

Bower Buzz



Provided by Bower PTA

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NOVEMBER 2009

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT >>>

I hope everyone has had a wonderful October. We just finished a very successful Book Fair this year thanks to Melissa and Rob Sider. Our totals exceeded last year by \$1,200.00. Because the Scholastic Company has changed the program this year Bower will see the largest benefit by taking these profits in Scholastic Dollars. We will be meeting with staff over the next week to decide on what the schools needs are. We will also be able to add to our birthday books and NO TV Week books by using scholastic dollars.

Thank you to Konnie Maskell and Jennifer Logan for co-chairing our Reflections program. The art has been judged and we are looking forward to seeing everyone that participated on December 2nd at 7:00 pm in the lunchroom. More information will be coming home soon.

Our Green Committee has done a great job with our Make a Difference Week. Thank you to Katie O'Connell and Cinnamon Benda and Jill Strandberg. We were able to collect lots of gently used shoes to help those in need. With this new committee we have also begun conserving paper by only sending home notices to the oldest child at school! Don't forgot also remind your child if bringing a Capri Sun or Honest Kids juice box than can recycle them at school and we will receive money!

Our PTA Directories are coming home this Friday. If you did not receive one please contact Pam Nielsen to make sure that you are a PTA Member. All paid PTA members will receive one free directory. Thank you to Salena Pierce for putting together the Directory, it looks fantastic with lots of green ideas on the pages!

Lastly, we are all very excited for our Fall Fling on November 6th at the Courtyard in Warrenville. There has been a great group of ladies working very hard on this night to make it a wonderful time for everyone but especially raising money for our Bower children! Please contact anyone of us on the board if you are still interested in purchasing a ticket for that evening! A huge thank you to all of our Bower staff who not only spent their own money to provide baskets for auctioning but also a lot of their time! Thank you!

Lisa Mentzer, PTA President

MARKET DAY >>>

Please consider ordering a pie this month from Market Day! We earn extra money this month by selling pies. Thanksgiving is a great time to bring a pie to a friend or families home. Market Day offers bonus profits for each pie ordered during the month of November. In addition to the usual 10%, we can earn: 1-249 pies = \$1.75 per pie; 250-499 pies = \$2.75 per pie; 500 or more = \$3.75 per pie. If you have any questions or if you are able to help on market day evenings please contact Janet Rasplicka at 630-393-7425.

BOWER SPIRIT DAYS >>>

Bower Students & Staff!! Show your Bower Spirit on the first Friday of the month! November 6th Bower spirit wear—wear your Bower apparel or school colors. Watch the buzz to see what's next month!

BOWER BUZZ >>>

The Buzz comes out the last Friday of the month. Please send in your submissions to Julie Clark @ monark97@sbcglobal.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

NO TV WEEK - NOVEMBER 1-6

CONFERENCES - NOVEMBER 2-5

FALL FLING - NOVEMBER 6

MARKET DAY - NOVEMBER 11

PTA MEETING - NOVEMBER 11

THANKSGIVING BREAK -
NOVEMBER 23-27

FROM THE PRINCIPAL >>>

The school year is off to a fantastic start and first quarter has come to an end. Report cards will be sent home on Monday, November 2nd. Parent / Teacher conferences are also starting this week (please contact your child's teacher if you haven't received an invitation). These conferences are extremely important and are the single best opportunity to share information about your child. Your attendance is appreciated.

As the weather begins to get colder, please remember that students will generally be outside for recess and need to dress appropriately. With the colder weather, more students are being driven to school. To insure safety and to facilitate smooth traffic flow, it is essential that parents adhere to the following drop-off and pickup procedures.

A single line is formed in our parking lot for both dropping off and picking up students before and after school. Please no passing cars in this line because this creates more of a safety hazard for everyone during these busy times of the school day. Cars should move forward as far as possible along the sidewalk (up to the orange cone on the sidewalk) before stopping so that the maximum number of students will be able to be dropped off/picked up at the same time. This needs to be an efficient process and cars that stop short add considerably to the congestion problem. If it is necessary to park your car, please escort your children across the parking lot by using the crosswalk. Students should NEVER be allowed to walk in the parking lot without an adult.

❧ REFLECTIONS PROGRAM ❧

Our 2009 PTA Reflections program is nearly complete and we want to congratulate each of the 88 students who participated for a job well done. We will be presenting an evening of art and awards

**Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m. in
the lunchroom at Bower.**

Each participant will receive an award and the advancing entries will be announced at that time. Please plan to attend and enjoy all the art that was entered.

Konnie Maskell and Jennifer Logan,
Reflections Committee

Important Dates and Reminders

Monday November 2nd – Report Cards
Week of November 2nd – Parent / Teacher Conferences
Week of November 16th – Start Christmas Sharing Collection
Week of November 23rd – No School (Thanksgiving Break)

Please remember to support the Bower PTA and attend the PTA Fall Fling at the Courtyard on Friday November 6th.

November is a traditional month of giving thanks and I would like to thank all of our Bower families and our staff members for being so generous with their time and talents. Everyone is so invested in the growth and success of all our children. The mission statement for District 200 is to inspire, educate, challenge, and support all students to reach their highest level of learning and personal development. Within the Bower community, we all work together “inspiring within everyone a passion to excel”.

Thank you for your commitment to all our children.
Mark Kohlmann

BOOK FAIR THANKS!

Thanks to everyone for a very successful book fair! We appreciate the many volunteers who gave their time to make it a success. Congratulations to the Bower Girls, who won the “One for Books” competition. We raised almost \$50 to buy books for the Bower Library and Scholastic will match that amount in donations to their three primary charities. Congratulations to Dom Carrillo (1st grade) who came the closest in the “Guess How Many” competition. There were 175 cars in the glass jar and Dom guessed 177! Thanks again to everyone.

HOLIDAYS FOR HEROES

Our own Pam Lowe, the crossing guard is kicking off the 9th Annual Holidays for Heroes. This is a drive to benefit local veterans. Please contact Pam for more information on how you can help. 630.393.4692.

Bower Fall Fling
Friday November 6th
7:00 - 11:00 pm
Courtyard Banquets

Don't forget to get your tickets!
\$15 each if you pre-pay or \$20 at the door.



GREEN TEAM >>>

The Bower Green Team has been busy getting some new projects started. The first meeting was held September 30, and another meeting is being planned for mid November. First on the agenda was streamlining the backpack mail system. In the past, informational flyers were distributed to every student, but once this new system is in place, flyers and newsletters will be sent home with the oldest student at Bower. Hopefully you are already noticing the change. What a great way to reduce our paper waste!

A new on-going program, Terracycling, has started. Terracycling reuses juice pouches from Capri Sun and Honest Kids, converting them into other products. Rather than send them to a landfill, Terracycling gives \$.02 for each pouch returned to them. A bin is in the lunch room for students to place their used drink pouches after lunch or to bring in from home. So far the response has been great!

Speaking of lunch, the “No Waste Lunch” program has been expanded. The third Wednesday of each month is designated “No Waste Lunch” day at Bower. The first date was Oct. 21, and there was a great response. We encourage everyone to use reusable containers every day, but students that participate on No Waste days are eligible for prize drawings, such as stainless steel water bottles, reusable sandwich wrappers and bags. Congratulations to Jonathan Willcut and Adam Skilling for winning the No Waste Lunch raffles for October. Next no waste date: November 18th.

Thanks to all of the students who participated in the shoe drive held during Make a Difference week. It was very successful! Students brought in their old gym shoes, which will be either reused (if they are in good enough condition) or recycled into a variety of products, including playground mulch. Thanks to Joe Benda for the cool “green” goal posters tracking each grade’s participation and for the donor of the bins!

Did you know....?

In 1990, the world used 1.1 billion lbs. of plastic bottles. By 2002, we used more than three times that amount! Not only are we producing more, but 8 out of 10 single-serving plastic bottles are not recycled. Single-serve water bottles account for a large portion of that waste.

So what can you do....?

Reusable stainless steel or aluminum bottles are now widely available at many retail stores. In the U.S. and Europe, there are more standards regulating the quality of tap water than of bottled water, so there is no evidence that bottled water is safer to drink than tap water. Purchasing a reusable container and filling it with tap water is not only “cleaner” environmentally, but safer, too!



The Christmas Sharing program was started in 1969 and has grown to involve 6 churches and over 20 schools.

Select families are able to shop for toys for their children, warm clothes and shoes to help them through the winter, and receive food or money and household items to help with meals.

The Christmas Sharing program has become a community wide outreach effort for these families and individuals. The Christmas Sharing program gives us the opportunity to serve and give, in the true spirit of the holidays.

Bower Elementary School is participating in the Christmas Sharing Program and will be collecting donations for 2 weeks starting November 16th. Location for donation drop off will be in the main lobby. All Warrenville schools will be collecting money for gift certificates instead of non perishable food items. Bower will be holding a coin drive to raise money this year.

The following items are in great need:

New clothing in infant to adult sizes,
New socks and underwear
Winter coats, hats, mittens & gloves
New toys for infants to teens
Games, Books, and other nice gifts
Household items
Money for use on gift cards. We are collecting coins!!!

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Please call me at Bower Elementary School with any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help sort donations for the program. – Kate Schleyer, School Social Worker.

DONATIONS ARE BEING COLLECTED
MONDAY NOVEMBER 16TH TO FRIDAY DECEMBER
4TH