

# Parent News

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## Director's Note

Some of you may be wondering.....what exactly do the Burlington Little School staff do when the school closes for teacher in-service day? These days can be inconvenient for parents, however, they are invaluable to the inner workings of a strong teaching team. Because we are open from early morning hours to dinner time, dedicated in-service days give ALL staff an opportunity to participate together. Professional development this year has included not only the opportunity to learn new things, but also to spend uninterrupted time together sharing ideas and teaching strategies with one another. This year, we are focusing on improving the consistency of our portfolio documentation from class to class.

Our documentation system is one of the key components that sets Burlington Little School apart from other preschool programs. Creating and implementing strong systems of documentation to showcase what your children are learning and practicing at school is critical in our philosophy of focusing on the child. This past week, we were able to attend an all staff CPR/First Aid and Blood borne pathogens training at Alpine Fire and Safety in Burlington. This yearly training ensures that we stay current in our knowledge in how to manage a potential emergency at the school in order to keep everyone safe.

Another kudu to our wonderful school.....aside from public school districts, BLS is one of the few preschools in Skagit Valley that honors the importance of staff training by actually observing closure days to fulfill this purpose.

We thank each family for supporting our professional development in this way.

Terri

## Growing with Nature a Success!

Thank you again to all for your contributions to this year's auction. Our hard work and generous support from the community generated over \$20,000 that will be put to good use for the rest of this school year and the future. If you attended we hope you enjoyed celebrating BLS' 30 year history. Along with a pat on the back please pass along appreciation to the committee, your teachers, and volunteers. Please attend board meetings and or read the minutes provided in the Board notebook if you'd like to know how these funds are used.

Committee Members: Jodi Carkner, Amber Walker, Tania Kahlor, Kathy Corrion, Angela Neal, Calvin Ohlson-Kiehn, Christine Royers, Claire Kang, Crystal Britt, Dana Pickens, Deean Graham, Jackie Roberts, Julie de Losada, Kim Ressa, Laurie Fellers, Lindsey Bowen, Michele Greathouse, Monica Bertollini, Nicole Pomerlieu, Robin Ozaki, Sarah Bishop, Stacy Olver, Tobie Fehr, Zach Jacobsen, Katie Walker, Darcie Oliver, Cindy Jacobsen, Becky Roth.

And an FYI-the puppy has been named Porter.

Please support the Skagit Valley businesses that donated to our auction.

Thank you to all our families for your donations, attendance, and guests!

## BLS Recycles!



Ever wonder why there are so many different trash cans in your child's classroom? Burlington Little School is engaged in a multi-faceted recycling program that teaches the children about our resources and our planet; it also allows us to reduce our impact on the local landfills, recycles paper, plastic, glass and turns food and yard waste into compost. We also have a large worm composting bin which Lale will tell you about in an attachment to this newsletter!

The **BLUE** waste basket with the recycle symbol on it is for plastic, paper and glass, which ultimately goes into the large **BLUE** bin in the parking lot. All items are recycled. The **GREEN** waste basket is for food waste and paper towels. ALL food can go in this container which is lined with a special biodegradable bag. This ultimately goes into the large **GREEN** Yard Waste / Food Waste bin in the parking lot. All food waste and yard waste is turned into compost at Skagit Soils in Mt Vernon. **PLASTIC IS A CONTAMINANT!**

The **GREY** waste basket with the black plastic bag is for non-recyclables or 'garbage' which ultimately goes into the huge **GARBAGE** dumpster in the parking lot. All garbage ends up in a landfill. Our goal is to ultimately be reducing the amount we are sending to the landfill every week. The **RED** bins are for Capri Sun packets. This is a fundraiser through Terracycle. If you have any questions about this program or would like to help develop it further, please contact Stacy Olver or Sarah Bishop or Lale.

## Outdoor Classroom Update

### Did you see the front page article in the Argus about the Outdoor Classroom?

The Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom committee has been working hard to continue installing the design for the Big Yard this winter. The Climbing Platforms and drain pipe tunnel near the large Fir trees have been a big hit! Plans are in the works to get a couple more platforms installed before the end of the year. The Music and Movement Area will soon take shape. We are creating the

chimes out of old scuba tanks and fire extinguishers, thanks to the time and talents of BLS parent Cory Gaines and the students at Mt Vernon High School welding class. An example of these chimes have been displayed in the front hall of the school. We are hoping to install these at the next work party in March. Finally, we are currently working with Skagit Redi-Mix and BLS parent Daniel Britt to build a walkway that will connect the front gate with the Sunlight Classroom, Explorers Club with the deck ramp and the

Big Yard. This is a large project that will require many hands to complete. We will need donations of forms, funds and BLS fathers (or mothers) who know a thing or two about concrete work. The plan is posted on the Outdoor Classroom bulletin board. Please contact Terri or Sarah Bishop about questions and donations.

Next Work Party: Saturday March 20th, 9 AM- 2 PM. Childcare provided.

### NEOC

Meetings:  
First W of the  
month at BLS  
3PM

Work Party:  
3/20 9 AM

## Chester's Club

BLS parents created Chester's Club, Chester being our recycling mascot, a few years ago. Recycling has continued but Chester's committee has not. The mission of this group was to ensure that environmental responsibility is an integral part of the BLS environment. Sarah Bishop, Lale and the staff have been continuing this focus but

they do need parent input and help. Look for updates in future newsletters. Thank you to Lale for taking care of our worms and please see the attachment about the worm composting and how Explorers' Club kids are helping out.

From Lale: One fun way of recycling is feeding our worms with our food scraps and making their bedding with used shredded paper. During Explorers Club, we usually visit the worm bin and see how our worms are doing. It is fascinating to see how they slowly turn our waste into fertile dirt.

## PPC: Projects & Events

If you have concerns, ideas, or want to find the project that is right for you, please see a PPC member. Tobie Fehr, Sarah Avey, Liz Kuchling, Tiffany Trusty-Fox, Yoko Kumar, Crystal Britt, Julie de Losada, Denice Gardner, Zach Jacobsen, Kathy Corrion, Kim Ressa, Britt Shellenberger, Laurie Fellers, Tania Kahlor, Patti Hamrick, and Stacy Olver

**Next meeting is Tuesday March 9th 2010 6:30 PM. at Common Ground.** Minutes are posted on the parent board next to the office.

### On going projects:

**Art in The Community:** Please help Yoko Kumar place BLS art out in Skagit County. Great marketing for BLS! She needs 3 volunteers to recruit places and hang artwork. Black frames needed. Contact a PPC member for information.

**Outreach:** Flower pots to Country Meadows, Common Ground and Chamber of Commerce and Learning Tree play for residents at Country Meadows.

### Works in Progress and under discussion:

Rummage Sale/Clothing Exchange.

Teacher Appreciation Days: Monday May 3rd and Thursday May 6th.

Parent Hours Review

Outreach projects: Pennies for Peace, help for Haiti, etc.



## Parent Hours Opportunities

### Attend work parties:

there are indoor projects as well as working on the grounds. Next Work Party: March

**PPC:** Project and Planning Council has ongoing projects. Ask a PPC member.

Ask Teachers if they need anything in the classroom.

**Strategic Planning:** ask our board president, Calvin Ohlson-Kiehn or our director, Terri.

**Art in the Community:** recruit places and/or hang BLS art. Approx. 2 hours a month. Contact Yoko Kumar via a PPC member or Stacy Olver.

### Special Events/Fundraisers:

Rummage Sale/Clothing Exchange: PPC project lead by Tobie Fehr. Ask a PPC member to join in.

Teacher Appreciation Days: Coming up in May. PPC project lead by Tania Kahlor. Ask a PPC member to help plan.

*Thank you for your participation. BLS would not be the special place it is without you.*

## Board of Directors

**Next Meeting:** Please note that the next board meeting is on Monday, March 8 (instead of the first Monday of the month). The meeting starts at 6:45 at the Burlington Library meeting room off the foyer. The meeting is open to all staff and parents."

### New board members:

Julie de Losada, member at Large as of December 2009

Pat Gehring, Treasurer, as of January 2010

### THANKS!

"The board would like to thank the auction committee, parents, and staff for their hard work on the BLS auction. It was a great success, especially considering the economic downturn. Nice job Jodi!"

**BURLINGTON  
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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*  
**www.burlingtonlittle  
school.com**

**Find us on Facebook!**

## FYI & Housekeeping

### Lost and Found

Please notice the hanging rack for lost and found items in the front hallway. Items are easier to see and retrieve. Items are donated to local charities at the end of the month, so please find that pair of socks or favorite hat before they go away.

### See what's new on the website and Facebook!

Thanks to Tiffany Trusty-Fox for updating the website and Maura Marlin for administering our Facebook page.

### Help Choose Colors!

Fresh paint brightens every space. We're working on painting the hallway, office, and kitchen soon. Please take a look at samples next to the office.

### Newsletter

This is a work in progress. If you have ideas for this newsletter or you catch a mistake, please contact me. Thanks!

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