

Let's Go Bulldogs!



Barhitte News

PAWSitive Parent Academy Learning for All—Whatever it Takes!

November, 2015

Research shows a direct correlation between a parent's engagement in their child's educational experience and extent to which that child is a successful student. The purpose of the Parent Academy is to Provide learning opportunities to families who want to understand curriculum and teaching/learning strategies to help their child grow as learners.

Please join us at our Parent Workshops held at Barhitte Each session runs from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided at the conclusion of each workshop.

- ◆ November 17th—Computers/Technology/Title 1
- ◆ December 15th—Holiday Reading Favorites
- ◆ January 19th—Marvelous Math Night
- ◆ February 16th—Science Night
- ◆ April 19th-Spring into Fitness

Upcoming Events:

- ✓ 11/1/15—Daylight Savings Time Fall Back
- ✓ 11/4/15—Late Start Wednesday 9:25
- ✓ 11/6/15 End of 1st Marking Period
- ✓ 11/9-12—Book Fair-Open During Conferences 4:30-7:30
- ✓ 11/11/15— Late Start Wednesday & Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30—8:00
- ✓ 11/12/15—Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:30—7:30
- ✓ 11/13/15—No School
- ✓ 11/17/15 PAWSitive Parents Meeting 6:00-7:30
- ✓ 11/18/15—Late Start Wednesday 9:25
- ✓ 11/19/15 Picture Retakes
- ✓ 11/20/15 Fun Hot Chocolate Run
- ✓ 11/25-27 Thanksgiving Break No School

COME LEARN WITH US!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please don't forget to sign up for Parent-Teacher conferences on November 11th or November 12th. Each year 92—97% of our parents attend conferences! That is spectacular because the partnership be-

tween parents and the teacher is crucial! Our goal this year is 100% and I believe we can do it! If you haven't scheduled a conference yet, please do so with your child's teacher



Attendance

Regular, consistent attendance at school is important for academic progress and future success.

Board Policy considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- ⇒ Illness
- ⇒ Recovery from an accident
- ⇒ required court attendance
- ⇒ Professional appointments
- ⇒ Death in the immediate family
- ⇒ Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- ⇒ Such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

If a student is going to be absent, the parents must contact the school office at 591-9661 the day of the absence or the following day. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused.

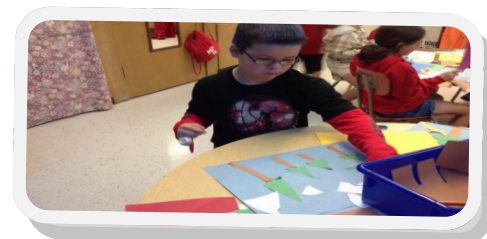
The school entry bell rings at 8:15 a.m. Children should be in their classroom promptly at 8:25 a.m. Students will be considered tardy when they miss up to 1 hour of instructional time. Any student missing more than 1 hour of instruction will be considered absent for that part of the day. Dismissal is at 3:30 p.m.

Students picked up early will be recorded as left early (equal to being Tardy).



Caught Doing Great Things in Art

These students were caught “Doing Great Things in Art” in Mrs. Browning’s Class. (l-r, t-b) Lillee Burks, Eycis Frasier, Senora Jones, Mason Verkennes



Making the Most out of Parent-Teacher Conferences

Peggy Coppola of Dix Hills, New York, learned an important lesson when she showed up late — and unprepared — for her first parent teacher conference with her son's kindergarten teacher. "She told me things I didn't expect."

Coppola says she felt like "a deer in headlights" when she discovered Johnmarco wasn't performing well on tests and was staring at the ceiling when he was asked questions. "I walked out kicking myself," says Coppola. "I should have asked how I could help, whether his behavior was normal for his age, or what the school could do. If I had stopped and thought ahead of time, I would have been prepared."

This year, when 10-year-old Johnmarco entered 5th grade, Coppola made sure she was ready for that first teacher conference. Together, she and her son reviewed test scores and discussed what was going on in his classroom. Then, Coppola says, she felt she could "anticipate what the teacher would say."

While we expect teachers to prepare for these meetings, parents don't always take the time to do the same. That's unfortunate, since the parent-teacher conference is often one of the only opportunities parents get to meet with their child's teacher one-on-one. "You gain the perspective of a trained professional who spends an enormous amount of time with your child," says Gracemarie Rozea, New York State region director for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). "The teacher has the opportunity to see your child interacting with other children, and is a more objective evaluator of your child than you as a parent might be."

That's important whether your child is just starting out in elementary school or on her way to high school. "Ninth grade is a critical time because it's the foundation of the high school career," says Doris Ekert, a former high school English teacher from Massapequa, New York. "Having a notice come home isn't enough contact. This is the time to talk about your child."

Teachers Want Your Input
Teachers are just as interested in your input as you are in theirs. "There are many things about your child the teacher doesn't know," Rozea says. Teachers want to be apprised of any changes your child is facing in his personal or family life, and how he behaves

at home in comparison to how he acts at school. Your child's comfort level in the classroom, whether he's found his niche among fellow students, and whether he seems stressed or happy are all important clues to his social and emotional well-being — and it's only by working together that you and your child's teacher can fully understand them.

"Social problems used to start in middle school, but now they're rearing their heads as young as 3rd grade, and this impacts academic performance," says Margaret Sagarese, author of *The Rollercoaster Years*.

With so much to talk about in so little time, here's how you can make the most of your meeting:

Before the Teacher Conference

Start preparing early. Don't wait until the night before to get organized. Create a folder at the beginning of the year in which you store test scores, big homework assignments, and your notes (about things your child has told you or any other topics you want to address).

- **Talk to your child.** Ask how she's doing in class, what's going on during lunchtime, recess, and when she goes to special classes like music or gym. "You want to find out both the positive and negative," says Rozea. If you don't like what you're hearing, investigate. Talk to other parents to see if their children are expressing similar concerns. "You need to find out whether your child is perceiving everything accurately or if she's misunderstanding a situation," she says.

During the Teacher Conference

- **Arrive early.** With only a few precious minutes to spend, you don't want to be late. It will shorten your time with your child's teacher and affect her day's entire schedule.
- **Enter with the right attitude.** The goal of both the teacher and the parent should be the success of the student, but sometimes parents have a hard time discussing tough issues. Rather than put the teacher on the defensive, arrive with a compliment to start the conference off on the right foot. ("My son is really enjoying

the unit on space" or "We had a great time on the field trip.") Then address any concerns in a respectful way.

Find out the communication protocol.

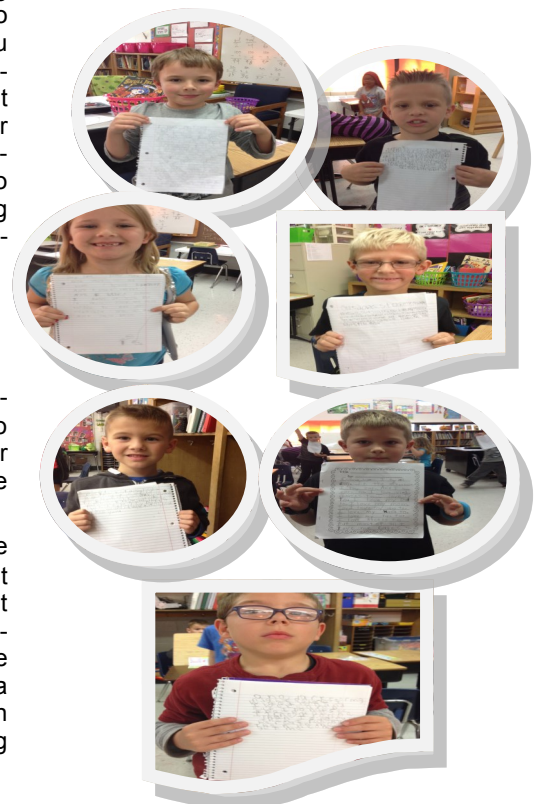
Don't let this be the only time you talk to your child's teacher. Ask how she likes to communicate, suggests Sagarese, whether it's by e-mail, notes passed through a folder, or phone calls. "Reinforce that you are there if she wants to talk to you," she says. "Let the teacher know you want to be that kind of partner."

After the Teacher Conference

Follow up. If the teacher brings something to your attention that needs to be addressed with your child, take steps to put the plan in motion, whether it's helping with organizational skills, getting extra help, or addressing a social issue.

Update your child. Start with the positive things her teacher had to say, then fill her in on any concerns you and the teacher discussed. Explain how you can all work together to ensure your child has a *successful* year.

Mrs. Robinson's class is Proud of their Narrative Writing Pieces!





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Visit us at
www.bentleyschools.org

Principal's Corner

This is a reminder that the weather is turning much cooler, so please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately to play outside. We go out every day that it is not raining and is not below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the PAWSitive parent meetings and parent-teacher conferences.

Every Child, Every Day
- Whatever it Takes.

Thanks for Giving

We are fortunate to have so many generous, caring people in our Community.

The Solid Rock congregation was instrumental in making our Open House a success. They provided dinner and games for the children. They also donated school supplies, spruced up our grounds and helped the teachers.

Boy Scout Pack 160 also provided much needed muscle power helping teachers move back in after the summer construction.

The tremendous task of setting up our Library could not have been done without the help of Tausha Koenders and Rachell Gorbutt.

Many thanks to Elga Credit Union, Amber DeLavernge of the Prayer Shack and Holiday Retirement for their generous donations of School Supplies.

Last but certainly not least, we appreciate our wonderful parent volunteers who pop corn every week and help in classrooms.

THANKS FOR GIVING!!!