

Blanchard Bits

News from the Blanchard Memorial School, Published by the Blanchard PTF

March 2010

Blanchard Calendar

March-April

March

3 School Committee Public Session. 7:00 p.m. Blanchard Library.

4 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.

10 School Council Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Front Office.

11 School Committee Meeting. 7:15 p.m. Blanchard Library.

11 School Committee Public Budget Hearing. 8:00 p.m. Blanchard Library

16 Report Cards sent home.

18-19 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served. Parent/Teacher Conferences

20 Blanchard Auction. 7:00 p.m.

23-31 MCAS Testing for English/Language Arts.

April

1 Early Release Day. Noon Dismissal. No lunch served.

1 Grade 6 Asia Day.

7 Grade 2 Auction.

5-8 MCAS Testing for English/Language Arts

8 PTF Grant Applications Due.

8 School Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Blanchard Library.

14 School Council Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Front Office.

19-23 April Vacation. School closed.

29-30 Grade 3 Lowell Field Trip.

Blanchard Updates

By: Maryellen Driscoll

A special thank you goes out to the PTF and its volunteers for hosting the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on February 4. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the entertainment.

We also are appreciative to our PTF for approving three new Eno boards for our school, along with associated educational software and a ceiling mount projector system. The Eno board is a next-generation interactive whiteboard that supports better teaching and learning. We deeply appreciate all that the PTF continues to do for the children and staff at Blanchard

Another thank you to all the students and parents who donated to the Red Cross Relief Program in Haiti. The total amount collected for the fund was \$765.00. We are also grateful for your donation of soup cans for "SOUPER BOWL" Day. We collected 284 cans of soup for the Acton Food Pantry

Please join us for a Blood Drive sponsored by Children's Hospital in honor of Ashley Jee on **Friday, March 12, from 12:00-5:00 p.m.** at Blanchard School. To make an appointment, call Kathy Daniel at 978-263-4569 ext 203 or email her at kdaniel@boxboroughschool.org. Each donation can help up to four young patients.

Your child will be bringing their report card home via backpack on **Tuesday, March 16**. Parent conferences will be held on Thursday, March 18, and Friday, March 19. If you wish a conference with a specialist, please contact them directly to make an appointment.

The ELA MCAS begins for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 on March 22 and concludes on April 4. It is important to make sure your child gets a good breakfast, plenty of rest and arrives to school on time.

PTF Updates

By: Paula Grieco, PTF President

- Please be sure to buy tickets for our largest annual fundraiser, the PTF auction. For more information on the Auction event to be held on **March 20 at 7:00 pm**, at Wedgwood Pines or to purchase tickets online go to <http://www.blanchardptf.org/Auction.html>. Contact Amy Burke for more information: burkeysmom@yahoo.com
- Our annual teacher/staff appreciation luncheon was a great success thanks to Susan Giaconia, Kim Lancaster, and all the volunteers that worked with them. Willow Books shopping and music night was well attended despite the inclement weather. Thanks to Betsy Parker for organizing this again this year. Other events for February included: PIP 5th grade math night, movie night, and PIP Domino Math Night. Thanks to Cathy Winsor, Kim Lancaster, Sharon Coverdale, Joanne Mills and the many volunteers who worked with them to help make these events a success. See our calendar for upcoming events: http://www.blanchardptf.org/Blanchard_PTF_2009-2010_Events_Calendar_0106.pdf

Visit our web site for regular updates on PTF events and other happenings: <http://www.blanchardptf.org>. We welcome your input! Please contact me or any member of the board with your ideas, questions, etc. Thank you!

Buy Your Tickets for the Blanchard PTF Auction!
“Uncorking the Possibilities”, March 20
By: Kathleen Luce

For tickets . . . go to <http://www.blanchardptf.org/auctiontickets.html> or contact Joanne Mills at 978-635-1752 or via e-mail at millshse@verizon.net

This special event helps to support enrichment activities in our children’s classrooms. Please join us for this important event!

WHEN: Saturday, March 20, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

WHERE: Wedgewood Pines Country Club, Stow

COST: \$30 per person (advance)/ \$35 (at door)

Library News
By: Connie Long, Library Media Specialist

Greetings from the school library! To celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday we held a **Community Read Aloud** in the school library during the first week of March. Members of the Boxborough community read to library classes. Guest readers included school committee members, employees from Cisco Systems, town hall employees, firefighters, library volunteers, and school staff.. A big thank you to everyone who made it a great week of book sharing. The Seuss celebration served as a kick-off to our **Reading Incentive Programs**. Kindergarten through Third grade students will read to earn leaves and flowers to add to our *Spring into Reading* display in the library’s front windows. Our fourth through sixth graders are encouraged to read books from a special selection in the library to earn an invitation to our end-of-the-year celebration.

Happy Reading!

PTF Grant Awards
By: Jennifer Campbell

The PTF Grants Committee received a number of worthy grant applications during the second cycle of the 2009-2010 school year. We are pleased to announce that the following grants were funded:

- Ceiling-mounted projector for Eno-board for a sixth grade classroom.
- Eno-boards and associated software for three sixth grade classrooms.
- “Ooze tubes” for the guidance office.

The total funds awarded for the first and second grant cycles are \$16162.60. Each of these grants will enrich the lives of our children in a variety of ways. Look for updates in the Bits to hear more about how these awards are being used in the classroom. Grant funds come directly from your donations to the PTF and from PTF fundraisers such as annual gift-wrap sale, family donations, OneCause shopping, and silent auction.

The next grant application deadline is **April 8, 2010** with \$1137.40 remaining available for grant awards for this school year. Grant applications are welcome from teachers, parents, and all members of the community. Applications can be downloaded from the Blanchard PTF Web site (www.blanchardptf.org) or picked up from the bulletin board outside of the front office.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Campbell
jennifertcampbell@hotmail.com or (978) 263-0481

5th Anniversary Musical Celebration @ the Sargent Memorial Library **By: Maureen Strapko**

As part of the Sargent Memorial Library's 5th anniversary celebration, Eileen Barnett, art teacher at the Blanchard Memorial School, will be exhibiting students' art work. "The Art of the Line" will include works of art from kindergarten through 6th grade. An opening reception will be held on **Tuesday, March 2, 4:00-6:00pm**. Margie Callaghan and the Blanchard Memorial School Vocal Ensemble will perform during the artist's reception at 5:00 pm. This program is sponsored by the generosity of the Friends of the Library. Everyone is welcome.

Acton-Boxborough Parents of Children with Challenges

Is your child frequently exhibiting anxious behavior? Are you wondering whether your child's stress level is normal or something you should seek help for?

Come hear the answers to these questions as Dr. Nancy Sullivan, from Children's Hospital, teaches us practical ways to help our children cope with anxiety. On Wednesday, **March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the RJ Grey Junior High School Library**, Dr. Sullivan will be leading a hands on discussion about anxiety in children.

This event is sponsored by the Acton Boxborough Parents of Children with Challenges. For more information, e-mail ebandmac@verizon.net or fmr08@verizon.net.

Blanchard PTF Drama 2010, The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf

By: Chris Brolin, Co-Producer

A reminder that the Blanchard PTF Drama cast will perform the musical comedy "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf" on **Friday, April 30 at 7:00p.m.; Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m.**, preceded by a Musical Medley at the April 30 Community Meeting. Tickets this year are for assigned seats, so buy early when they go on sale in March.

The crew is joining in now as well. We are having the first crew meeting at Blanchard on February 28 at 6:30 pm to decide what assignments they want to work on.

Once again, the staff would like to express our thanks for the support of the Blanchard PTF, for the generosity of the Blanchard administration for offering the facility for rehearsals and performances, and to all the parents of the students in this production for volunteering. Just remember to buy your tickets early, because you will definitely want good seats!

Community News

5th Anniversary Musical Celebration @ the Sargent Memorial Library

To celebrate the 5th anniversary of the opening of our beautiful new library building, we will host a musical performance each week during the month of March. These programs will include something for all ages and many participants are from the local community. Eileen Barnett, art teacher at the Blanchard Memorial School, will also be exhibiting students' art work. "The Art of the Line" will include works of art from kindergarten through 6th grade. An opening reception will be held on **Tuesday, March 2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Margie Callaghan and the Blanchard Memorial School Vocal Ensemble will perform during the artist's reception at **5:00 p.m.**

"Music Together" with Mr Vic – March 6

Mark your calendars for the Boxborough Family Network children's concert on **Saturday, March 6 10:30-11:30 a.m.** at the Library. Mister Vic, a lively children's music teacher/entertainer will lead the children (and adults) in singing, dancing, etc.

"Two Old Friends" Irish Music Concert – March 11

The Sargent Memorial Library will host an evening of Irish music on **Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.**

Senior Tambourine Players – March 16

The Sargent Memorial Library will host a return musical performance by the Senior Tambourine Players on **Tuesday, March 16 at 1:00 p.m.** as part of the 5th anniversary celebration.

ABRHS Madrigal Singers – March 23

The ABRHS Madrigal Singers will return to the library for a performance of music from their spring concert on **Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.**

Blanchard Band Brass and Woodwind Ensembles- March 25

The Blanchard Memorial School's Brass and Woodwind Ensemble led by Band Director, Chris Baird, will give the last musical performance of our anniversary celebration at the library on **Thursday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m.**

AB High School Girls LAX Clinic

Clinics Staff: Please join Karoly Baglio, Varsity Girls Coach, at Acton Boxborough High School and AB varsity players for two clinics to learn the fundamentals of lacrosse as well as strategies and drills. Skill groups will be formed based on skill level and experience. Goalies will receive individualized instruction as well!

WHERE: AB High School Upper Gym

WHEN: **Sunday March 7th, 2010**
Grades 3-6 8:30-10:00am
Grades 7-8 10:30-12:30pm

Sunday, March 14th, 2010
Grades 3-6 8:30-10:00am
Grades 7-8 10:30-12:30pm

*Registration begins 15 minutes prior to the start of the clinic.

COST One clinic \$30 Two Clinics \$50

BRING YOUR STICK, MOUTH GUARD, GOGGLES, AND WATER!!

Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council recently made 28 grants to artists and organizations in our region including two to the Sargent Memorial Library supporting family programs.

Watch for details of our second annual Our World Film Series, coming Thursday evenings in April and May.

Check It Out @ the Sargent Memorial Library

MARCH IS MUSIC MONTH @ THE BOXBOROUGH LIBRARY

As part of the Sargent Memorial Library's 5th year anniversary celebration, the Boxborough Family Network is sponsoring a Music Together Program with Mister Vic! Families are invited to join in the fun on **Saturday, March 6 at 10:30 a.m.**

Get Fired Up About Reading!

Blazes the Reading Dragon is growing bigger by the minute! Children have been telling us about their favorite books and authors. Stop by the Library anytime during the month of March and fill out a "dragon scale" with the title of a book that gets you fired about reading! Parents and teachers are also encouraged to put up a suggestion on the reading wall.

3rd & 4th Grade Book Group

Children in third and fourth grade are invited to join our book group. Our next book selection is Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Banks. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m.** If you would like to sign-up for the book group, please call the Library at 978-263-4680 or email Heather at hwilkins@cwmars.org.

"GOING TO THE DOCTOR STORY-TIME & TEDDY BEAR CLINIC"

Monday, March 22 at 10:45 a.m. join us for a special story-time with Tamara Bedard, the town nurse. This program will offer children the opportunity to learn what it is like to visit the doctor. Children are invited to bring in their favorite stuffed animal for a special visit to the Teddy Bear Clinic. This program is designed help children overcome their fears about going to the doctor.

Early Release Movie

Thursday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. watch Maurice Sendak's enduring classic WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE. This movie is rated PG.

All children's programs are made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Boxborough Library!

Blanchard Bits is published by the Blanchard PTF and circulated to all Blanchard families. To submit an article or calendar item, please email Aga Dresser at scottandaga@gmail.com or call 978-264-9709. The submission deadline for the March 2010 Blanchard Bits is **Friday, March, 26, 2010.**