



Accents of Excellence

Blythe Academy of Languages
www.blythepta.org

October 2008
Volume 20/Issue 3

Dr. Phinnize Fisher
Superintendent of
Greenville County Schools

Sandra E. Griffin
Principal

Cecilia Cameron
Assistant Principal

Heather Hester
Assistant Principal

Jan Hernandez
Kathy McClintock
PTA Co-Presidents

Jill Cornwell
Amy Milligan
PTA Co-Vice Presidents

Amy Michaux
PTA Treasurer

Brooke Culclasure
PTA Secretary

Katy Smith
Newsletter Editor

100 Blythe Drive
Greenville, SC 29605
864.355.4400
www.greenville.k12.sc.us
/blythe/

Has Your Child Been Bear Hugged?

As an organization, PTA at national, state, and local levels works hard to create programs that will support our students, teachers, and families. This year at Blythe Academy we are proud and excited to introduce a new program called the Bear Hug Program. Truly a collaborative effort between PTA and Blythe's Guidance Department, the Bear Hug Program is designed, in part, to accomplish two main goals of PTA: it has the potential of reaching **every** child, and it promotes the **emotional well-being** of our students. Designed to work as an enhancement of the Guidance Department's Chick-fil-A Core Essentials program, the Bear Hug Program is unique to Blythe Academy, and we are enthusiastic about the potential of this program and how pervasive it can be in Blythe's culture!

Our counselors, Claire Barnett and Jane Brice, have worked diligently with all of our students, introducing the program, explaining its rewards, and focusing on the benefits – for the individual, the classroom, family life, and the community. Targeted and specifically designed for emotional well-being, this program transcends academic ability. Naturally, in schools, academic accomplishments are rewarded, and rightly so. The spotlight from the Bear Hug Program,



*Sow a thought, and you reap an act;
Sow an act, and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.*
Charles Reade

however, is turned towards character building, and we believe exemplifying strong character is something everyone can understand and achieve!

Want to know how it works? Ask your children! The next time you are in our school and see a child wearing a "I've Been Bear Hugged!" sticker, ask that child what he did to merit the acknowledgement! We want our students to feel good about themselves, and this is a great way to encourage that!

Jan Hernandez janmariehern@aol.com
Kathy McClintock mkpmmc@aol.com
PTA Presidents



*Blythe Accents newsletter is
the only fair and balanced
reporting I get anymore!*

In this issue

Presidents' Message	1	Between Bears	4
Your PTA Dollar\$ at Work	2	Faculty and Staff Birthdays	4
PTAppreciation	2	Calendar of Events	4
Principal's Message	2	SCPTA Strategic Plan	4
Calling All Bears to Get Involved	2	October Blythe Booster	4
Counselors' Column	3	Thanks to Greenville First!	
Media Center News	3		



Your PTA Dollar\$ at Work

Here's what our fundraising efforts supported last month:

- \$ Outdoor beautification mulch, pruning of the grounds
- \$ Individual teacher stipends for classroom supplies (continued)
- \$ Indoor beautification, framed artwork
- \$ Printing of monthly newsletter

PTA Appreciation

PTA volunteers hit the ground running and were busy in September. Thanks to the individuals who helped with:

- Sally Foster
- Membership Sales
- Logo Sales
- Reflections
- Gattitown Family Fun Night
- Marquee
- Front Office Help
- Workroom Help
- Blythe Beautification

Principal's Message from Dr. Sandra E. Griffin

Fall MAP testing for grades 2-5 is now complete and results will be available for parents at fall conferences in October. MAP scores will be used to set individual student growth goals and to help teachers plan instructional activities that better meet student needs. MAP scores will also be used to set school wide student achievement goals.

2008 PACT scores were released by the state on September 10. We are very pleased with our scores at Blythe Academy. Gains were posted in many areas at all grade levels tested (grades 3, 4, & 5), and we are making significant progress in closing achievement gaps between student groups. A detailed report of Blythe's PACT scores will soon be posted on our school website. You may view PACT scores for the state, district, and individual schools at the SC State Dept. of Education website.

Blythe students are learning about past US Presidents this year with help from our school mascot, Montague the Bear. Montague is named for Mr. Edgeworth Montague Blythe, for whom Blythe Academy is named. Montague shares a clue on the morning news show each day. Students try throughout the week to guess the name of the President, and drop their guesses into a special ballot box in the media center. A winner is drawn each Friday and is rewarded with a special President pencil.

Congratulations to 5K Teacher **Madelina Delgado** and husband on the birth of their second son, Gabriel on September 4. Welcome to **Karin Seagraves** who will sub for Mrs. Delgado until December.

GREENVILLE COUNTY 4-H is starting several new clubs and is looking for members and leaders. We will be starting rabbit clubs, archery clubs and cloverbud clubs (boys and girls ages 5-8). If you are interested, please call Janine Sutter at 918-2720.

Calling All Bears...

Reflections

Don't forget – Reflections entries are due beginning 10/22. Students should reflect on the theme of "WOW!" and express their creativity in visual arts, literature, photography, or musical composition. Entry forms are available in the front office and on www.blythepta.org.

Red Ribbon Week

BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED – DRUG FREE. Blythe Academy will celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 23-30, 2008. Activities are planned for the week to raise our students' awareness of the choices they can make to be DRUG FREE. We encourage parents to use this week to talk to their children about the negative impact drugs have on all of us. For tips on talking about drugs, alcohol and tobacco with your kids, visit <http://family.samhsa.gov/set/drugs.aspx>, or call our guidance office at 355-4404.

Sally Foster update

Your Sally Foster orders will come home with your child on 10/1, so be prepared in carpool that day. Also, Sally Foster Cookie Dough Sales begin 10/9. What a great way to get holiday treats! Orders are due 10/22 and the cookie dough will be delivered on 11/19.

3M Lunch

Please come join your special child for lunch at the 3M Lunch on Friday, October 3rd. 3M stands for Men Who Matter Most, but Moms, Mentors, or Grandparents are welcome, if Dad can't come that day. Thanks for participating in this special event!

Prospective Parent Night

All parents of rising K5 and 1st grade magnet and home base students are invited to visit Blythe on Tuesday, October 21st from 6-7 p.m. for a prospective parents open house. Please spread the word to families who would be interested.

Shop the Lost and Found...

You might find some great stuff – your own! The Lost and Found closet at Blythe is always filled with things children and parents have forgotten. Mark your calendar to take a look on October 31st, the next lost and found day. Visit the cafeteria stage where items will be displayed.

Now I get it!

With six weeks of school behind us, you may have a better feel for Blythe and its many volunteer opportunities. Would you like to volunteer but haven't yet signed up? No problem – look for a volunteer form in the front office, or email Cheves Steck at steckc@yahoo.com.



The Counselors' Column, by Claire Barnett & Jane Brice

It's hard to believe October is already here! We've enjoyed going into the classrooms and getting to know all of our smiling faces at Blythe. Has your child been "Bear Hugged" yet? This is a new Blythe program that aligns well with our Chick-fil-A Core Essentials character education curriculum to promote the emotional well-being of our students. Teachers are on the lookout for students demonstrating positive values to reward them with bear hug stickers and Chick-fil-A prize coupons.

We are pleased to announce the first of our parent workshops for the year coming up this month. You are invited to this free workshop entitled "Back in Control", and it's one you will not want to miss! This interactive workshop is sponsored by the Blythe Academy guidance office and will be presented by Tiffany Whitney, licensed social worker with Greenville County Schools. This positive discipline strategy was developed by Gregory Bodenhamer and will help parents to clearly define rules that they want their children to follow by emphasizing the importance of supervision, consistency, and effective follow-through. Please join us on Friday, October 10 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the media center. Call 355-4404 to register. We hope you can make it to this worthwhile workshop, and we look forward to bringing you more parent workshops throughout the year. Feel free to offer your ideas and input about future parent workshops.

October is the month for parent-teacher conferences. A school conference is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to learn more about students. Both you and the teacher can use the time to share important information to help your child succeed in school. The key to a successful conference is two-way communication. By exchanging information, parents and teachers can set the stage for a great school year. Teachers will be conducting fall conferences soon. Teachers of fourth and fifth graders will be going over PACT standardized test results from last spring during this time. Second through fifth grade teachers will be discussing

MAP testing results as well. Below are some tips for your conference:

Talk with your child before you attend the conference.

Tell him you need help preparing for the conference. You might ask what he would like you to talk about with the teacher and what he thinks the teacher will say. Ask about things he likes and doesn't like, his problems and successes. Let him know that after the conference, you will discuss what the teacher said with him. Sometimes children are anxious about conferences and need reassurance that they will be informed.

Think about questions you'd like to ask. Prepare some questions in advance. Here are some suggestions: What is being covered this year? What are your expectations for homework? Has my child missed any assignments? How are my child's work habits? Does he use his time well? Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade? Does my child get along well with others? Does my child cooperate in class and follow directions? What can I do at home to help my child be more successful at school?

At the conference: Keep an open mind. Remember that both you and the teacher want to help your child succeed. Even if the teacher says something you disagree with, listen to what he/she has to say. Ask to see your child's work. Ask the teacher to explain anything you don't understand. Every profession has its own jargon which can be hard to understand. Sum up what you think has been said. Make sure you both agree on any decisions you have made about your child. If necessary, ask to meet again. Ask for the best way to contact the teacher (email, phone, etc.)

After the conference: Follow up. Stay in touch with the teacher. If you think of a question you didn't ask, contact the teacher. Talk with your child. Stress the positive things the teacher said and talk about suggestions for improvement. Plan with your child how to carry out these suggestions.

Media Center News, by Margot Stewart

The Safari Book Fair is coming November 14—21 and plans are underway to make this a unique school-wide event! We know that Blythe students love to read, and the Book Safari will set the course for our reading program this year. During the Book Fair, parents will have the opportunity to select books in celebration and honor of students and teachers. Those books will be plated, checked out to those students or teachers, and then placed into the library's collection for everyone to enjoy. Interested parents who would like to assist with the Book Safari should contact Margot Stewar (mdstewar@greenville.k12.sc.us) or Julie Hbrosky (bettuo@bellsouth.net).

End of the Road for the Reading Road Trip! Thanks to all the parents, faculty, and staff who worked to create reading success stories for our students! The support from the PTA, and especially parents Debbie Duhon, Pam Driggers, and Julie Hbrosky, helped create readers who love reading. What better incentive to encourage children to read than to provide them books to read during the summer? What

began last spring as an effort to encourage reading goals and to promote a love of reading, ended with ice-cream sundaes for those students who completed their summer reading goals of least five books. Congratulations to all!

Creating a reading list using The Blythe Academy OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) is easy and fun! It's like "shopping" for books.

- Simply go to the Blythe website, click on "Media," click on the Blythe Academy of Languages Media Center OPAC Homepage; then click on the "Catalog" tab.
- Search for books by subject, author, title, keyword, series or category.
- Choose the "Category" tab to find lists of Spanish and French language books as well as Beginning Readers.
- To find books within a Lexile range and create a personalized list, click "Search Reading Programs." Scroll through your selections and then click on "Add to This List." When you are ready to view your list, click "Resource List" located on the left.



SCPTA Strategic Plan: Your Input is Needed

Dear Blythe Academy PTA Members:

I'm very excited to share with you an important project that will help guide the future of this organization. SCPTA is embarking on new territory as we work together to develop a Strategic Plan for SCPTA! Without a road map, we have no direction and for this organization to continue to make positive change. We need to hear from you!

As part of our plan, SCPTA has developed an online survey for any and all residents of South Carolina to fill out. This survey will take approximately 10 – 15 minutes to complete. Results of this survey will be used to help the SCPTA Board of Directors plan for the future. The link for the survey is <http://www.pta.org/scsurvey/>

The survey will be available until Friday, October 17, 2008. At that time, we will collect all data received and move forward with our Strategic Plan.

I thank you for your assistance in this as we continue to move SCPTA forward!

Sincerely,

Phil Clark, President SCPTA

By the way: Have You Joined the PTA Yet?

It's never too late! PTA membership forms are in the school office or online at www.blythepta.org. You can also contact Cheryl Spiers at spiershome@charter.net or Blair Zeimet at blairz@bellsouth.net if you have questions.

October and November Calendar

10/1, Sally Foster orders delivered
 10/3, 3M Luncheon
 10/10, "Back in Control" Parent Workshop, 12-1
 10/17, Teacher Workday, no school
 10/20, Teacher Workday, no school
 10/21, Prospective Parent Night
 10/23, First quarter ends
 10/30, Report cards issued
 10/23-31, Red Ribbon Week
 11/4, Election Day, No School
 11/5 – 7, CogAt Testing
 11/10 – 12, ITBS Testing
 11/10 – 12, Fourth Grade Field Trip to Camp Greenville
 11/17 – 21, Book Fair
 11/26 – 28, Thanksgiving Break, No School

Faculty and Staff October Birthdays

Orrie Burdine	10/4
Patricia Pulido	10/6
Bonnie Crouch	10/8
Laura Huff	10/8
Lena Baker	10/9
Amy Stone	10/14
Whitney Pugh	10/19
Madelina Delgado	10/26
Kristy Starks	10/28

Between Bears...

What do you plan to do on your days off from school on October 17th and 20th?



Garrett Steck, 1st
 I am going to Myrtle Beach with Gamy and Grandpa and we are going to go fishing and crabbing and rent a john boat.



Peyton Gillespie, 2nd
 I love that we have out of school because it's my birthday on October 19th. We usually take a mini family trip and celebrate. This year I plan on playing hard, having lots of cake and ice cream and visiting someplace fun with my family.

Our November question for Blythe Bears:
 November is the month of Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for? Email your answers to blytheaccents@aol.com by October 15th.

Thanks to this month's Blythe Booster



Greenville First
www.greenvillefirst.com

100 Verdae Boulevard, Suite 100, 29607, 864.679.9000
 307 The Parkway, Greer, 29650, 864.662.2000
 2125 Augusta Road, 29605, 864.679.9480
 1900 Woodruff Road, 29607, 864.679.9300

Thank you for being leaders in our community by financially supporting the educational needs and enrichment of our students!

Blythe Accents is published monthly during the school year. If you would like to submit an item, please email blytheaccents@aol.com by the 15th of the month (e.g. September 15th for the October newsletter). You can also email newsletter editor Katy Smith at katypughsmith@bellsouth.net.

Blythe Academy PTA is online...

Not signed up for enews? It's as easy as 1-2-3! 1) Log onto www.blythepta.org, 2) Scroll to the bottom right of the page, 3) Enter your email address.

