



# News Lynx



## Strengthening Our Lynx

[www.bonlinmiddleptsa.org](http://www.bonlinmiddleptsa.org)

August 2009 - Volume 2, Issue 1

### Principal's Corner

Students and Families,

Welcome to another great school year at Bon Lin Middle School. I am excited and energized for the upcoming year and have been busy this summer planning, reading, and studying. Our teachers have also been busy this summer taking coursework, attending professional development classes, and planning for the new year. We have a wonderful faculty and staff at Bon Lin Middle and our number one priority is to serve the students and families in our community.

Bon Lin Middle School will be piloting several new programs for our school district. First, we are proud to offer Spanish to our seventh grade students. Students enrolled in the Spanish program may gain a foreign language high school credit and be eligible to start Spanish II during their freshman year. Another great program is our Positive Behavior Support initiative (PBS). More information on PBS is included in this newsletter. Finally, we are implementing the second year of Making Middle Grades Works (MMGW). You will learn more about this innovative program as we go through the year.

I want to encourage each student and family to become an active part of the Lynx family. Please join in one of our many extracurricular clubs, volunteer to serve with the PTSA, contribute to the school through one of our fundraisers, and be a model to others through servant leadership. I look forward to a great year and if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes for a Great Year,  
Dr. Dyer

### From the desk of...

Welcome to our 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Bon Lin Middle School. It is hard to believe we are starting a new school year. I hope you enjoyed your time with your family this summer and are ready for an exciting school year! "Strengthening Our Lynx" is the theme the Bon Lin Middle School PTSA chose for this year. The best way I know to "Strengthen Our Lynx" is to join the PTSA. Studies have proved that when parents are involved in school activities their children do better in school. Education is one of the best gifts we give our children and their level of education will shape their future. The PTA has had a significant impact on improving the education and well-being of America's children for 113 years. We are not here just to be encouragers to the school's administration and faculty, but to work effectively to improve our school and to develop student leadership. You will notice there is an "S" in PTSA. The "S" stands for students. Students are a part of our organization in middle school alongside their parents and teachers. We are excited to have three student representatives on our Board of Managers this year. Parents, please be a role model by joining the PTSA alongside your student. Communication will be a key in "Strengthening Our Lynx". Visit our PTSA website at [www.bonlinmiddleptsa.org](http://www.bonlinmiddleptsa.org) for updates on PTSA activities. Please let me know what you like about our school and what you think will improve it. Your PTSA board stands ready to serve you and your family. Please feel free to contact me with your suggestions or concerns.

Jamae Zarshenas  
President  
[jarshenas@aol.com](mailto:jarshenas@aol.com)  
372-9020



### Dates to Remember

#### August

- 10 First Day of School
- 12 Chick-fil-a Spirit Night - 4:30-8PM
- 13 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Night
- 18 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum Night
- 19-21 Student Council Homeroom Representative Campaign Begins
- 25 Room Parent Meeting - 5PM
- 27 Fundraiser Kickoff
- 28 Back to School Dance - 7-9PM



#### September

- 3-8 Scholastic Book Fair
- 7 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- 8 Open House, Book Fair, Club Fair & PTSA General Meeting
- 9 Fundraiser Deadline - ORDERS DUE
- 21 Safety Poster Contest Begins
- 23 Principal's Lunch with Families - 12-1PM
- 24 Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night - 4-10PM

### Help Us Strengthen Our Lynx Join the Bon Lin Middle PTSA

The PTSA kicked off our annual membership drive during registration and we are counting on you to help us reach our goal of 100% membership! Enrollment is only \$5.00 per person and is not limited to parents and students. This means faculty, staff, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors are all invited to join the PTSA. The funds from our membership dues is to promote the welfare of our children. You can take great pride in the fact that by choosing to join you are truly making a difference! Please contact Tonya Donnell-Boston at [tdonnellboston@comcast.net](mailto:tdonnellboston@comcast.net) or 828-1763 for more information or visit us online at [www.bonlinmiddleptsa.org/membership](http://www.bonlinmiddleptsa.org/membership)

**Stay Connected with Bon Lin Middle School**  
Follow the PTSA on Twitter or become a friend on Facebook & MySpace!  
Look up **Bon Lin Middle School** on any or all three and join today!



# Treats for Troops

This year the BLMS PTSA will be sponsoring several community service projects to strengthen the "lynx" within families. Our first project will be treats for troops. We will be collecting items to send to troops deployed in Iraq. Our project will begin on Tuesday, September 8 at our first PTSA general meeting. Students and parents will be encouraged to bring items for our care packages that night and we will continue collecting items until Friday, September 11. Our first priority is to assist families within the Bon Lin Community; therefore, if anyone has an immediate or extended family member who is deployed, we will send the collected items to them. If we do not have a Bon Lin family to assist, we will send the items to platoons in need of assistance. Some examples of items that we would like to collect are: beef jerky, rice krispy treats, individually wrapped snacks, Little Debbie snacks, coffee, nuts, chewing gum, powdered Gatorade, playing cards, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, microwave popcorn, Pringles chips, ramen noodles, cereal bars, granola bars, AA batteries, D batteries, Lysol wipes, wet ones, shoe laces, ink pens, long-distance phone cards, macaroni & cheese, and any other personal small toiletry items or nonperishable food items. If you would like to give the name of a soldier to donate items to or volunteer with this project please email Lokita Glover at lglover6@comcast.net.

## Curriculum Nights

This year curriculum nights will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and August 18<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:30-8PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to come and meet your child's teachers. They will be discussing expectations for the year and giving you an overview of their course objectives. You don't want to miss this!

## Box Tops



Please take some time to cut out box tops and send them to your child's homeroom teacher. First Semester's collection ends on October 16<sup>th</sup>! A treat will be given to the classroom with the most box tops collected.

Amy Wery, Box Tops Coordinator

## Safety Poster Contest

The safety poster contest will formally kick off on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Entry forms as well as details about the contest and the associated prizes will be available in the office from September 21<sup>st</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year the theme for posters is "I am Cyber Safe when..." and the theme for Multi Media is, "Networking SMART". The deadline for entering the contest and submitting posters or multi-media is Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact Sandra Horton for additional information.



seh9211@aol.com - 937-5210



### BON LIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Teacher Grandparent Staff Other Parent Teacher Grandparent Staff Other

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Memberships \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 per Membership = \_\_\_\_\_

Checks may be made payable to BLMS PTSA



# Fall Fundraiser – Strengthening Our Lynx



Do you want to be the Principal for a day? How about being a Teacher for a day? Keep reading to find out more!

This year, with the help of 3 of our 2009-2010 SGA Board members and 2 fellow students, we came up with a great fundraiser. We chose Mr. Wally Fowler with Fowler Enterprises and I hope you are as excited about our fundraiser as I am. So, get ready Lynx! On Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> we will have our fall fundraiser kickoff. Please make sure to show it to all you family and friends. The fundraiser will end on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> with delivery on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30pm.

Now that I've given you the dates of our fundraiser, let me tell you a little about the prizes we have in store. We will have the "Ten & You're In" Party when you sell 10 items, or make a donation of \$50.00 to get in. When you sell 35 items, you will get a LIMO ride to Incredible Pizza, on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This includes the buffet and a \$10.00 game card. This is just a sample of the prizes, but let me assure you that the higher you go, the more you get.

There are a few surprises that we have in store for you all that you have to wait until the day of kickoff to find out. One final thing, once the packets go home, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Beth Nelson [bnelson9601@aol.com](mailto:bnelson9601@aol.com) or 494-7893



## Kroger Cards



Place your order for Kroger cards and BLMS PTSA will receive 5% back! Each card costs \$5 and when you get the card it's loaded with your \$5! See [www.bonlinmiddlepts.org](http://www.bonlinmiddlepts.org) for more information!



## "Strengthening Our Lynx" Back to School Dance



Join us on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm for our back to school dance! If you are a member of the PTSA, you get in the dance for FREE—otherwise you can purchase a ticket for \$5!

## ROOM PARENTS

Yes, believe it or not, we still need Room Parents in Middle School! We will have a Room Parent Meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in the BLMS Cafeteria. Please make every effort to attend as we hope to cover plans for the upcoming school year.

If you would like more information, please contact our Room Parent Coordinator,

Julie Stevens - 382-2379 – [jstevens01@comcast.net](mailto:jstevens01@comcast.net)



## Scholastic Book Fair



Please join us on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and again on 8<sup>th</sup> between 8am and 9am!

You can also stop by during our Book Fair, Open House, Club Fair and PTSA General Meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm!

Contact Mrs. Boren for additional information, [jboren@scsk12.org](mailto:jboren@scsk12.org)

## Lynx Spirit Nights

Several local restaurants have partnered with BLMS for Lynx Spirit Night Out.



☞ Chick-fil-a – 15%

Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – 4:30-8PM

☞ Incredible Pizza – 15%

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 5-9PM & April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5-8PM



☞ Lenny's – 15%

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> & May 12<sup>th</sup> – 5-9PM

☞ Texas Roadhouse – 10%

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> & Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 4-10PM



For each family that dines out on these nights, these businesses will donate a portion of the total check to BLMS PTSA. Just make sure to mention you're with Bon Lin Middle School!



## "THREE FOR ME"



Three for me is a PTA program designed to effectively involve parents and families in support of children and their education. By giving 3 hours of your time to the school you will not only be making a difference for just your child, but for all the children that attend Bon Lin Middle School.

If you are looking for a way to be involved with your child's school, and give just 3 hours of your time, we have a perfect opportunity for you!

### Library

Contact Vanessa Robertson to sign up for a shift!  
[writeonthewall@yahoo.com](mailto:writeonthewall@yahoo.com) or 388-9301

### Clinic

Contact Tabitha Rogers to sign up for a shift!  
[trogerssgr@comcast.net](mailto:trogerssgr@comcast.net) or 438-5606



Parental Involvement Chairperson, Michael Todd!  
[amtodd95@comcast.net](mailto:amtodd95@comcast.net) or 382-3190

## Making Middle Grades Work:

### Making Middle Grade's Work Initiative

The centerpiece of MMGW is challenging curriculum in the core academics—English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. School leaders need to align core academic courses to essential state and national standards that prepare middle graders for challenging high school course work; and align student assignments, student work and classroom assessments to at least Proficient-level standards as defined by National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)-referenced exams and state assessments. To reach eighth-grade proficiency and readiness for high school college-preparatory curricula, students need to gain the essential skills for each of the core subject areas.

#### In English/language arts students should

- write a major research paper (with footnotes and bibliography) on a subject they choose once a semester or once a year;
- complete a short writing assignment of one to three pages for a grade weekly;
- make an oral presentation each month or each semester; and read, both in and out of school, the equivalent of 11 or more books of various types, raising the bar annually to reach the 25-book level.

#### In mathematics students should

- develop and analyze tables, charts and graphs in their schoolwork often;
- use a scientific calculator weekly;
- solve mathematics problems other than those in the textbook at least weekly;
- work with one or more students in their class on a challenging mathematics assignment monthly or weekly;
- explain to the class—both orally and in writing—how they solved a mathematics problem monthly or weekly;
- explain different ways to solve mathematics problems monthly or weekly; and
- use their mathematics skills to solve problems in other classes monthly or weekly.

#### In science students should

- complete science projects that take a week or more;
- complete written lab reports once a semester or monthly;
- use equipment to do activities in science labs with tables and sinks once a semester or monthly;
- use word processing software to complete an assignment or project often;
- complete short writing assignments of one to three pages for a grade once a semester;
- use a laptop computer, a lab book or notebooks to keep records, logs and comments; and
- write long answers to questions on tests in science monthly.

#### In social studies students should

- understand the essential concepts of geography, economics, history and government;
- analyze conflicts and debate and defend a position; and
- participate in hands-on activities such as problem-solving and decision-making in the real world, simulations, and service learning.

#### In exploratory courses students should

- experience a curriculum that is aligned to core academic standards;
- read and write to learn;
- work on projects that integrate academic standards;
- practice use of technology; and
- explore different career pathways.

Source - *Making Middle Grades Work: An Enhanced Design to Get All Students to Standards*, SREB

## Thank You!

Thanks to all of our 2009-2010 Bon Lin Middle School Calendar Sponsors. The calendar would not have been possible without their generous contributions. Thanks again to our sponsors for joining us as we are "Strengthening Our Lynx" at Bon Lin Middle School!

Affinity Homes  
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St. Francis Medical Partners



Stereo One  
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The Shot Nurse  
Wagner General Contractors, Inc.  
Wolfchase Nissan



## Positive Behavior Support:

PBS is an application of a behaviorally-based systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design an effective environment that will improve student behavior. Bon Lin Middle School has teamed with the RISE Project at the University of Memphis to introduce this school-wide discipline initiative for our school district. A team of teachers and Dr. Dyer attended a workshop in Nashville last year and returned determined this approach to school discipline and behavior was an excellent fit for our school.

In the past, school-wide discipline has focused on being reactive rather than proactive. Punishment-based strategies such as reprimands, loss of privileges, office referrals, suspensions, etc. has been the most used sanctions. While those consequences may still be required, the goal of PBS is to establish a positive climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm. Our goal is to reward students, teachers, staff, and others for being positive role models.

To that end, this year a team of teachers will be working to implement our Tier One approach to PBS. This group will meet monthly to discuss what is working and not working in relation to our stated goals. If parents or students have input, please email Dr. Dyer ([rdyer@scsk12.org](mailto:rdyer@scsk12.org)) with comments on what is working and possibly not working. More information on PBS can be found at the following web site: <http://www.pbis.org/school/default.aspx>.

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Our Lynx**  
BON LIN  
MIDDLE PTSA



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