

December 2009/
January 2010

Volume 7, Issue 4

Brown Bear News

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I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As the calendar year comes to a close, we can look back at a busy, successful fall season at Brown School! We have so much to be thankful for, and on behalf of the PTO, I'd like to thank the Brown community as a whole for its enthusiastic participation.

Thanks to you, our first Half Day Movie Day was a resounding success! Over 140 students enjoyed lunch and a movie. Thanks to Jaquie Kittler and Lauren Mann for launching this event, and special thanks to Kennedy Middle School for donating the audio-visual equipment. Look for another movie day in the coming months!

Lots of Brown School families turned out for the annual Pancake Breakfast and Destination: Book Fair. Thanks to all who helped organize and execute this fun Sunday! Our breakfast chairmen Colm McGarry and Doug Farquharson, with their great group of volunteer dads, cooked up quite a feast.

Following the breakfast, many families headed to Destination: Book Fair! Cheerful volunteers pitched in to set up, manage and break down this fair, and we send our special thanks to the Book Fair Committee: Bobbie-Jo Bogan, Missy McCauley, Cris Kidd, and Keri McGovern. Many thanks to Mrs. Makransky for letting the Book Fair take over the library for over a week!

their debut thanks to Christine Zeliger, and we were all able to get some holiday shopping out of the way with Beth Lederman and Karen Cushing selling Scrips, and Wendy Comeau selling Scrub-a-Dub coupons!

Very soon the front lobby will be buzzing. On December 9th and 10th, students will be shopping for gifts at the Holiday Bazaar! Bazaar items are still welcome; please place your donations in the bins in the lobby. Thanks to Beth Baumann, Anne Burns, Shelly Juppe, and Lisa Blair for bringing this event to the students!

The people I mentioned above are just a few of the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to bring these events to our families. There are many people involved in planning, running and staffing these events. Thanks to all of you for being so generous with your time!

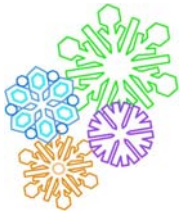
With such enthusiastic participation, from volunteering to attending the events, Brown School Community realizes its potential in enriching everyone's experiences. The events bring us together as a community and the funds generated support students, staff and families. We have much to be thankful for, indeed!

Looking forward to seeing you around Brown in 2010! Save the date for the January PTO Meeting on Thursday, January 14th.

The new Brown School T-shirts made

Kathleen Pickering





A Note from the Principal

"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.

'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."
- Oliver Herford

Ralph Greenberg is in the recycling business. At one time he repaired "obsolete" medical equipment and donated it to poor areas in Siberia and Kenya where this equipment was better than anything they had. These trips opened his eyes to the issue of poverty and he realized that poverty existed here in the United States as well.

But what could he do to make a difference in his own community? Being in the recycling business, he thought about what he could do in his field to help. He knew there was one thing that almost everyone had that they no longer needed - keys!

Everyone has old keys lying around the house that they don't throw away but don't know what to do with. He estimated that millions of metal keys are discarded each year. Ralph realized that metal keys could be recycled for cash and, although one key wasn't worth much, hundreds and thousands of keys could become hundreds of dollars. With this knowledge, he started the "Key for Hope" foundation.

The purpose of "Key for Hope" is to fund and support initiatives that promote the quality of life for the less fortunate. Specifically, he established the "Keys in the Classroom" program to raise funds to support local food pantries and homeless shelters.

The Brown School, with the support of the PTO and the staff, has decided to take on the challenge and sponsor a "Key Drive" for two weeks in January 2010. The funds raised through this drive will go to support our local food pantry. Last year an elementary school in Carver collected more than 11,000 keys which translated into several hundred dollars worth of food. (More information will be posted on the Virtual Backpack in January.)

Through their participation, children will learn about the importance of recycling and the benefits of community teamwork. Little things can make a big difference.

December Celebrations Helen H. Moore

Every year at just this time,
In cold and dark December,
Families around the world
All gather to remember,
With presents and with parties,
With feasting and with fun,
Customs and traditions
For people old and young.
So every year, around the world
In all lands and nations,
People of all ages love
December celebrations!

May the joy and good will of this season be with you and your loved ones throughout the New Year!

Edward P. Quigley, Ed.D.
Interim Principal
Brown School
508-647-6660
equigley@natickps.org



FROM THE NEWSROOM...

Do you have information to share? Please send your information for the February issue of the *Brown Bear News* no later than Friday, January 8th. The publication date will be February 3rd. We welcome comments or ideas at any time. Thank you!

The BBN Team

Karen Cushing
karencushing@verizon.net
(508) 647-4940

Christina Nolan
cmn520@hotmail.com
(508) 650-9995



Fundraising

The Holiday Bazaar is Right Around the Corner

Wednesday, Dec. 9th

Thursday, Dec. 10th

Thanks to all who have been crafting and making donations. If you would still like to make a donation or help out before or during the sale, please contact a committee member as soon as possible. We look forward to a great shopping and sharing experience for our children. Thank you again for making this event such a rewarding one at Brown School.

If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact any of the event chairs:

Beth Baumann

508.650.6946

elizabeth_baumann@verizon.net

Ann Burnes

508.545.0197

ann_burnes@yahoo.com

Lisa Blair

508.651.7030

lisa@bostonblair.com

Shelley Juppe

508.655.6229

scoshe43@comcast.net



The Old Standbys...

Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks: Don't forget to register your Stop and Shop card online at www.stopandshop.com. Once you do, a portion of your store purchase total will be donated to the school of your choice. Watch the Virtual Backpack for more information.

GoodSearch: Thanks for using goodsearch.com as your search engine. To participate, go to www.goodsearch.com and register your searches for "Brown School PTO."

Brown School Magnets: Perfect for your car or fridge! Available for \$5 at all PTO meetings, school events, or by contacting Donna Pagnini at dpagnini@comcast.net.

Target Red Card: Register your Target Red Card at www.target.com/tcoe and up to 1% of your purchase total will be donated to the school you select.

Family Movie Night is Coming Again... Mark the Date!

We will hold a Family Movie Night on **Friday, February 26th** in the school gym. As in past years, this will be a community service event aiding our local food pantries.

Check the February issue of the BBN for more information.

If you would like to co-chair this event or just volunteer, contact Karen Cushing at karencushing@verizon.net or 508-647-4940.

Box Tops for Education Update

Everyone did a great job at collecting box tops! We raised \$610 of our \$1000 goal. Now remember with the holidays fast approaching, you can also earn box tops for Brown School by shopping online. There are many popular merchants where you already shop: JC Penney, Lands End, Target to name a few. Go to boxtops4education.com and click on Box Tops Marketplace. Check it out and keep on clipping.

Jodie Lilja, Box Tops Coordinator



Fundraising

Use Scrips for all your Holiday Shopping!

No long lines at the malls. No fighting for parking spaces. Earn money for Brown School. Could holiday shopping get any easier?

If you buy a gift card through the Scrips program, you receive face value for your gift cards and Brown School receives a percentage of the sale (percentages vary by retailer from 2 -20%). These are the same gift cards you would purchase directly from retailers, without the hassle of going to each retailer, and they can be used nationwide. Scrips are available for hundreds of retailers, including:

- iTunes
- American Express
- Visa
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Barnes and Noble
- Toys R Us
- Starbucks
- Panera Bread

You can order Scrips every week in December. Download a copy of the Scrips order form from the Brown School website (<http://www.natickps.org/Brown/homepage.cfm>). Make your selections, and simply return the form and your check, made payable to Brown School PTO, via your child's red folder by 9 am on Tuesdays. You will receive your gift cards the following Tuesday in your child's red folder. A schedule is attached for your convenience.

Order Scrips by:	Receive Scrips On:
December 1 st at 9am	December 8 th
December 8 th at 9am	December 15 th
December 15 th at 9am	December 22 nd

Watch the Virtual Backpack for information about order deadlines for January.

Have any questions? Want to know more? Contact Beth Lederman at lederman6@verizon.net or 508-650-9657.



Brown School Gear...Great Holiday Gifts!

Are grandparents or aunts and uncles looking for gift ideas for your kids? Why not suggest Brown School t-shirts and sweatshirts! Available in pale pink or light grey, these items will be available all holiday season by contacting Christine Zeliger at christinezeliger@gmail.com. Both items are available in youth sizes small, medium, and large. Short-sleeve t-shirts will sell for \$12 each or two for \$20; hooded sweatshirts will sell for \$22 each or two for \$40. A combination of one t-shirt and one sweatshirt is \$30.

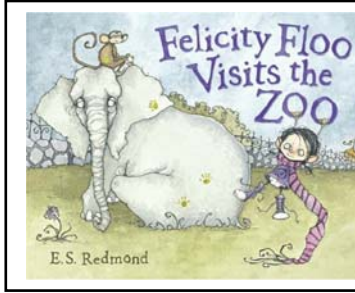
HOOKED ON BOOKS

In the library, November always ushers in many wonderful read-aloud books about the fall. This month we've had fun exploring a different aspect of the season, in "Felicity Floo Visits the Zoo," by E. S. Redmond. Brown School students have had lots of good suggestions for Felicity, who does not seem to know about using tissues or handwashing as she spreads her enthusiasm and germs throughout the zoo! Many thanks to Zach Galvin, Vice Principal at Natick High School, for giving us this delightful new book and inspiring lots of conversations about how we can ALL help prevent the spread of flu.

Many hours have been spent enjoying the Book Fair! Thanks to all who supported Brown School by purchasing books. The library has received a large number of books for our collection as a result, and all the students at Brown will be able to enjoy them.

Warm wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to all!

Barbara Makransky



GYM SHORTS

This month students will work on their upper body strength on the ropes and teamwork in the obstacle course. During January, students will practice their jump rope skills in preparation for February's Jump Rope for Heart event. Materials about this event will be sent home with students sometime around January 11th. This is a fun time and it also raises money for the American Heart Association.

If you have time, check out the PE website. It has information on upcoming events as well as healthful links you might find interesting.

As always, please remind your students to wear sneakers on days they have physical education classes.

Valerie Hughes



NURSE'S NOTES

The bulk of Vision and Hearing Screenings have been completed. I now need to do some re-screening (students are given a 2nd opportunity to pass) and catch any students who were absent on those days. The re-screening process is a lengthy one, and I will contact you if your child did not meet passing criteria. My goal is to accomplish this before the end of the calendar year. Please call with any questions or concerns.

Please refer to the NPS website and the Virtual Backpack for continued updates regarding H1N1 and Seasonal Flu. Please keep your children home if they are sick!

Pauline E. Santino, RN, BSN



Big Thanks to our Wonderful Event Chairs

Our PTO-sponsored fall events would not have been the success they were without the time and dedication of our event chairs:

Jaquie Kittler and Lauren Mann
Christine Zeliger
Wendy Comeau
Beth Lederman and Karen Cushing
Colm McGarry and Doug Farquharson
Bobbie-Jo Bogan, Missy McCauley, Cris Kidd
and Keri McGovern
Beth Baumann, Ann Burnes, Shelley Juppe
and Lisa Blair

Half Day Movie Day
School Apparel
Scrub-a-Dub
Scripts
Pancake Breakfast
Book Fair

Holiday Bazaar

Community Spotlight

CUB SCOUTS NEWS....Natick Pack 7

On Saturday, January 23, the Cub Scouts will race cars they have designed and built at the annual Pinewood Derby, which will be held in the cafeteria at Brown School.

On the same day, same location, Pack 7 will also hold its annual Open Derby. Anyone is eligible to participate. The fee to enter a car is \$15. You can find more details about this fun event in the Virtual Backpack.

For more information please contact Committee Chair Robert Barish at 508-653-0659 or visit <http://www.natickpack7.org>.



Stay Informed about Brown School Events and Happenings!

Be sure to check the Virtual Backpack often...new information is posted nearly every day.

Signing up for the Brown School email blasts are a great reminder to check the Virtual Backpack.

PTO Connection

RESERVED



That's what the new sign reads, on the first parking space on Jean Burke Drive. The PTO recently raffled off a parking space for the remainder of the 2009/2010 school year. The first space at the top of Jean Burke Drive (by the Kindergarten playground) is reserved for the raffle winner, Claire Joyce. The parking space is signed and marked with painted lines. Please observe the sign and do not park in this parking space. We appreciate your cooperation.

Scoopers Wanted

Spread the LOVE! We are looking for volunteers to help scoop ice cream for Valentine Sundaes. This school-wide, PTO-sponsored Valentine's Day celebration will be held Friday, February 12th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To volunteer or for more information, contact:

Elana Berelowitz
elanafb@comcast.net
 508-653-0896

Sheila Page
finnpage@finnpage.com
 508-315-3437



Picture Retake Day is Monday, December 7th. Check the Virtual Backpack for more information.

❖ 2009-2010 BOARD ❖

PARENTS	Kathleen Pickering Co-President (508) 655-8802	Christi Browning Co-President (508) 651-9742
	Lynn Reisner Vice President/Volunteers (508) 651-2090	Donna Pagnini Vice President/Fundraising (508) 655-2962
	Karen Cunningham Recording Secretary (508) 651-9394	Mary Fahy Treasurer (508) 651-2126
	Karen Cushing, Editor Brown Bear News (508) 647-4940	
	Lori Roy Parent Liaison/Volunteers (508) 653-7995	Christina Nolan Parent Liaison/BBN (508) 650-9995
PRINCIPAL and TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE	Dr. Edward Quigley Interim Principal (508) 647-6660	Nancy Wilson (508) 647-6660

JOIN US!

Our next PTO Meeting is Thursday, January 14th at 6:45 p.m.

Brown School Dates to Remember

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Scrips Order Due	2	3	4	5
6	7 Picture Retake School Committee	8 Scrips Order Due	9 Holiday Bazaar	10 Holiday Bazaar	11 Hanukkah begins	12
13	14	15 Scrips Order Due	16	17	18	19
20	21 School Committee	22	23	24 NO SCHOOL Christmas Eve	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Day	26 Kwanza begins
27	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL New Year's Eve		

Office: 647-6660 • Fax: 647-6668 • Absence/Tardy Line: 647-6661
 Late Lunch Orders: 647-6400 x 1161 • Guidance: 647-6400 x 1169 • Psychologist: 647-6666
 School Closings: 508-647-6515 (after 6 a.m.)
 Radio stations WBZ, WMJX, WRKO, WROR, WSRs, WTAG, WBUr • TV channels 4,5,7 & FOX 25

Brown School Dates to Remember January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	2
3	4 School REOPENS School Committee	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Scrips Order Due	13	14 12:05 Release 6:45pm PTO Mtg	15	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Scrips Order Due	27	28	29	30
31	School Committee					

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