

Tiger Tales

December, 2008



BJM Calendar

December 2008				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4 PTA Meeting 5:30p dinner 6-7p meeting	5
	Scoring 5 th grade Social Studies			
8	9	10 Morning Community Meeting Grades 3-5	11 Staff Dish-to-pass	12
15	16	17 Morning Program	18 5:30p Community Night	19
22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL

Can you help?

Can you help one of our school families who could use some support as a result of a car accident? Please consider providing assistance with meals for a mother and her children.

Please contact Samantha Little if you can assist with donating meals for one adult and four children and Samantha will coordinate delivery. There are no known food allergies. Cooked meals that could go into the freezer and be pulled out to heat up that would be great. Pasta, lasagna, salad, garlic bread ... things along those lines. Fruit and things to snack on that do not require much preparation would be great as well.

We appreciate your support. If you have any questions please call Samantha at 274-2340 or e-mail sdavid@icsd.k12.ny.us.



Check the Lost & Found in the Cafeteria for those missing hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves!

Basketball Coach Contact & Practice Information

4/5 Grade Girls: Head Coach Valerie Milton 607-301-6095; Assistant Coach Tyrone Dean

Practice Schedule: Sat 10am-11:30 am in the BJM Gym

3rd Grade Boys: Head Coach Seth Peacock 351-1696 or sethpeacock@gmail.com; Asst. Coach Rickey Milton

Practice Schedule: M,W 1:55PM~3:15PM in the BJM Gym

4th Grade Boys: Head Coach DJ LaFave 607-242-6433; Asst. Coach Lester McNair

Practice Schedule: Tu, Fri 1:55PM~3:15PM in the BJM Gym

5th Grade Boys: Head Coach DJ LaFave 607-242-6433; Asst. Coach Lester McNeil

Practice Schedule: Tu, Fri 1:55PM~3:15PM in the BJM Gym



PTA General Meeting

Thursday, December 4th in the cafeteria
dinner at 5:30
meeting from 6pm - 7pm
childcare is provided

Agenda

- IPEI Fine Arts Boosters
- Barnes & Noble Fundraisers
 - Book Fair Dec 6 - Dec 11 - % of purchases made with voucher earns \$\$ for BJM
 - Gift Wrapping Dec 20-21 - volunteers needed
- Future fundraisers
 - ideas
 - coordinators
- Yearbook
- Revamp book fair - Family Reading Partnership assistance/participation?
- Multi-Cultural Dinner
 - coordinator needed
 - ideas

For more information, please contact Cynthia Brock at 280-0661 or cynthia.ny@earthlink.net



From The Principal

Dear Beverly J. Martin Families,

The month of December is upon us and we have completed the first three months of 2008 – 2009. I hope that you all had very helpful parent teacher conferences. It is such a critical part of the education process. Please remember that communication with your child's teacher is not only at that conference time. We must all stay connected when it comes to student learning and personal development. The more that home and school partner the better understanding we have of each other and how that impacts the children. The teacher newsletters and this communication provide very good information about all aspects of the school. There are many other ways that this takes place. I like to hear from each person in our community how to best reach and outreach for ongoing communication. Please share ideas and I will do the same. In January we plan to share many of our school wide updates about teaching and learning priorities, cultural and community development and effective and new ways to keep the overall educational process moving forward. We are at a point in time where we are revisiting our mission, vision and goals. Please look for this over the next month and when we return after the break.

December is a time of significant reflection. We focus on “empathy” as noted on our school calendar. Some ways we approach this is through our vigilance on respect, responsibility and emotional and physical safety. It is a month that includes national recognitions some including: World AIDS Day and the Montgomery Bus Boycott 12/1; Human Rights Day 12/10 ; Bill of Rights Day 12/15; Winter Solstice 12/21; and very important diverse beliefs related to culture, religion, practices, celebrations and life's joys and struggles as we close this year and prepare for the new one.

2008 reflections also present us with some very important topics and times that could result in great opportunities yet with challenges to reach them. We are experiencing a time in history like no other. The election of President Obama begins new action and dialogue as our nation and world reexamine how we provide for education, economics, the work force, health care and much more.

I am very committed to our own reexamination of how we best serve the children, families and staff at BJM and what current and future impact we can make at all community levels. Together we need to look at and act upon successes and challenges related to achievement and social development and how we connect children and adults in 21st century times. There is never ending learning around race, class, ability, language, gender, choice, voice and opportunity. Let's build upon the strength that comes from this learning and focus on what is working, what is not and accept what we need to do for growth and change. Clarity and focus on the BJM mission, vision and goals will guide us. Many staff, families and community members are helping with this work to share out in the New Year. Please contact me if you interested in helping in whatever way you can. Thanks for all that you do.

Respectfully,

Denise Gomber, Principal





Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR



Help raise money for our yearbook by spreading the word regarding our upcoming Barnes & Noble Fundraiser to benefit BJM!

From Saturday, December 6th to Thursday, December 11th **at all stores nationwide**, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of every sale (except for gift cards, memberships & Starbucks) made with a special Book Fair voucher to Beverly J. Martin Elementary School PTA!

There will be a tea and cheesecake tasting at 4pm on the 6th and the BJM 5th graders will be gift-wrapping to launch this special event!
The money raised by the 5th graders help fund their class trip.

For ICSD, CU and IC staff - December 6th is Educator's Day - where educators will receive a 25% discount on Books and Gifts, and a 10% discount on DVDs & CDs.

Vouchers will be available online at www.bjmpta.org <<http://www.bjmpta.org>> , in hard copy at BJM, and by request at Barnes & Noble, Ithaca. Email vouchers to friends and family, and their purchases will help raise money for our school! If you are in Ithaca, you can ask for your voucher at the counter before completing your purchase.

PLUS, we need volunteers to help with gift-wrapping at Barnes & Noble on Saturday, Dec. 20 and Sunday, Dec. 21st from 12-4pm
please contact Ronneisha Butler at 592-6784 to help!

Part of this year's proceeds will underwrite the costs of publishing BJM's first school yearbook since.... who knows when!?! Every dollar we raise will help bring down the standard cost per book (normally between \$8-\$10).

Thanks for helping to get the word out!

PTA Contact Information

PTA President:

Cynthia Brock
280-0661 or cynthia.ny@earthlink.net

PTA Vice President:

Helen Garmhausen helen.ithaca@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Meredith McCloud

Listserv

To subscribe: BJMPTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To send messages: BJMPTA@yahoogroups.com

Website: bjmpta.org

Mailing address:

BJM PTA
302 West Buffalo Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meetings are usually held the first Thursday of each month. Meeting notices go out via the listserv and paper copies in the students' backpacks. Notices are also posted on the bulletin board outside the main office.

Newsletter editor:

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