



Butler Bear News

Issue No. 4
December 2013

Simon Butler Elementary School

Joseph P. Brereton
Principal

Message from the PTO

It's hard to believe that it is already December. The school year is flying by and your PTO has been busy with some wonderful events. The book fair was quite successful and everyone who attended the Roller Skating Party had a blast. The performance by the Chinese acrobats was delightful and the PTO was able to provide a great lunch to our fabulous Butler staff during report card conferences to show our appreciation for all that they do for our children. A heartfelt "THANK YOU!" to all the volunteers who contributed their time to help make these events so successful.

Our busy year continues into December with our annual Holiday Shoppe on December 6th, made even more exciting with the addition of a Craft & Vendor Fair on the same evening. January will bring us Sports Night and our final Bingo for the year, as well as the opportunity to sign up for the Butler Bear Clubs.

It's been exciting to see so many new faces involved in the PTO. Our meeting on November 18th had 2 beautiful door prizes - a Godiva gift basket and a lovely tea set from Teavana. Special thanks to the Dolci family for their donation of these items. We hope to have even more new faces at our next meeting in January. Please check the PTO link on the Butler website.

If you would like to talk to a member, please feel free to contact us.

Our information is on the website and we look forward to hearing all ideas and suggestions.

Happy Holidays!
Kathy Smith/Barbara Tantum
Co-Presidents, Butler PTO

PTO Executive Board Members 2013-14

Joseph P. Brereton, Principal
Kathy Smith and Barbara Tantum, Co-Presidents
Laurie Dwyer and Tori Parker, Co-Vice Presidents
Betty Tafel, Treasurer
Lisa Goldberg, Recording Secretary
Robyne Kelemen, Corresponding Secretary
Meredith Borine and Angela Linch, Co-Family Programming
Stacey LaHoda, Fund Raising



December

Dates to Remember

January

- 2-6 PTO Giving Tree
- 4 Market Day Internet Orders Due by 11 p.m. CST
- 6 PTO Secret Shop/Vendor Fair
- 10 Market Day Pick Up, 5-6 p.m.
- 11-18 Art Goes to School
- 13 Spirit Day – Pajama Day
Snack with the Principal
PTO Parent Night Out – Movie Night
- 23-1/1 Winter Recess

- 2 Classes Resume
- 4 PTO Sports Night
- 4 Market Day Internet Orders Due by 11 p.m. CST
- 9 Geography Bee
- 10 PTO Bingo Night and Butler Bear Clubs Walk-in
Registration, 7-9 p.m.
- 13 PTO Assembly – Dome Theater
PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
6th Grade Assessment Begins 6-Lynch (to 1/17)
- 14 PEN Trip – Grades 1 and 2
6th Grade Assessment Begins 6-Kassel (to 1/21)
- 15 6th Grade Assessment Begins 6-Meehan (to 1/22)
- 16 6th Grade Assessment Begins 6-Brown (to 1/23)
- 17 6th Grade Assessment Begins 6-Harkrader (to 1/28)
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
- 21 Market Day Pick Up, 5-6 p.m.
- 24 Early Dismissal – End of 2nd Marking Period
No PM Kindergarten – attends in AM
Spirit Assembly
- 27 No School for Students – Professional Development
(Snow make-up day if necessary)
- 30 Music Performances for Grades 2 and 3
School Performance at 9:30 a.m.
2nd Grade Evening Performance at 6:30 p.m.
3rd Grade Evening Performance at 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Spirit Day – Crazy Sock Day



Giving Tree – Until December 6

Please help spread holiday joy and give a gift to help those families in need within our Butler community!

The GIVING TREE is up near the office but you can also sign up online:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0B4CACAD29AA8-butler1

If you can help, please send in a \$10 gift card for Old Navy, Toys R Us, Target, Walmart, or gasoline.

Your Support is Appreciated!



Butler PTO Secret Shop Friday, December 6th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Butler students are invited to come and shop on Friday, December 6 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. At the shop, they'll find loads of holiday gifts for every member of the family, and even helpers to keep them on budget and assist in the selection of gifts. We'll even have a wrapping station so they can leave with wrapped gifts, ready to surprise family and friends! Every child can feel the joy of giving a gift to someone they love, because at the Butler Holiday Shop, most gifts can be purchased for less than \$3 each, and no gift costs more than \$10! Learn more at: <https://www.smores.com/utn7>.

We need a few more volunteers. Sign up to volunteer at <http://vols.pt/eQXtUT>.

Butler Crafts and Gift Fair! Friday, December 6th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Parents - You can shop the BUTLER CRAFTS AND GIFT FAIR while your student shops! Butler is debuting an all new event during the Holiday Secret Shop. Butler family vendors will be showcasing crafts and gifts for purchase in the gym while the students shop in the cafeteria. Get some holiday shopping of your own done while your student shops with help from student volunteers!

Featured Gift Vendors Include:

A Stone's Throw Jewelry, Crafts by Jen, Lia Sophia, Origami Owl, Pampered Chef, Partylite, Signature Home, Silpada, Tastefully Simple, Thirty-One, Unique Gifts by Dave, Bucks County Handmade Gifts, Parklane Jewelry, Collectibles Corner, "Up-Cycled" Home Décor, Bracelets by Lauren, and a PTO table with Market Day samples and Save Around coupon books.

Please come out and help support your fellow Butler families! Learn more at <https://www.smores.com/utn7>.





December is cookie month!

Market Day is offering cookie dough just in time for the holidays! Not only are they delicious but Butler will receive a bonus profit for each order placed! Last year I made the chocolate mint ones and they were yummy and I saved lots of time.

The deadline for internet orders is Wednesday, December 4th and pick up is Tuesday, December 10th. If you've never placed an order before, you'll need to create an account. Go to www.marketday.com and enter our ID number 16689.

Use the code NEWFIVE if your first order is \$25+ and save \$5.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Market Day last month... we had our most successful month in 2 years!

Come on Out for Movie Night!

Bring pillows and blankets and drop off the kids



Friday, December 13

The event starts at 7 p.m. and pick up is at 9 p.m. sharp. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Presenting: Despicable Me 2

Take the time to do some Christmas shopping or just have a night out!

Parents must sign children in and out. *Do not* just drop off children and leave.

To volunteer contact
Karyn Arnold at matarnold@comcast.net

Coming Up Soon!

SPORTS NIGHT AT PSC HighPoint

It will be held on Saturday, January 4 from 7-10 p.m.

*This event is for 4th, 5th and 6th grade
Butler students ONLY*

\$20 includes all sporting events, including swimming and laser tag, plus a pretzel and a drink.

Parent chaperones are needed for this fun event! Please contact James Bender at mopr72@yahoo.com to volunteer.



Thank You for Your Votes!
The Winning Mother/Son Event
for 2013-2014 is **BOWLING!**

HOLD THE DATE:

Saturday, May 10
Early Evening
Brunswick Zone, Feasterville PA

Futher details to be announced shortly. For information contact Carolee Marjarum at sealle12@comcast.net

Counselor's Corner

Holiday Food Drive

November marked the kickoff of our annual holiday food drive. This year, our building goal is to assemble sixty tubs of food and dry goods to assist our own Butler families. Once again, we will have the collective partnering of our Butler PTO, Butler fourth, fifth and sixth grade student council representatives and officers, and Central Bucks South Key Club members. On Tuesday, December 10, all three groups will work simultaneously to transport and sort the items, assemble the food baskets, and prepare them for delivery. We would like to acknowledge Trader Joe's in Montgomeryville who donated over 600 store bags for the collection of items, and Home Depot of Montgomeryville and who provided discounted Rubbermaid storage containers. On behalf of the Butler community, we extend appreciation to all who contributed so generously to this wonderful endeavor.

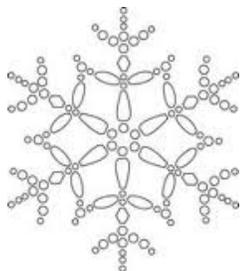
Our first Spirit Assembly of the year was also held on Friday, November 8. During the assembly, our 40 Assets Boomerang winners from September and October were announced and boomerang key chains and certificates were presented. During the month of October, we focused on Asset 31, "Restraint--- Young person can identify, regulate, and control his/her behaviors and emotions in healthy ways, particularly in stressful or unstructured situations." The following Butler students received nominations from their teacher, parents, or other students: Allie Franck, Greta Karcher, Tessa Haiko, Jack Neumann, Kyle Moyer, Nick Migliore, Rocco Derkacs, Jacob Kim, Lilly Foulk, Ethan Michiels, Elle DeStephanis, Nathan Bernstein, and Nicky Micewski. Our building winner for the month of October was Abigail Wight. Her nomination was submitted by her brother Ethan and was read by him at the November spirit assembly.

Gratitude

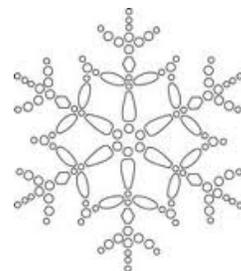
During the month of November and December, our thoughts are often focused on the things in our lives for which we are grateful. Gratitude does not always come naturally to our children. Dr. Karyn Gordon offers five practical tips to teach empathy and gratitude to our children

1. Fill their emotional bucket. Research tells us that when a child feels that their parents understand their feelings, they are more likely to open up and share things. Modeling these virtues for your children will not only help them feel loved but will increase their sense of security and their trust with you. Ask yourself, the last time your child was upset, angry or hurt, how did you respond? Did you tell them to brush it off, or did you get defensive? Or did you try to see things from their perspective and empathize with how they were feeling?
2. Try to understand. Whether your child is upset with you or with a friend, take time to understand what they are going through. Try and use the phrase, "Can you help me understand how you are feeling?" The goal is to try and see things from your child's perspective. When children feel understood, they're more willing to listen to other people's point of view.
3. Ask, don't tell. A common mistake for parents to make when their child is upset is to tell them how they feel instead of asking them. Try and avoid statements like, "I know how you feel." Instead, ask your child, "How do you feel?" If they can't explain it, give them some options. For example, you can ask them, "Are you angry, sad or upset?" When children are given options, they are better equipped to articulate how they feel.
4. Switch roles. The next time you have a disagreement with your child, wait until you are both calm and then try to switch places and role-play with one another. This can be a powerful way to help people see things from another person's perspective. Remember there is no reality - only perception.
5. Make gratitude part of your family culture. When teaching gratitude to your children, remember to say, "Please" and "Thank you" at restaurants, to neighbors, to strangers and to each other. When families say thank you regularly, it creates a culture of appreciation. It makes others feel good, but also helps to build empathy and models desirable behavior in your children. Even children as young as two can be trained to say, "Thank you," after meals and reading stories.

From <http://www.calgaryschild.com/ages-and-stages/school-age/747-five-practical-tips-to-teach-empathy-and-gratitude-to-your-children>



Have a Wonderful Winter Break!



Butler Bear Clubs Coming Soon!

Please mark your calendars!

Butler Bear Clubs are short, enrichment class opportunities for Butler students. Information will be sent home in mid-December. Classes will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. The first day of registration will be an in-person registration, held from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, January 10 during Bingo Night. Registration will continue January 13-17 using paper forms sent into school. No paper registrations will be accepted before in-person registration, so any sent into school before January 13th will be considered received on the 13th (i.e., after in-person registration has completed).

Butler Bear Club classes will be held from February 3 through March 14. Classes held at Butler will be from 4 to 5 p.m. during the week. Offsite classes will be held at various times.

To be more environmentally conscious, the Butler Bear Clubs class listing will once again be electronic. A letter about the program and a registration form will be sent to all families hard-copy in a mid-December Wednesday Folder. The multi-page class listings brochure and additional copies of registration forms will be posted by mid-December to the Butler PTO website (see address below). For those families who need a hard-copy, printed copies of the class listings brochure will be provided upon request.

Parents - please contact Jen Emma if you are interested in being a Hallway Monitor or Class Aide for the on-site Butler Bear Clubs. Your help is needed, and a small stipend is paid for your help. Please email jjemma3@gmail.com for information.

Registration & Class Listings will be posted at Butler PTO Communications Page: <http://www.cbsd.org/Page/3351>

Teacher Read was Lots of Fun!



Teacher Read, on Friday, November 8, was lots of fun for all who attended.

As always, the kids love listening to their favorite teachers reading entertaining stories.

A big thank-you to the teachers who volunteered!

In the Classrooms in December – Art Goes to School

Art Goes to School is a self-supporting, non-profit organization that sends volunteers to elementary schools in the Central Bucks District. These volunteers lecture in individual classrooms on art pieces of the past and present giving students a better understanding and appreciation of society at that time. For more information please visit <http://cbagts.org>.



Help Support Butler While Shopping!

We have been focusing on how you can help support Butler through your regular shopping. **But did you know that you could help Butler when you are shopping online?** Take advantage of these opportunities as you shop for the holidays!

Shop at your favorite stores and earn “eBoxTops.” Go to www.btfe.com/marketplace where you can sign up and then shop at 175 retailers. The eBoxTops will go automatically to Butler. Put in your zip code and select “Simon Butler Elementary School” to register with Box Tops. Some participating merchants include Target, Justice, Aeropastale, Toys R Us, Best Buy and many more! Check the website for a full list. Are you planning a trip? There are hotels and airline merchants available too!

Do you have a Target credit or debit REDcard? Enroll at www.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home. Choose Butler as your school and Target will contribute 1% of your REDcard purchases. Support Butler in two ways by shopping at Target online through the BoxTops marketplace and using your REDcard to purchase the items. *Note - of course you can use your REDcard in the store!*

Look for another BoxTops contest in the new year! More details will be provided in an upcoming newsletter.

For more information, or to let us know about other opportunities, contact Laurie Dwyer at lb6492@aol.com.

6th Grade Memory Book Preparation

Yearbook preparation is underway. We will be putting it together throughout the year, adding pictures from the Clean Stream field trip, Ropes Course, Haunted Hallway, lunch time, etc.. But we need your help.

Can you find baby pictures of your 6th grader?

Please start looking through your old pictures and find those adorable shots of your precious child/ren. Send them to Denae Hedrick at memorybookpics@gmail.com



Butler Spirit Wear Order Form

Complete the form below and return it to the classroom with your check made payable to the Butler PTO.
Your order will be sent home with your child.

T-Shirts	White	Child	S	M	L	XL	\$8.00
	Green	Child	S	M	L	XL	\$8.00

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Child's Teacher: _____ Payment Amt: \$ _____ # Items _____

Please contact Christine Stevens at stevens.5@verizon.net if you have any questions.

**The Butler Elementary School Library invites you to become a member of the
HONOR BOOK CLUB**

**Do you need a gift for your favorite Butler teacher or staff member?
Do you want a fun stocking stuffer or holiday gift for your kids?**

Please help our school library by dedicating a book to your favorite student or teacher. Join the **Honor Book Club**. Becoming a member helps fund the continual need to update our Library's collection. It is important that we have the best selection of books possible for our students. The Honor Book Club will have new books set aside for members from which to choose or you may order a specific book. Above all, you will be honoring a special person. They make wonderful gifts for birthdays, holidays, or to celebrate a special occasion or achievement!

The **Honor Book Club** recipient will receive:

- A certificate of membership in the book club with the name of the recipient and donor
- A personalized book plate inside the book
- The first opportunity to check the book out of the library
- A mention in the Butler Bear News

Please complete the information below, enclose a check for \$18.00 payable to the Butler School Store, and return it to the Butler Library c/o the Honor Book Club.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Lisa Hanna, Butler Librarian, at 267-893-4253.

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Yes! I would like to purchase an Honor Book for the Butler Library.

The book is dedicated to : _____

The occasion or special event is : _____

Name of Donor : _____

Please choose from the following options:

____ I would like to choose the following book (please indicate title and author)

____ I would like the Librarian to choose a book on the following subject:

____ Please allow the honored recipient to choose a book