

May / June 2011



DATES TO REMEMBER: SHORT RANGE

May 20-Benner & Bellefonte Elem Ensemble Concert-BN 7pm
 May 30-No School

PLANNING AHEAD

June 3-Field Day
 June 6-Filed Day Rain Date
 June -13 Last Day of School

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

President's message	1
Membership Drive	1
2011-2012 Candidates	2
Campbell Labels Goal	2
Field Day Thank You	
Reading Competition	3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – KELLY UCHNEAT

After serving for two terms as your PTA president, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve. I have learned much in these past two years, and one of them is that our community holds exceptional talent and enthusiasm, and you're willing to put those to work for our children and teachers. Most of you who do so do it with quiet determination and less acknowledgement than you deserve. You give much of yourself and aim high, a reflection of your goal of seeing your children maximize their own potential. Moreover, you wish for our community to be one that they see value in returning to. You're building a future worthy of living toward.

I also want to express my gratitude to all of you with whom I have had the privilege of volunteering. I've often thought of how grateful I am at how our kids have many resourceful, selfless role models among our faculty, staff and parents. Kindness and respectfulness are the norm rather than the exception, and our children's achievement and manner reflect wonderful things. We saw this very prominently at the recent Interscholastic Reading Competition in late March. Our Benner and BASD children and their coaches proved that high achievement and integrity CAN go hand in hand. In addition, our community has proven that, if asked, they'll step up to new opportunities as times are changing. No one is immune to change, and the current state of our nation and economy have been a hardship or source of worry for most everyone. However, as we move forward we have new talents among our volunteers (faculty and parents). Those talents and people's desire to give of them will continue to answer challenges that we have. We will increase the effectiveness of and resources at our Benner PTA website saving natural resources and money. We have parents and faculty skilled at grant-writing who are putting their experience and successes to work. In a tough economy or a healthy one, their skill and savvy can support new resources and replace tired ones for a better learning environment.

On May 10, we held the Benner PTA officer elections. On July 1, your new slate of officers as well as those volunteers who have agreed to serve as committee chairs for 2011-12 will officially take their new posts. This year's officers and chairs are preparing to pass our batons so that the 2011-12 volunteers can hit the ground running. We welcome your suggestions for anything from program topics, to fundraisers, to ways that Benner PTA can make it easier for you to share your talents as a volunteer. We hope that you will share your constructive thoughts at any time with a PTA officer or faculty representative (listed in this newsletter). Thank you to all who have served, past and present. You make so much possible that would not be otherwise.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Benner Is Out of This World: 2010-11 PTA Member Drive Finale

It's official: SECOND GRADE is OUT OF THIS WORLD! Our second grade class has led the race to the moon and has earned the distinction of Greatest Percent of Memberships for our school by March 1. Mrs. Anantheswaran's, Mrs. Beard's and Mr. Huggins' classes have chosen Rocket Pops as their in-class treat to enjoy together. Though we did not achieve our overall membership goal of 138 members, we would like to thank all of you who have supported Benner PTA through your membership this year. The breakouts by grade are below. If you didn't join PTA this year, 2011-12 is another opportunity. For those who joined PTA in January-March, your membership card was sent home with your child in an envelope with your name on it during the week of May 2. Thank you all.

Grade	Percentage for Grade
K	45.00%
1	26.19%
2	54.10%
3	28.57%
4	47.62%
5	22.22%

President
Kelly Uchneat

Vice-President
Ruth-Ann Mellott

Treasurer
Gwen Fetters

Secretary
Cathy Swarm

Box Tops
Heather Walters

**Campbell's Soup Labels/
Newsletter Editor/**
Deb Leonori
adleonori@hotmail.com

Fall Fundraiser
Kelly Smith

Outdoor Enhancement
Sandy Richner
Jennifer Zahuranec

PSSA Snacks:
Kristin Crunick

Reflections (11-12):
Susan Eckley

Spring Fundraiser
Sandy Richner

Teacher Appreciation
Sandra Ergen
Ruth Ann Mellot

Website development
Kristin Bruckner

Winter Carnival
Keri O'Shea

Yearbook
Julie Elnitski

Principal
Connie Puckett

Teacher Advisor
Sandra Ergen
Nicole Harris

2011 - 2012 PTA BOARD

Officers:
Sandy Richner: President
Heather Walters: VP I
Keriann Allen: VP II
Secretary: Cathy Swarm
Treasurer: Gwen Fetters

Faculty representatives:
Nicole Harris
Adam Huggins
Connie Puckett, Principal

Ad hoc members:
Cindy Horner
Keri O'Shea
RuthAnn Mellot
Deb Leonori

2011-12 Committee Chairs:
Audit Committee: Cindy Horner / Co-members OPEN)

Box Tops: (Debbie Leonori / Deborah Clark)

Campbell's Labels for Education: (Deb Leonori/ Co Chair OPEN)

Fall Fundraiser: (Deborah Clark-provisional*)

Family Fun Nights: Rebecca Roos
Field Day Picnic: OPEN
Fifth Grade Celebration: (Ruth Ann Mellott)
Holiday Treats: (Deborah Clark / Debbie Leonori)
Grant Writing: (Roger Bagwell / Sarah Douglas)
Membership: (Keriann Allen):
Newsletter: (Gwen Fetters)
Outdoor Enhancement: (Sandy Richner / Jennifer Zahuranec)
PSSA Snacks (Deborah Clark)
Reflections 2011-12: (Susan Eckley):
Spring Fundraiser: (Deb Leonori)
Teacher Appreciation Week: Keli Fisher / Ruth Ann Mellot
Website: (Kristin Bruckner)
Winter Carnival: (Keri O'Shea)
Yearbook: (Tiffany Aikey)

CAMPBELL'S SOUP GOAL REACHED

Congratulations and thank you to all the students who ate at that soup this year and brought in the labels from all those cans. We have reached our 2010-2011 goal with a grand total of **6,907** points!
We used those points to order Benner's very own Spring Bouncy balls which will be used at Field day, we also have a new drying rack which will premier in the kindergarten rooms next week and there will be also be new playground items.

Keep up the good work and keep saving those labels.

Also when turning in labels remember to include your name and classroom. The classroom that collects the most labels for the remaining of the year gets to decide how they are spent!

FIELD DAY THANK YOU

Thanks to the Field Day Picnic Lunch sponsors: The Waffle Shop and Hot Dog House.



READING COMPETITION

This year, the Benner Elementary School Reading Competition team consisted of 10 fourth and fifth graders. After two short months of practice, the Book Wizards competed against 41 other teams at Central Mountain High School on Saturday, March 26th. After three rounds of competition, The Book Wizards answered 53 questions correct and earned a third place trophy! The Book Wizards will be recognized and receive their trophy at the Bellefonte Area School District School Board Meeting on May 10th. We are looking forward to next year's competition and hope to be able to hand out book lists to interested third and fourth grade students before this school year ends.

Mrs. Hammersla, Mr. Huggins, Mrs. Beard-Reading Competition Coaches

Congratulations!



OUTDOOR ENHANCEMENT UPDATE :

The Benner PTA was awarded a grant for \$4,900 to use for building a multi-purpose pavilion at the school. The pavilion will be located up on the hill at the school. Along with existing funds in the Outdoor Enhancement account, a concrete pad will be poured, the pavilion will be built, and four picnic tables for the pavilion will be purchased this summer. We are looking for parent volunteers with construction experience to help build the pavilion. It is coming as a kit which will include all lumber, hardware and roofing material. We would like to start after June 13th and complete the project by mid-July. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sandy Richner at 883-4433 or Jennifer Zahuranec at 355-2812, Ext 2226.

