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Principal's Note

Dear Bay Point Families and Community members,

Happy 2008! Welcome back for the second semester of learning at Bay Point Elementary. Our hearts go out to those families that had family loss and struggles during the holidays. We hope to be supportive as you move forward.

Levels of academic pace and activity increase during this time of year. Your continued support and communication as well as work with your child and the teacher is very appreciated. It really makes a difference.

I want to give a special thank you to the many parents and leaders that helped to bring Bay Point Elementary to a 100% magnet application status. We will remain a countywide magnet according to the new student assignment plan recently adopted.

SAC is surveying regarding uniforms for 08-09 and will review input in the next few months. Magnet tours begin this month on Wednesday mornings. Kindergarten is our main focus of new students. Application period is Feb 11-22 for all magnet schools including middle schools. More information will be given out to 5th grade.

Our new website has been designed by a Lakewood CAT student, Michael Scherer, a product of Bay Point Elementary and Bay Point Middle School.

Please be sure to check backpacks and agendas for important communications and we welcome your partnership as we begin 2008.

Sincere regards,
Mrs. Lively

This month:

8th After School Clubs: Young Astronauts

10th Domino's Pizza Dough Night

11th Mike Thaler, author, Black Lagoon

15th Selby Gardens (1st, 2nd & 3rd Gifted)

16th Selby Gardens (4th & 5th Gifted)

17th Domino's Pizza Dough Night
End of Semester

18th Pro-Ed Day - No School

21st Dr. Martin Luther King Day-No School



22nd Florida Orchestra (4th & 5th Grade)

After School Clubs: Young Astronauts

23rd Chik-fil-A St. Pete Beach Spirit Night

24th Domino's Pizza Dough Night

25th Coffee and Curriculum Talk:
'FCAT: How to Support Your Child'
- 8:30 AM, Media Center

29th Mahaffey Theater (4th Grade)

REFERENDUM VOTE TODAY!

31st Domino's Pizza

Dough Night

Tell Your Friends!
BPE Magnet Tours
Every Wednesday in
January at 9:30 AM

Bay Point Elementary *Magnet School's mission is to promote highest student achievement in a safe learning environment by utilizing an integrated system of learning with an emphasis on math, science, technology and foreign language.

Golden School Award - 25+ Years * Five Star School Award
Mayor's Top Apple Award * Florida DOE Grade A School



From the Science Guy

...Mr. Ron Woolums

This month in the science lab, the Kindergarten students will be learning about weather. First graders will do activities to observe the effects of the forces gravity and friction on motion and speed.

Second grade students will study different habitats and learn about the needs of living things. Third grade students will observe the physical characteristics of the vertebrate animals that are used to classify each. Fourth grade will study of the adaptive characteristics of animals and plants. Fifth grade will review characteristics of animals and plants as well as learning their roles in the food chain as producers, consumers, and decomposers.

GOING GREEN AT BAY POINT

Our Earth Force Club has placed collection boxes in each classroom and the office for recycling paper thrown away during the day. The club members collect it each week to put in the St. Petersburg Recycling dumpster. Our school is earning money each month from the recycled paper. You can help. Bring your newspapers, magazines, catalogs, advertising, and office paper to deposit in the dumpster at the far end of the car circle. Pinellas County Schools saves over \$200,000 a year in garbage collection by recycling paper alone. We will add to that savings when we get our plastic and metals recycling bins.

I'm Fit—I'm It!

...Ms. Julie Ryczek

We want our kids to eat right. Experts say they'll do better in school and have more energy, brighter skin and shinier hair if they choose carrots over chips or lean meat over a greasy burger. Still, it's not always easy. Arguments with recalcitrant tots who'd rather be playing with their mashed potatoes than eating them threaten to turn the dinner hour into a family food feud. But don't give up. Here's the skinny on how you can make eating healthy food more palatable.

Do As I Do: "Young children are like ducks: They do what their parents do," says Harvard endocrinologist Dr. David Ludwig, director of the Optimal Weight for Life program at Children's Hospital Boston. If you eat junk food instead of fruits and vegetables, they will too. A University of Tennessee study reports that mothers usually refrain from offering babies foods they themselves dislike—so if you hate fava beans, chances are that your child has never tried them. Still, says Dr. Ludwig, it's never too late to become a good role model.

Keep It Real: Explain to children that real foods—like fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries, beans, fish and meat—come from nature. Dr. Ludwig recommends that obese children keep food diaries, recording all of the sugary drinks and factory-processed junk foods they eat in a day. They'll be astonished at how many they consume. Kids may moan, but they'll get hungry and learn to replace cheese puffs with low-fat cheese.

Extracted from *Prevention*

TWO MORE REASONS WHY WE MUST HELP OUR KIDS LOVE READING

1. Reading gives children wide-ranging frames of reference, which make all learning easier. Even children who read only fiction will pick up facts about history, geography, politics and science.
2. By high school, only avid readers will have the literacy skills to excel in any course that demands a good deal of reading—in other words, in any top-level English, world language, history or science course. They are the kids in the honors classes, the kids who score high on the SAT exam, the kids who have a shot at attending top colleges.

Noticia Olé

...Sra. Nilsa Gómez

In January, Bay Point students will celebrate El Día de los Reyes Magos (The Three Wise Men Day). This is a cultural experience where students will learn how Hispanic families celebrate this important Holiday. Mexican children leave their shoes beneath the window the night of January 5th, and the next morning, January 6th, they get presents and candies. Among many other Hispanic countries, in Puerto Rico, Spain, and Cuba, the children collect grass (hay) for the camels to eat, and put it under their beds or by the door so Los Reyes Magos will stop to leave presents.

Bay Point Students will leave their shoes in front of Café Olé. Inside the classroom they will play a game reviewing colors, numbers, food items, verbs, shapes, etc., en Español. When it is time to wear their shoes they will find candies inside their shoes. Once again, the candies were generously donated by Sra. Kirschbaum. ¡Sra. Kirschbaum, gracias por los dulces!

Thank Our Partners!

Publix-Bay Pointe Plaza for the candy, office supplies, etc.

Domino's Pizza for raising money through *Pizza Dough* Thursday

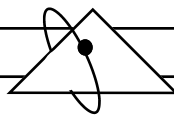
Chik-fil-A St. Pete Beach for Spirit Night, coupons and calendar sales

USGS for manpower and field trips

Echelon Real Estate
Strike & Spare Fun Centers for bowling parties and coupons

Thank You for the Mice

About \$300 was collected in the car circle for mice and headphones for the new laptop computers. Thank you to those who contributed or helped collect the money and especially **Mr. Chris Hudgens** for matching that amount and arranging a great deal at **Office Depot!**



Counselor Corner

...Ms. Kerry Cunningham

Think TV violence has no effect on your child? Think again. Studies show that the more violent programs a child watches, the more aggressive he/she may become. Too much TV violence may also lead to:

- **Disturbed sleep.**
- **Nightmares**
- **Increased anxiety.**
- **Antisocial behavior.**

So pay attention to what your child is watching. Is it violent or bloody? Hit the "off" switch!

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR TV!

Do you know how to prevent your child, teenager, babysitter or your child's friend from viewing pornography on YOUR television? What about when your child is visiting a friend or neighbor's home? What about when your child is at a sleepover? Do you ask the adults of the homes that your child visits if they know how to protect children from pornography? You need to know how and you need to ask everyone that you know if they know how.

Pornography and adult-only content programs are available 24 hours per day through your cable and satellite TV connections. Most are available in the middle of the night when parents are sound asleep and are not aware that their child may be awake and watching. Don't risk your child's innocence by your neglect to take a few simple steps. Protect your children and your children's friends. Read your instruction manual to your TV, cable box or satellite dish to learn about parental controls. Go to one of the following websites for simple instructions on how to control what your child sees on TV.

www.ControlYourTV.org/
www.TheTVBoss.org/
www.TVGuidelines.org/

Late Bus?

Call Transportation at 587-2020

Young Astronauts

...Mr. John Barfield

December was a month to remember for the Young Astronauts Club! Group three had their annual trip to Kennedy Space Center for the Overnight Adventure! As in the past, there was so much preparation, and I could not have done it without the support, and assistance of teachers Ms. Godfirnon, Ms Denbigh, and Cindy Petelle, Family & Community Liaison.

We loaded up 28 students, and 14 chaperones, in 8 vehicles, and headed for KSC Saturday morning December 8. We had high hopes of getting there in time to see the scheduled launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis. As things go at NASA, a problem kept it from the going. A reschedule for Sunday, 12/9 had us hopeful, unfortunately it was scrubbed again.

We were a little let down, but that did not keep this group from Bay Point Magnet from having a great time! We rolled into the visitors center, met our teacher chaperones from the overnight adventure. After making it through security, we stored our things on the buses, and had a tour of the historic visitor's complex. After dinner, we preceded to the auditorium to meet, and learn from Former NASA Astronaut Col. John Fabian. He was very interesting, answered our questions, and gave us the secret to using the toilet in space! (thank goodness one of our students didn't ask it this year!)

We got to see the IMAX movie, Magnificent desolation. It was about the Apollo Moon Landing, everyone loved the 3-d spectacle! We were then transported to the Saturn V Center for the remainder of night time activities. We witnessed the firing room from the Apollo 8 launch, reliving that historic event. Next was the challenge for the evening.

Students were broken into groups, and tasked with building either a moon vehicle, or a structure that could withstand moon quakes. We were victorious again! The group, "Space Girls" won first place, BPE shines again at KSC! Our other groups gave a great effort! As we wound down our sleeping area were assigned. We slept under the mighty Saturn V's 1st stage.

Sunday morning gave us a great early breakfast and awards. We were taken back the visitor's center, said farewell to the KSC staff, and explored the rest of the complex! After lunch we loaded vehicles and spent a couple hours at the Astronauts Hall of Fame. We learned a lot about our Space flight past there. The trip back to St. Pete was uneventful, and we all arrived back at BPE by 5:30-6:00.

I wanted to thank the people that made this trip possible. Adult chaperones, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Fanning, Mrs. Gautreau, Mrs. Haan, Ms. Fraser, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Barfield, Ms. Godfirnon, Mrs. Denbigh, Mrs. Hodge, Mr. Kruse, Mrs. Dudley. Student Alumni/chaperones, from past years Bradley Fanning, Bradley Haan, Daniel, and Michael Petrino, Alexis Periero, Zack Wilkes, Taylor Dudley, and Jason Cowen. These former Young Astronauts made our trip run smoother with their expertise! And finally, thank you to the parents, and Mrs. Lively for the support of our group. Happy Holidays!

The January Commitment to
Character Trait is:

Self-Motivation

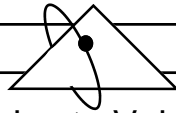
*Working in a careful and
considerate manner
without giving up*



Join Us for
Coffee & Curriculum

January 25th 8:30AM

"FCAT: How to Support Your Child"



Resolve to Volunteer at Bay Point Elementary

Many of you signed the **Three for Me** pledge—have you volunteered for those three hours yet? The PTA is planning several fun family events, perhaps you could consider working a shift... Or find out when your child's class is taking its next field trip, and plan to chaperone... Or have lunch with your child in the Cafeteria, we love to see parents!

We have an exciting opportunity on campus—come to the **Mentor I Training Workshop** on February 1st from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A number of students are in need of a little extra encouragement. Trained mentors are desperately needed to help them stay on track. A half hour or so a week is all that is needed to make a difference in a child's life. Take the training, and then decide if this something you would like to do for the children at our school. As a bonus, the workshop offers insight into how to deal with your own child! Hope to see you there.

Fifth Grade Parents may want to check their volunteer status (a number of people were bumped this year), so you will be ready for Enterprise Village and the end of the year trip. Just log in to the computer using your social security number and answer the questions to reactivate.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Cindy Petelle at 552-1449 or e-mail: petellec@pcsb.org.

Pre-Paid College

Information about the Florida Pre-Paid College Plan may be found on-line at: www.florida529plans.com.

Check out the home page to learn about different investment plans and the advantages to starting to save early for your child's future.

www.BPEPTA.org

- Vote for your lunch choice online!
- PTA members may sign up at the YMCA "free" - no enrollment fee

Congratulations!

Principal's List: Jarrett Colquitt
Honor Roll: Sarah Barfield, Michelle Johnson, Wyatt Phillips, Sean Weidner

Please Send In Box Tops & Campbell's Soup Labels

BPE redeems the 10¢ coupon and the labels go to the ESE department. Also, please try this link if you shop on-line:

www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/

Join us at

(Dolphin Village Shopping Center: 4623 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach)

BAY POINT ELEMENTARY *MAGNET SCHOOL SPIRIT NIGHT Get a **FREE MILKSHAKE!**

Chik-fil-A has teamed up with Bay Point Elementary *Magnet School for a fundraiser. All you do is come to *Chik-fil-A* on St. Pete Beach on:

January 23rd from 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Put your cash register receipt in the box, and *Chik-fil-A* will make a donation to our school! Everyone wins!

Just bring this flyer with you, and every student will receive a **free milkshake** with your family's purchase