

BELLINGHAM FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

1409 18th St. Bellingham (360) 676-6424

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Dr. Kate is Heading to China!

I have the honor of being a delegate selected to visit China in November. The Confucius Institute Headquarters/Hanban Center in partnership with the College Board sends Bridges Delegations of educators from across the US to visit schools in China in an exchange of learning and discovery about the educational systems in both countries. Bellingham Public Schools has had the privilege to participate in the exchange the last 5 years. This is funded through the Hanban Center and College Board and includes 2 weeks in China, tours of several schools in both Beijing and additional provinces, airfare, lodging and food at no cost to the district. It is an amazing opportunity for me to learn about the school system in China, connect with school leaders from all over the US and share the vision of our program, alternative learning settings and homeschooling. I am very excited and look forward to sharing with you my adventures and learnings.

By the way, my only hesitation in participating was leaving my family, a little issue with motion sickness (well, a big issue), and missing my work with you at BFPP. I am leaving you in the good hands of the staff and support coverage from the district, so off I go.

CALLING ALL MENTORS

Are you interested in participating in our homeschool mentorship programs? Simply let us know if you'd like more support, and we can work to find a peer to support your work and/or we can create workshop programs that will address these needs.

Also, please connect with us if you are interested in becoming a mentor. Do you have some insights to share? Are you particularly experienced in a certain aspect of this work? We look forward to creating relevant mentorship programs and opportunities. Please email Kate and/or your Learning Partner if you'd like to get involved. Please type: *Mentorship* in the subject line.

Come Join Math Club

For 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students

Like solving problems? Come try Math Club! Meetings Thursdays at 10 am in the Fort.

Check out the website moems.org or <http://www.blainesd.org/mathchamps/> to see sample problems. Cost: \$25 per student.

Questions? Contact Rachel Throolin at rthroolin@gmail.com

Chess Club, Anyone?

Is your 6th-8th grader interested in a chess club onsite at BFPP?

I'd like to organize one for my 8th grade son, but since I don't play chess myself, I'm hesitant.

Looking for another adult who could be there to teach kids how to play that don't already know and to offer support. BFPP currently has all the equipment we need and the space to host this club. I'm open to different days and times to meet. Just looking to get the ball rolling.

Please email me at : asnailspace@gmail.com if you and your homeschooler are interested.

Thanks so much!

Nikki Kilpatrick aka Shamus' Mom

Box Tops for Education is Coming to BFPP!

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to earn cash for our school. Each is worth 10 cents for our program. Please contact Piera Larabell at piera.larabell@gmail.com for questions and more information.



Photo by Lilo M-Z

This newsletter is from our BFPP Community for our BFPP Community. Thanks to those of you who have submitted contributions and suggestions. We are especially looking for submissions from our students: accomplishments, announcements, glimpses into their educational journey, thoughts they want to share about our community, and connections they might want to make. Bring on the ideas for next month's edition! If you'd like to help or contribute, please contact Alina at zollizen@gmail.com.



Mount Baker Homeschool Ski and Snowboard School

Come out and play in the snow Tuesdays, January 10 – February 14, 2017, 11 am – 1 pm. Cost: \$75 for 6 sessions (lift ticket not included)

For more information, contact Jane at theluzies@yahoo.com
Register by December 16.

Bellingham Schools Volunteer Application Now Online

We're asking all volunteers, including parents, guardians, and grandparents who plan to volunteer in classrooms and on field trips, to please take a few moments to complete our new online volunteer application.

You can find the application on our website: bellingshamschools.org (go to about, then volunteer program), or log in directly at bellingshamschoolsvolunteers.hrmlplus.net.

This application must be filed and approved prior to your shift or event, whether you are a regular volunteer or occasional helper or chaperone. If you require assistance, please call 647-6848 or email jennifer.gaer@bellingshamschools.org

Mark Your Calendars

November

11/11: No school/holiday

11/24-11/25: No school/holiday

December

12/8: Save the date: Family Fun Night
(more info to follow)

Letter from Annie Boydston

I am thrilled to be a part of the BFPP Partnership! I met many of you last year as Dylan's mom. I'm back as support staff on a part-time basis; if we have not met, please introduce yourself! My goals are to help with materials inventory, library culling, tapping in to local opportunities and resources and harnessing our collective energy to create the best possible setting for our children.

Many of you have already begun to organize activities and events for our community. Thank you! We have a new Math Club, a music group, ski/snow board classes at Mt. Baker, group seating at Mt. Baker Theatre's Educational Series, field trips to WWU Planetarium, WWU Educational Matinee Series, Padilla Bay among many others. In the next couple of weeks I plan to have a master calendar posted to aid with scheduling.

If there's something you'd like to help make happen, please say so. Let's do it! Our partnership is blessed with families who have every imaginable skill, talent and creativity. When you plan something, please let me know so I can add it to our calendar and put the information on our bulletin board. Families expressed the need for a comfortable, quiet space! Check out the new portable! "The Cabin" is furnished with work tables, a couch, cozy chairs, tranquility, a hot beverage bar.

There's now a "Buy, Sell, Trade Board" across from Family Lounge. Make posts for homeschooling items you wish to own or to sell/trade!

Volunteers are needed for:

-Scheduling more field trips/events. Ideas include: Spark Museum, Mindport, The Marine Science Center, Whatcom Museum: the FIG, Radio and Electricity Museum, the fish hatchery, whale watching, where would we like to go?

-Cleaning Patrol: our custodian only has 3 hours with us 5 evenings per week. The more we help, the cleaner our spaces will be. At the end of each day, the chairs need to be stacked to give Charles easy access to our floors. Each day the table surfaces need to be scrubbed. If you would be willing to "take charge" of a particular room, please do so!

-Class Parents: Ask your student's teacher what you can do to help with planning, provisioning and/or clean-up. Every little bit helps.

-Bulletin Boards: Heidi Zollner has done many around school, and she'd love help with doing more.

If you missed the ordering window for the Educational series at Mt. Baker Theatre, it is not too late. Call the box office: 734-6080. Be sure to mention that you are with BFPP so you can be seated with our group.

Kelly Ann Lewis Tiffany and Rob Johnson each organized separate trips to WWU Planetarium. Rob still has spaces available for November 18 at 2:30. Please email him at Rjohnson98126@gmail.com

WWU Performing Arts Education Matinee Series is given on 3 Fridays. Shows start at 10:30 and last 45 minutes long. They are free. BFPP has 60 seats each for Jovon Miller on January 27, Bellingham Repertory Dance, on February 17 and Band Pops on May 26. See cfpa.wwu.edu for more info. Sign up by emailing Annie at sandseeker@yahoo.com.