto:www.blespta.org">www.blespta.org</a>.