

Dear Parents,

Newsy items ahead. Please read each one. Thank you.

Science Day 2016

It seems each year I report, “Best Ever”. I really mean it. Science Day was full and rich and relevant. Chairperson Emily Galatzan and all her committee members, with help from an army of volunteers, knocked it out of the park. I couldn’t be more grateful for her leadership each step of the way...and I am certain each member of her vast committee feels the same. Next Monday, February 1, we will screen the summary video during Morning Assembly. Always fun. If you miss it, it will be posted on the Bobcat Blog (www.bobcatblog.com) so you can capture the spirit of the day.

Valentines Day

Do you know the “boiling frog” analogy? Drop a frog in boiling water and it instantly escapes. Slowly warm the water and it will be its last swim. Valentine’s Day has evolved in this way. It has slowly morphed over the past 20 years into candy fest and mailbox construction contest that has overtaken the season and really gets in the way of teaching and learning. With a nudge from a wise parent and careful deliberation with the Campus Leadership Team, we decided to return Valentine’s Day to a wholesome, non-disruptive event. We will leave the Halloween-level, candy-in-every-valentine, mailboxes-rivaling-skyscrapers to the home front. Valentine “mailboxes” (decorated folders) are being created during Art and in classrooms. Valentine cards are encouraged. Candy in/with valentines is prohibited this time around. We will continue class Valentines parties, we are just thinning the junk. This shift in practice has been explained to students by their teachers and they have heard it from me during AM Assembly.

“Band Together for the Cure” and “Rare Disease Day”

Last year Bridge Pointers participated in an important learning experience. Drew Karakourtis, 21-year-old big brother of 5th grader Becca, and son of Amy and Mark, has a rare disease, NBIA. Rare diseases tend not to receive the research funding and attention of the medical community as do more common diseases; think cancer and heart disease. Band Together for the Cure is a fundraising event for NBIA research to be held on February 26. Click here for details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/band-together-for-a-cure-tickets-20042722322>

Bridge Point students PJ Ogilvie and James Seidel produced a video starring Drew. They shared it with the BPE Student Body during Morning Assembly on Tuesday, February 2. The video is on the Bridge Point Bobcat Blog (www.bobcatblog.com). Take a look.

As well, Bridge Point will highlight Rare Disease Day on the rarest of days, February 29. On that day we ask all students to wear denim and each will be provided a denim ribbon to wear. During Morning Assembly, our friend Drew, as he did last year, will join us again to help increase our understanding and awareness of the many rare diseases in need of research, attention and funding.

Lee Mills – Bridge Point Teacher with Cancer

Three weeks ago Lee Mills, 10-year BPE Second Grade teacher, WHS/UT grad and longtime Westlake resident, learned she has ovarian cancer. Pregnant with her second son, it was discovered during a routine pre-natal exam. In subsequent procedures the cancer was removed and it appears the effects of this dangerous cancer can be managed by chemo, radiation and the good fortune it was discovered early. We are all praying for healthy baby and healthy mother...it appears very hopeful a full recovery will occur.

Our Booster Club has purchased enough wristbands for each student and staff to wear in support of Mrs. Mills. They will come home with your child with an attached letter/form. The letter will emphasize the choice a student retains to either wear or not wear the wristband, and an opportunity for families to contribute to a "Meal Train" fund to help the Mills family over the next months during the cancer challenge and the April birth of a baby boy Mills. For many of you this may be just the way for you to help this sweet family. Much more soon.